

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 2, 2017**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in the selectmen's conference room.

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Brunetti motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Schnyer Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Appointments and Resignations**

Recommendation for Peter Brazaitis IV to go from alternate position to fill a ZBA fulltime seat. Ms. Schnyer made a motion to go from alternate to fulltime position. Mr. Brunetti Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**New Business**

**Request for Tax Refunds** – No requests for Tax Refunds.

**Discuss Call** –The May 16<sup>th</sup> call has been drafted. The only thing on the Call is the Town Budget because the Library Building Committee has not met to finalize the bid and the Kasznay property feasibility study is not done. The Library and Kasznay property will have to be determined as we move forward. Ms. Schnyer made a motion to approve the Call. Mr. Brunetti Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries. Budget meeting is set for May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. There are no changes to the Budget, it stayed the same. The proposal is to have the Board of Finance hold off on setting the mill rate until sometime in June. The latest date they can set it is June 13<sup>th</sup>. The calculated mill rate is 27.6, our current mill rate is 27.8. The goal is to leave the mill rate at 27.8 and do the supplemental if we have to. There was a change in the Education Budget. It is \$60,000 more than what they initially proposed, that was due to enrollment. The \$60,000 went into contingency so that they could draw from the contingency to hire another teacher because kindergarten enrollment is up in both schools.

**Community Hall 5 Year Plan** – At the Annual Town Meeting it was made clear that no one was in favor of selling Community Hall. They are in favor of spending money to repair it. Mr. Criss suggested putting together a 5 Year Plan of the repairs needed most for the building, phasing them in. If we do more than 40% work on any project or improvement in the building then it will have to become ADA compliant in any one year. The cost would most likely come out of municipal complex improvements. One of the immediate needs for this year is getting the roof addressed then fix the ceiling on the second floor. Ms. Schnyer made a motion for Mr. Criss to work on the Community Hall 5 Year Plan. Mr. Brunetti Seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Conservation Commission** – Currently the Conservation Commission does not have enough members to even meet right now. There have been two individuals that are new

to the community that have volunteered to be on the Commission, however their Appointments have been held until it has been decided whether to move the Commission into Recreation or to keep it as is. Mr. Brunetti suggested putting this topic on the Call for the next meeting. There are pros & cons to combining as well as leaving them separate. The Conservation Commission is an advisory board to the Selectmen. The Recreation Commission actually makes the decision on the property because it has to be a paid employee of the Town. The Conservation and Recreation commissions have overlapped. Other Towns call it their "Parks & Recreation Committee". If we chose to combine these two Commissions we would have to redraft the Ordinance of the Recreation Committee and rename it "Park & Recreation Committee" or something else and the four Appointees from the Board of Selectmen would be appointed to that Commission. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to put it on the Call as a discussion. Ms. Schnyer seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

**First Selectman's Report** – The Library bids came in. The low was \$3.7 million, the high was \$6 million. There were three low bidders that were in about \$100,000 of each other. The Building Committee is still being formed, waiting for a couple of people the Library had suggested to be sworn in. Mr. Criss suggested having Jeff Neumann, the Building Official, on the Building Committee in place of Larry Connors who declined the appointment. He has extensive construction knowledge, he's the Building Official and has to approve things anyway so it might speed the process up. This is not a conflict with the Town because the Building Committee is making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on whom to select, who then decide which bid the Town would like to go with. Ms. Schnyer made a motion to have Jeff Neumann on the Building Committee. Mr. Brunetti Seconded. All in Favor. Motion carries. The Kasznay Property does not have a feasibility study due to the weather. The Wilcox Property has been approved at the Annual Town Meeting to sell up to the 3.79 acres, but still not sure what land will be swapped for that acreage. The redrafted budget for the Harwinton House has been submitted to OPM to cover Attorney Mike Rybak costs. Once there is approval on that, we can start with the close out. It was discussed to maybe add to the Call a discussion and vote on what to do with the Harwinton House under the guidance of OPM because they were the ones who funded it on what we can do with it. The guidelines on that building stated that it cannot be sold and is geared to be put up on Town property. OPM has to okay selling it, or donating it, as long as there is no profit made on it. The wording on the Call can specify to hold the vote at the Town Meeting, subject to OPM approval to decide on not building the Harwinton House and trying to reclaim any money that we are out. There is \$70,000 on the grant that can be reallocated to something else, but not sure yet because we have to apply for approval. The Town Historian had a couple of thoughts on what to use the money for; one of the thoughts was for the Wilcox Property. There are a few projects out there that are shovel ready.

**Correspondence-** The Tax collector and Land Use sent letters to the selectmen.

**Budget** – discussed already.

**Adjournment** – Ms. Schnyer made a motion to adjourn at 7:35pm. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All were in favor motion carries.