

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
May 1, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 in the Assembly Hall

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Jon Truskauskas, and Selectman Frank Chiaramonte.

Approximately 25 people were in attendance.

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Public Participation

None

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on April 17, 2012. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Appointments and Resignations

A letter of resignation was received from Jennifer Grady from the Historic District Commission. Mr. Chiaramonte moved to accept the resignation of Jennifer Grady from the Historic District Commission. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor. The Board has not received any nominees from the Historic District Commission to replace her at this time.

Mr. Truskauskas moved to add the following to the agenda. Authorize Certified Resolution for Pension Account. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

Authorize Certified Resolution for Pension Account:

As explained by Mr. Criss, the resolution adopting and approving the defined benefit plan is a requirement by the government once every five years. Mr. Truskauskas moved to adopt certified resolution for pension account. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Tax:

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax return. \$29.04 to Kyle M. Begey. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Authorize Resolution Authorizing the First Selectman to execute and deliver a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant:

The grant is for the Town Clerk's Office and will allow Cott Systems of Ohio to combine six (6) volumes of land records. Mr. Chiaramonte made a motion to approve Resolution

for an Historic Documents Preservation grant. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Adopt Resolution for Joint Community Application Cooperation Agreement between Burlington and Harwinton for Small Cities Block Grant Program:

As explained by Mr. Criss, this is a joint application between the two (2) towns. The grant will be administered by Burlington and there is no cost to Harwinton. Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to Adopt Resolution for Joint Community Cooperation Agreement between Burlington and Harwinton for Small Cities Block Grant Program. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Form a Committee to Plan for the Town's 275th anniversary:

This year marks the town's 275th anniversary. Mr. Criss is looking for five (5) to form a committee to plan a celebration. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the formation of a committee to plan for the town's 275th anniversary. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Tax Collector Update on the Tax Sale:

Tax Collector, Beth Hamel, outlined all the steps she has taken per state statute to end the tax sale process for the November, 2011 tax sale. She noted another tax sale may be necessary this fall. Mr. Criss commended Ms. Hamel on a job well done.

Review and vote on Collection Agency agreement with the Town:

Tax Collector, Beth Hamel, is seeking approval from the Board to sign agreement with TaxServ Capital Services, LLC in order to collect delinquent taxes. TaxServ's collection rate is 36 to 40 percent on back taxes. Ms. Hamel noted that Attorney Rybak has reviewed the agreement and suggested some changes which TaxServ made. She is comfortable with the agreement and would like the agreement approved as soon as possible because she would like TaxServ to start collecting on back taxes dating back to 2008.

Mr. Truskauskas stated he wants more time to review the agreement and asked that the vote be delayed until the Board's next meeting.

Selectmen to vote on sending purchase of five (5) town-owned lake lots to Planning Commission for 8-24 review:

Mr. Criss explained that there is a woman who lives by Lake Harwinton who would like to purchase five town-owned lots so that she may do micro farming. She has been approved to form a 4-H club and would like to teach micro farming. The Lake Association has agreed to give her a letter of right of first refusal. She has offered to pay \$750 for the lots. Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to approve sending the purchase of five town-owned lots to the Planning Commission for an 8-24 review. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Approve Board of Finance letters for Volunteer Benefits and Legal-Other line item:

Mr. Criss stated two (2) letters have been drafted to address the issues of volunteer benefits and the legal-other line item in the budget. The Board of Finance is in agreement with the letters. Mr. Criss stated the volunteer benefit program is always funded in arrears so a letter has been drafted so that everyone will have advance notice of any changes. Mr. Chiaramonte suggested changing drastically reduced to may be reduced. The Selectmen agreed to change will be significant changes to may be significant changes and to delete possibly eliminated in the second paragraph. The letter addressing the Legal-Other line item states that all boards and commissions must obtain permission from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance before incurring any legal fees. As the legal-other line item has been misused in the past, this is to avoid any potential problems in the future. Mr. Truskauskas suggested removing the word misused. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the two (2) letters as amended. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Truskauskas moved to change Ambulance Update on the agenda to- Discussion and possible vote on the Ambulance Facility. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion and possible vote on the Ambulance Facility:

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding environmental liability insurance for the proposed ambulance facility site. Ms. Pat Savanella with Trinity Insurance answered questions regarding the policy offered by Philadelphia Insurance. It was decided more information was needed, therefore, no vote was taken.

Approve Call for May 15th Annual Budget Town Meeting:

The Selectmen reviewed the Call for the upcoming Annual Budget Town Meeting. Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the call for the May 15, 2012 Town Meeting. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

First Selectman's Report

Due to the length of tonight's meeting, Mr. Criss stated he will not be giving a report.

Adjournment

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Santoro
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