

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on March 15, 2016 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti, and Selectman Nancy Schnyer.

Attendees: Attorney Michael Rybak, Peter Thierry, Margaret Arigoni, and Taylor Rapalyea.

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 16, 2016. Ms. Schnyer seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

Ms. Schnyer moved to appoint Paul Whiton to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Whiton's term will run through the 2016 Annual Town Meeting to replace Marie Etter who resigned.

Mr. Brunetti moved to appoint Gary Schaff as an alternate on the IWWC. Ms. Schnyer seconded. All were in favor.

John Fredsall, Highway Supervisor, recommends the appointment of William Buys Jr. to the Capital Equipment Committee. Mr. Buys will replace Tom Pollack who resigned after 30 years of service to the committee. Ms. Schnyer moved to appoint William Buys Jr. to the Capital Equipment Committee. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

Approve Resolution allowing Town to apply for a 2016 Small Cities Grant:

The towns of Harwinton and Burlington will be applying for a Small Cities Grant. The money comes from HUD and is for repairs/rehabilitation to private residential homes for low-income homeowners. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve Certified Resolution allowing town to apply for the Small Cities Program. Ms. Schnyer seconded. All were in favor.

Letter from Highway Supervisor regarding Campville Hill Road:

Highway Supervisor, John Fredsall, wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen to make them aware of a serious condition with a cross culvert on Campville Hill Road that is beginning to collapse and is in need of corrective repairs. The Town does not have the necessary equipment to make the repair so Mr. Fredsall has recommended hiring a contractor. He estimates to repairs to cost approximately \$100,000. Ms. Schnyer moved to approve the expenditure and send the matter to the Board of Finance for final approval. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor.

Letter from Highway Supervisor regarding Catch Basins at Lake Harwinton:

The Lake Harwinton Association has asked to have a contractor clean their catch basins around the Lake. Highway Supervisor, John Fredsall, reviewed proposal and recommended that whoever is hired, a certificate of insurance listing the Town as additional insured is required as well as a Hold Harmless agreement and it should be written that the Town will not take over cleaning of catch basins in the future for the Lake. Mr. Brunetti moved to draft letter to the Lake Association to include request for Certificate of Insurance, Hold Harmless agreement, a statement that the town will not clean the Lake's catch basins in the future, and all will be reviewed by town attorney, Michael Rybak. Ms. Schnyer seconded. All were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Tax:

Ms. Schnyer moved to approve the following tax refunds. Matthew Beard, \$103.28. Joseph B. Brochu, \$27.27. Melvin Kamens, \$15.37. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor.

Blight Ordinance Review:

Attorney Rybak submitted a revised draft of a Blight Ordinance. He incorporated changes that were recommended by the land use commissions. Attorney Rybak noted that the Blight ordinance includes vehicles and will replace the current vehicle ordinance once approved. The Selectmen will review the draft.

Budget Presentation:

Mr. Criss was pleased to report that this is the second year that the auditors have reported "no findings".

Mr. Criss presented the Selectmen with the proposed budget for their review and requested they contact him if they have questions. The proposal is a 1% increase from last year. A concern is the increase in police protection resulting from the state requiring towns to pay more. Savings were made in the area of health care for employees.

Ms. Schnyer suggested they work as a board to help create the budget. Mr. Criss noted that budget requests from departments are shown in the budget along with his recommendations and if other information is required, it can be provided. Mr. Criss told the Board that it is his job to do the budget and the Selectmen are to review it.

Ms. Schnyer questioned some expenses associated with the Hometown Holiday event held in December. Mr. Criss noted that some items were paid for from the Recreation Dept. and the budget was approved and has not run over and has no impact on taxes.

Ms. Schyner made a motion to submit the budget to the Board of Finance pending Selectmen's comments. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for February, 2016. Dog pound was inspected and received an excellent report.

Adjournment

Mr. Brunetti moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Ms. Schyner seconded. All were in favor.