

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
January 16th, 2024 7:00pm

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 in the selectman conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti, Selectman Paul Honig.

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Lois Innes - Resident

Minutes of the Previous Meetings – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the December 5th, 2023 minutes as written. Mr. Honig abstained as he was not present. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

Appointments and Resignations – Mr. Criss shared the appointments for:

- Kerri Ouelette to be appointed to the Harwinton Housing Authority to fill Dale Adkins old seat. The term would be from 12/1/2023 – 12/1/2028. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to appoint Kerri Ouelette. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor Motion carries
- Four Year Term Committee – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to dissolve the committee. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.
- Sustainable Harwinton Committee – Mr. Honig made a motion to dissolve the committee as they have not met in a couple years. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.
- The entire Agricultural Committee terms end 12/1/2023. All reappointments will be until 12/1/2028. Members to be reappointed:
 - Michael Orefice
 - Mark D. Gauger
 - Gretchen E. Mathes
 - Patricia J. Sederquist
 - Gene Heavens
 - John Bigos III
 - Spencer Luthy
 - Brooke Cheney
- The Assistant to the Tax Collector term ended on 11/21/2023. The Tax Collector is appointing Deb Shea to be reappointed until 11/18/27. No action needed.

Public Participation – Ms. Innes brought her concerns of the excessive speeding on Hill Road to the Board of Selectmen. She shared that the Resident Troopers were parked there for a period which appeared to help slow down the traffic, however since they have not been parked on the road residents have observed that the traffic speed has increased. Ms. Innes put together a survey that she passed out to her 59 neighbors and received 30 responses including results, a summary, and a list of comments which she presented to the Board. Mr. Criss shared with her that solar powered signs were ordered by the Town from DOT but are unable to install it until the spring of 2024. Mr. Criss will follow up with the DOT for an update. He also shared that there is a speed enforcement grant put in place that helps the Resident Troopers to have additional help with the speeding issues. There is a monthly report that submitted to the First Selectman from the Resident Troopers. Mr. Honig asked for that report to be shared with the Board during the BOS meetings. Discussion ensued. Ms. Innes would like to see the speed limit reduced going north from Hayden Road from 45 miles an hour to 40 miles an hour. She feels it warrants a review. Discussion ensued. Ms. Innes asked for a time limit on when Mr. Criss can get back to her for the signs to go up on Hill Road and the possible change of the speed limit on the road. Mr. Criss will get back to her as soon as he gets a response after putting a formal written request in to the state.

New Business

- **Request for Tax Refunds** – There are a total two (2) Tax Refunds in the amount of \$86.70. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the Tax Refunds. Mr. Honig seconded. Motion carries.

First Selectman's Report –

- **Driveway Permit Final Inspection** – Mr. Criss shared the request for the Board to approve the Final Inspection. Mr. Honig made a motion to release the Driveway Bond that has been approved by the Public Works Director. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.
- **Audit** – Mr. Criss shared the 2023 Audit with the Board.
- **Annual Town Meeting** – Mr. Criss suggested the Board vote on a date to hold an Annual Town Meeting at the beginning of March. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to have the meeting on March 5th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.
- **Budget Workshop** – Mr. Criss is planning on having the budget available for February 20th, 2024 for the Board to review.
- **Town Hall Servers** – Mr. Criss shared that the servers are going to have to be replaced this year. Mr. Criss already talked to the Board of Finance about the upgrade. Discussion ensued.
- **Valley Road Bridges** – The RFP will be going into the paper this week.

Correspondence – The Land Use Coordinator submitted the Land Use schedules for 2024 as well as the update on the required training fulfillment for the Zoning Board members.

Mr. Honig shared a few comments:

- **Auditor** – Mr. Honig would like to know when the Auditor is attending the Board of Finance meeting and would like to use the CodeRed system to send a townwide alert as well.
- **Capital Equipment Committee** – Mr. Honig would like to attend a Capital Equipment Committee meeting to present a different type of Capital report that he would like to receive from the Capital Equipment Committee. Mr. Criss advised that the ultimate decision lies exclusively with the Capital Equipment Committee.
- **Read Only** – Mr. Honig acknowledged that he received Mr. Criss's responses to his questions on the Read Only station, however, would like Atty. Rybak to attend the next BOS meeting to discuss legal concerns regarding use of the Read Only station.
- **Budget** – Mr. Honig would like the spreadsheet for the Budget sent electronically that Mr. Thierry from the Board of Finance provides.

Adjourn – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

Submitted by: Office of the First Selectman