

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 21, 2017**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti,  
Selectwoman Absent: Nancy Schnyer

Attendees: Dan Thurston, Bill Tracy, John Fredsall, Attorney Michael Rybak, Andy Kasznay

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Brunetti moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Criss Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Appointments and Resignations**

No Appointments or Resignations at this time.

**New Business:**

**Request for Tax Refunds** – Approval of all requests submitted. Mr. Brunetti voted to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

**Veterans Strong Community** – While going through the Budget process, one of the new line items added this year was increasing services to our Veterans. Dan Thurston is the Veteran Liaison for our community. Mr. Criss asked him to come and speak about the benefits of possibly joining the Veterans Strong Community Center in order to increase services to our veterans while not increasing cost to the community. Dan Thurston spoke of the history of the Veterans Strong Community Center opening initially under the Army Reserve Program. The center offers assistance with housing, job research and entitled Veteran Aid. They are also aware of other services that are in the State and also within the region so that if a veteran comes in looking for a service they can refer to another agency or a group that can provide services. It is a knowledgeable group of people that run a very dedicated center. Mr. Criss asked if this is the right move for our Town and will this allow for more services in our community so that we can better serve them at a lower rate of cost. The Town does not provide any services right now to our veterans outside of having a liaison. The Veterans Strong Community Center offers a lot of services such as traveling services, gatherings for veterans, helping them with their VA paperwork, helping them find their proper forms & paperwork, helping with financing & funding. The cost is very low for us. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

**Pickett Brook Property**– Request for Equestrian Estates for subdivision approval for the extension of Break Maiden Lane to Plymouth Road. Copies of the road construction plans have already been provided to the Town's consulting engineer which is WMC and the Land Use coordinator and the Highway Supervisor. Bill Tracy submitted the road

permit application with attached WMC calculation of the bonding for performance and their letter. Set of plans was provided. The Wetlands Commission and the property owners spent almost 10 years in environmental studies and came up with a plan the Wetlands Commission approved. Bill Tracy agrees with WMC's engineering costs for the performance bond, 15% of the performance cost for one year which will be acceptable. WMC's recommendation was to increase the bond from \$495k to \$549k. Road permit would have to be subjected to planning commission approval. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve the bond and set the maintenance bond at 15% for one year. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

**Zoning Request** - A letter from Polly Redmond stating there was a combined zoning and inland/wetlands special meeting that took place on Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017. Zoning Commissioner Don Truskauskas motioned to recommend Tom Mitchell to fill the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer with additional recommendations that the Board of Selectmen agree to pay for education costs in order for Mr. Mitchell to become a certified Zoning Enforcement Officer. Inlands/Wetlands Chairman Bruce Burnett agrees with the Zoning Commissions recommendation to appoint Tom Mitchell and recommendation for schooling. Both Commissions would appreciate if the Selectman would vote to move this to the Board of Finance for discussion. The classes would total \$1,280. Formal motion by the Board of Finance to approve \$1,280 for training for the proposed Zoning Enforcement Officer that doubles as the Blight Commission Officer with the caveat that there is a 1-2-year agreement to pay back if he has to leave based on any other reason than for emergency circumstances. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

**Annual Town Meeting & Call** – There is a current draft of the call which includes the 1-4 standard items. Sections 5 & 6 are the election pieces, number 7 is the recommendation for the Wilcox property to sell it with 4 acres of land. Number 8 is to approve the Board of Selectman to sell and enter into agreements with Community Hall. Discussion of adding the Kasznay property as well to alleviate multiple Town meetings and multiple referendums. The Kasznay property would not be voted on at a Town meeting, it would go to a referendum. May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is the Budget meeting. The public hearing is April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Town Meeting is set for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm. The referendum is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries. Call will be sent to the BOF for final approval.

**Executive Session – Possible Land Purchase** – Mr. Brunetti made the motion to go into executive session at 7:53pm and Mr. Criss Seconded. All were in favor. Motion Carried. Mr. Brunetti made the motion to exit executive session at 8:32pm Mr. Criss Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried. Discussion to amend the Call for discussion of possible sale of Community Hall in order to garner public input whether or not to sell this building. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor. Also to refer the Wilcox property and the Kasznay property for 824 approval for review. Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve. Mr. Criss seconded. All approved.

**First Selectman's Report** - Nothing at this time..

**Correspondence** – Letter from the Historical Society inquiring about a possible refund for the Harwinton House. A follow up phone call to the architects was suggested by Attorney Mike Rybak.

**Budget** – Because the Grand List is up 2.44% at the current mill rate, there is no need to increase taxes under the proposed Budget that has gone to the Board of Finance. Most of the Budget has been approved. The Budget is up \$124,000 at the current mill rate against the taxable Grand List we bring in another \$391,820 this year, in effect this means there is no tax increase contingent on the State and the Region.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Brunetti motioned to adjourn at 8:37pm and Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor motion carries.

Minutes submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Jen Minery

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT  
ON 3-30-17 AT 12:15 PM  
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK