

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday December 5, 2017 7:00pm

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Rick Fowler, Selectman Evan Brunetti - Absent,

Attendees: Peter Thierry – Board of Finance, Attorney Ebersol, Terri Christenson – Recycling Coordinator, Josie Albertson Grove – Republican American, Fred Zavatkay, Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department – Chief Bill Buys Jr., Harwinton Westside Volunteer Fire Department - Chief Scott Kellogg, Harwinton Ambulance Chief Kevin Ferrarotti, Emergency Management-Vincent Wheeler, Asuncion "Sonny" Torres, Bruce Baldwin.

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Fowler to table the Minutes from the previous meeting as Mr. Brunetti isn't present and Mr. Fowler was not present at the last meeting. Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Appointments and Resignations

Motion made by Mr. Fowler to accept Appointments and Resignations. Mr. Criss Seconded. Motion carries.

Public Participation – See New Business.

New Business

Request for Tax Refunds – Mr. Fowler made a motion to accept tax refunds except for one, which has to be held for the next BOS meeting with Mr. Brunetti in attendance. Mr. Criss abstained from voting on the one due to a conflict. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

Simple Recycling Presentation – Ms. Christenson presented information regarding the questions asked by the Board of Selectmen at the last meeting: the potential plowing of a bag by a plow truck, what do we do with a tagged bag that has damaged goods and is not picked up– do they get rid of them, put them in garbage etc. And what kind of trucks are they using? Mr. Criss asked Ms. Christenson to please come back to this meeting to answer the questions once she talks to the company. The kind of trucks they will be using on our roads are box trucks, it's the largest truck that they would be using, otherwise they will use a mini-van. The pink bags are very bright and have instructions on them indicating what they are and what they are for. There is a mailer

that the company will be sending out that has the website & information for all residents who would like to participate. Ms. Christenson also addressed the other question of what happens if a bag breaks or gets dragged by another type of work vehicle - the company understands this potential issue and has stated in section 3 of their contract a description of their responsibility to pick up anything that is in the pink bag. Another concern was contamination of the bag; will they not pick it up if it has been contaminated by outside elements? The drivers don't go through the bag; they just pick them up and take them. They would only reject a bag if it is obviously filled with leaves or garbage. Ms. Christenson would be notified and an 'oops' tag will be given to the homeowner with an explanation of what the bag is to be used for. This is an optional program that doesn't cost the Town or the residents any money. This is why the company likes to have at least a 3 year contract so they can recuperate what they are putting out such as the information, the bags and the drivers/pickup. There is no limit on how many bags a homeowner can request (i.e., moving purposes) and they follow our recycling schedule. The Town receives one penny per pound, which Ms. Christenson has asked to go to the Charity Account. Mr. Criss mentioned that this should lower the Town's tonnage which will eventually lower our costs. Ms. Christenson shared that the average person throws out 68 pounds of garbage that can go in the pink bags. This comes out of our waste stream which means we are not paying a tipping fee and can result in more of a savings. Mr. Criss confirmed that the renewal coincides with election season; Ms. Christenson confirms that it does which allows us to revisit the program or opt out. Mr. Fowler made a motion to accept the Simple Recycling Program and to have Mr. Criss sign the contract. Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Whetstone Estate Bond Extension – The Planning Commission met on November 8th, 2017 and voted unanimously to modify the agreement to extend it five years and to recommend to the Board of Selectman to sign the extension. The maximum term it can be extended is five years; extending it to December 1st, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Fowler to approve the extension that the Planning Commission approved until December 1st, 2022 and also a motion for Mr. Criss to sign and execute the contract. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

Fire Chiefs, Emergency Chief and Emergency Management – A proposal written and signed by all three Chiefs was presented for the Volunteer Benefit Program Replacement. The proposal is in response to the Board of Finance action to not fund the Volunteer Benefit Program under section 7 of the Volunteer Benefit Program Ordinance. They suspended funding as of their April 20th, 2017 meeting as per letter from Chairman Peter B. Thierry on April 21st, 2017. Their intention is to set up three capital accounts for three services. The three chiefs have met and are recommending that the Board of Finance does not set up three capital accounts and instead put the money in our yearly budget as a capital/equipment line item. The reason for not wanting another capital account, like the non-recurring capital account for the trucks, is that it will add another hurdle to go through anytime there is a need for something and money needs to come from that fund. The Board of Finance doesn't know about the everyday operations and needs of the prospective departments. The Volunteer Benefit Program was capped at \$70,000. The Fire Chiefs are requesting a proposed annual budget of \$10,000 for the Ambulance Association, \$30,000 for the Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department and \$30,000 for the Harwinton Westside Fire Department. They would allow the Board of Finance to dictate whether it is appropriated monthly, quarterly or annually. They have come to this conclusion after multiple discussions regarding the

future needs of the prospective departments. They have been up against a tremendous amount of changes to the NFPA standards & requirements for apparatus and equipment such as SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) and rescue tools (Jaws of Life). The Ambulance has a much smaller level of changes & standards with equipment, expenditures and operating costs. They have worked tirelessly in providing emergency services for the residents of Harwinton. They also work extremely hard fundraising in order to offset the cost of equipment & operating expenditures. They are all thankful for the non-recurring capital fund for the trucks and ambulances. Adding this line item to the budget would go a long way to offset the cost of meeting standards and unforeseen upgrades needed to keep the equipment running at the best and safest level. It will also help in handling vehicle repairs and upgrades needed in between capital funding without visiting the Board of Finance each time it's needed. Mr. Criss asked that the letter presented be submitted by all three departments for the budget submission.

Highway Garage Requested Repairs – The Highway Supervisor, John Fredsall informed Mr. Criss of the repairs needed on the old garage; the ceiling is starting to come down. The roof is just about at its 30 year mark. The insurance company also sent a letter to inspect and investigate all of our underground oil tanks. They found an issue with the one at the town garage; it is at capacity being at its 30 year mark and needs to be replaced. It is recommended that it be relocated inside the building. The total price of the roof proposal and the oil tank is \$19,600 for both repairs on the old garage building. A motion was made by Mr. Fowler to refer both the total amount of \$19,600 including the oil tank and the roof of the old garage to the Board of Finance for their next meeting for their consideration of funding. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

Town Meeting – The audit is still not done. Sandra Welwood, the Auditor, is scheduled to meet with Mr. Criss on Thursday, December 7th, 2017 at 10am to discuss the audit. The Annual Report still has to be printed. Those two things are not yet done. There is still a list of things that have to get done for Thierry property proposal. Bill Poole called Mr. Criss regarding the Thierry Property saying that he should have the A-2 survey finished and ready for DEEP by early next week. Mr. Criss explained that the Town had voted to sell the Wilcox Property up to 3.99 acres. There is a covenant in effect that requires the Town to buy 3.99 acres somewhere else or shorten the acreage for Wilcox to match acreage. The Thierry Property is about 3.1 acreage +/-; we are shortening the Wilcox Property to match acre for acre so DEEP won't have a problem with the swap. We did get the appraisal back for Wilcox which will go to a sealed bid once we get the DEEP approval to sell it. DEEP sent a letter stating they looked favorably on the proposed conversion, however did not approve yet; they were concerned about the monetary value and the size of the property for compatibility. Copies of the appraisals must be submitted for both parcels and review of such appraisals must justify compatible fair market value. Recordable maps (A-2) must be submitted showing the boundaries of the two parcels, a full title search must be completed on the replacement property (Thierry Property) showing that there are no encumbrances that would hinder the use of the property as open space. We have the two appraisals, the A-2 finalized for Wilcox that narrowed it down to 3.1 acres. We are now just waiting for the A-2 for the Thierry Property and the title search that is being completed by Atty. Mallory. Atty. Mike Rybak recommended outside counsel as he is representing the Thierry Property. Other items on the call include the vacancy for the Board of Education; to have someone fill for the next two years, the Library Project for \$58,000 and all the other standard items

that are normally discussed. We are in the process of drafting the call. Mr. Fowler made a motion to look at setting the date for the Annual Town Meeting at the next Selectmen's meeting scheduled for December 19th, 2017. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries

Executive Session – Nothing at this time.

First Selectman's Report – Nothing at this time.

Correspondence – Board of Selectman bins have the Budget Request letter. Fire Marshall Report. Inland Wetlands Shingle Mill Bridge Project. Public act 17-231 is requiring the towns to process Bingo, Bazaars & Raffles. CCM & COST are helping with the administration. DCP is helping us to create the forms and how to handle it on our side.

Adjournment – Mr. Fowler made a motion to adjourn at 8:05pm. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion carries.

Minutes submitted by _____
Jen Minery

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 12/12/17 AT 10:16 AM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK