

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
January 8, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on January 8, 2013 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, and Selectman Jon Truskauskas. Selectman Frank Chiaramonte absent with prior notice.

Attendees: Matthew Lojewski, Ryan Lojewski, Bud Wilkinson, and Candace Jones-Pacholski.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen meeting held on December 18, 2012. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

A letter from Sharlene Copeland, Senior Center Director, recommended the reappointment of three (3) Commission on Aging members whose terms have expired. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the reappointment to the Commission on Aging for Donna Cerruto, term 11/19/2012 through 11/16/2015, Ann Dimauro, term 11/21/2011 through 11/17/2014, and Joann Jayne, term 11/21/2011 through 11/17/2014. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Criss noted that the Planning Commission still has an open position for an Alternate on their commission and asked for recommendations. Candace Jones-Pacholski recommended Michael Letourneau. As the Planning Commission is past its deadline to appoint an alternate, the Board of Selectmen will consider nominees at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

New Business

Ordinances

Mr. Criss reported that a draft for a Blight Ordinance has been sent to Attorney Rybak for his review.

Rather than voting for Board of Education members at Town Meetings, Mr. Criss would like to have an ordinance adopted that will allow nominees to be placed on the ballot during November elections. Most towns no longer vote for Board of Education members at Town Meetings. Mr. Truskauskas stated he would support such an ordinance. When Mr. Criss receives the draft ordinances, he will forward them to Selectman Truskauskas and Selectman Chiaramonte.

Purchasing Policy

Mr. Criss stated there is a lot of leniency in the town's current Purchasing Policy. With the current economic climate, Mr. Criss would like more accountability with regard to

purchases and would like to have expenditures over \$1,000 to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. He included purchasing policies from other towns for review by the Selectmen and requested the Selectmen to email any suggestions to the office.

Request for Refund of Property Tax

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds- Toyota Motor Credit Corp., \$201.96. Toyota Motor Credit Corp., \$205.80. Robert Dombi, \$30.00. GMAC, \$263.88. The refund total is \$701.64. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Budget Meeting Schedule

A letter has gone out to town departments, committees, and commissions requesting their budgets to be handed in by January 31st. Mr. Criss stated the Board of Selectmen will have to meet weekly through the month of February. He asked that the first meeting be February 5, 2013 at 5 p.m., which is two (2) hours before the Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Criss has invited Board of Finance chairman, Peter Thierry, to participate in the discussions. A definitive budget meeting schedule will be determined at the next Board of Selectmen meeting when all Selectmen are present. Mr. Criss would like to see conservative budgets like last year and is hopeful that some departments may have a 1 or 2 percent decrease.

Mr. Criss attended a legislative meeting last Friday that addressed possible cuts to municipal aid. STEAP and LoCIP funding may be at risk. Mr. Criss explained if funding is cut back, the town will need to find other ways to save that will not have a negative impact on vital services such as emergency services. Mr. Criss will be meeting with legislators on January 18th.

First Selectman's Report

The sidewalk entrances to Town Hall and the Library should be completed next week.

The Town will have a test run on the website in approximately two (2) weeks. Virtual Towns Company will be at Town Hall all day to speak with all the departments.

The Town is looking at a service to allow on line payments for recreation programs.

The Town is hoping to open its Food Pantry by March 1st. Construction of the pantry will commence soon. The Town has six (6) volunteers to run the pantry.

Safe Harbor Youth Bureau held its first event and it was a success. They held a barn party with over fifty (50) students attending. Their next event will be a winter festival at Nassahegan State Forrest on February 8th and 9th. The towns of Harwinton and Burlington received a grant of \$1,000 for Safe Harbor from the Bell Foundation. Another grant of \$1,000 was received from the Substance Abuse Council.

The polar plunge to benefit the United Way will be on February 9th at Highland Lake in Winsted.

The Town is expecting to close next week on the ambulance property. The goal is to break ground this spring.

Mr. Criss received a contract from RedFlex and it has been forwarded to Attorney Rybak for his review. RedFlex installs cameras on buses that view traffic and will send tickets to violators who pass buses. Mr. Criss supports this service because if it saves one child's life- it's worth it.

The discount prescription cards will be available on January 22, 2013. For residents who have no insurance or are under insured they may be able to save up to 40% on their prescriptions.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for December, 2012 and the Animal Control Officer's report for November, 2012.

A letter was received from a resident who owns 2 Lake Harwinton lots with several years of taxes in arrears asking if the Town would like to buy the lots. As there is no benefit to the Town to buy the property, the Selectmen suggested the owner contact the abutters to the land and/or the Lake Association to see if they're interested in purchasing the property. The Selectmen's policy is not to buy or take land in lieu of taxes.

Mr. Criss stated he will forward to the Selectmen a letter from CCM regarding the legislative meeting.

Mr. Criss received a letter of support from Trooper William Arbour regarding the RedFlex Student Guardian school bus camera enforcement system. Trooper Arbour states in the letter "Sgt. Norkus and I agree that any acceptable measures that can be taken to aid in the safety of our children is a worthwhile endeavor." Sgt. Norkus requested an outline of the benefits to the system, which he will then forward to Lt. Brown at Troop L.

A letter was received from Stephen Silver with CL&P in response to a request made by Mr. Criss to discuss spring tree trimming and restoration. CL&P is also interested in discussing energy savings for the future ambulance facility at no cost. A meeting has been set for January 9th and will include Ambulance Chief, Jason Emery.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED

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TOWN CLERK