

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
January 28, 2010

Present: Gerald D. Stomski, First Selectman
Barbara K. Perkinson, Selectman
George W. Hale III, Selectman

Also present: Approximately 15 residents, David Monckton – Public Works Director, Joseph Donato, and Reporters Jaimie Cura (*Voices*) and Rick Harrison (*Republican-American*)

Selectman Stomski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Office Annex.

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to add Privilege of the Floor to the agenda. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Privilege of the Floor

Duncan McDougall

- Mr. McDougall complimented the Selectmen for having the Public Works Department clean the gutters on the Town buildings.
- “The cost vs. students is misleading – absolutely ridiculous.”
- He expressed his opinion that the Region 14 reconfiguration is a major change and the residents of both towns have the right to vote on the change.

Pam Gengenbach

- Ms. Gengenbach gave a brief update on the present issues and problems with the classroom setup. The appeal does not look good. She also feels both towns have the right to vote on whether or not to appeal the court ruling. She asked the Board of Selectmen to consider the legal aspects. We need to vote because the K-5 population has dropped since this all began.

Michele Ecsedy

- Ms. Ecsedy also feels both towns should have the right to vote on the issue. She cannot support separate K-5 classrooms.

Art McNally

- Mr. McNally asked both parties to consider the children.

Robert Kolesnik Jr.

- Mr. Kolesnik also agreed the over crowding is down. The buses run 900 miles a day. Transportation costs are up approximately 1/3. The children are losing time for outside activities such as scouts. He would like to see the appeal withdrawn. Taxpayers are taking gigantic hit.

Selectman Stomski thanked everyone for there comments.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Selectman Hale moved and Selectwoman Perkinson seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2010 regular meeting as written. Voting Yea: Stomski and Hale; Abstained: Perkinson (was not present at the meeting).
MOTION APPROVED

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to add “Sign Call for Special Town Meeting” to the agenda. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Sign Call for Special Town Meeting

The Selectmen signed the call for the special Town Meeting to be held on February 22nd to accept the extension of Owl Ridge into the Town road system at the request of developer Ralph Corbo who requested the Special Meeting is paying for the costs related to holding the meeting.

Appointments/Resignations

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded the appointment of Christopher Laux (D) to the Public Building Commission for a term to expire January 5, 2015. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded the appointment of John Thomas (U) as Woodbury Tree Warden for a term to expire January 1, 2012.

Discussion – Selectman Hale asked if anyone else expressed interest in the position. Selectman Stomski said no. Also that Mr. Thomas is highly qualified to hold the position.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Darcy Thurrott, a member of the Open Space Strategy and Implementation Committee. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept with regret the resignation of Peter Perkinson, a member of the Library Board of Trustees. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept with gratitude the following contributions:

Historic Town Hall Fund - New Morning Country Store \$ 1,698
Police Trailer Fund -
 Joyce Drakeley Real Estate \$ 300
 Woodbury Storage, LLC \$ 300
 Matthewson Custom Homes, LLC \$ 250

Newtown Savings Bank	\$ 500
Kenecticut Hardware, Inc	\$ 150
Woodbury Pewterers, Inc.	\$ 100
Robert Motorcars, LLC	\$ 400
Southwood Auto Parks, Inc.	\$ 200
Ken's Hardware, Inc.	\$ 100
Munson-Lovetere Funeral Homes	\$ 100
Kernan, Scully & McDonald LLP	\$ 100
P.C Texaco	\$ 200
Litchfield County Computer, LLC	\$ 125

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Bids/Contracts

Radio Repairs – David Monckton, Public Works Director, explained to the Board that he has charges in the amount of \$ 420 for the repair of intermittent radio reception in Truck No. 9 plus another \$1,350 to repair the radio in the John Deere 410 caused by water infiltration. The radio is needed in the John Deere because it is used during the time of emergencies and radio contact is important. The Board asked Mr. Monckton if the water infiltration will be addressed so it won't happen again. Mr. Monckton answered yes.

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to authorize funding for the following Public Works radio repairs:
\$ 420 – Intermittent radio reception – Truck 9
\$ 1,350 (est.) - Repair of Motorola radio in John Deere 410 damaged due to water infiltration, for a total of \$1,770. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Sale of Old Fire Engine No. 2 – Two bids were received for the sale of the old Fire Engine No. 2. Janet Morgan, Fire Chief, recommends award to the high bid of \$3,300 submitted by Valley Auto Body, Inc.

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept the high bid of \$3,300 submitted by Valley Auto Body, Inc. for the sale of the old Fire Engine #2. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Traffic Authority

Animals for Life – Annual Run for Rescue – Animals for Life has submitted their annual request to use Old Sherman Hill Road and Old Woodbury Road for their Race for Rescue at Quassy Amusement Park on April 24th. They are working with the State Traffic Department and Woodbury and Middlebury Police Departments to assure a safe event.

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to grant the request received from Animals for Life to use Old Sherman Hill Road and

Old Woodbury Road for their Annual Run for Rescue on Saturday, aApril 24, 2010. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

New Business

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to proceed to Item 8 – Discussion of Region 14 (a) FY 2010-11 Budget and (b) Discussion to appeal. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Discussion of Region 14 (a) FY 2010-11 Budget and (b) Discussion to appeal

Budget - Selectman Stomski said that the reduction of the anticipated reimbursement to schools from the State was estimated at 15%, is now estimated at 30% and will have a direct affect on us. It needs to be offset by substantially cutting their proposed budget and that producing a budget that comes in close to flat would not be sufficient. We need to forewarn the School that the Town is also strapped. They need to be creative in teacher/staff reduction and/or ask teacher/staff to reduce or cut pay. The Board of Education will be holding a budget meeting on Saturday which will be open to the public. Selectman Stomski said the School is well aware of the financial restrictions of the Town. This year will be a challenge for both the Town and School. I'm sure the School is aware and understands the situation, added Selectman Hale.

Discussion to appeal

Selectman Hale – Selectman Hale said he spoke with children and parents, teachers, Superintendent, and Board of Education Chairman. He read the three decisions. The certainty of some people on this issue is remarkable to me, said Selectman Hale. He sees major differences in the Region 12 and Region 14 plans. I imagine a great deal of the discussion was during executive session.

Opinion: Questions pick your lawsuit. Sooner or later would be a lawsuit from a Woodbury resident. The Board of Education received advice from Council. I support the Board of Education in the appeal. Support the fact they have more information allowing them to make their decision rather than the public.

Selectwoman Perkinson – Very difficult issue. I met with the School officials. I have questions regarding curriculum issues. Asked about busing situation – bus runs being documented. This is a Board of Education decision. They feel they have strong cases to win appeal. The students are producing and scores are up (improving). If the Board of Education feels they have a good case to win, the decision is up to them.

Selectman Stomski – Stated he attended the court hearings and read the briefs. As citizens we have the right to vote. He would like to have the opportunity to vote. He sees merit in the current reconfiguration. As a taxpayer he would like to vote and have the school put out a case for reconfiguration. He is opposed to the appeal decision. He feels that the courts had ample information to make their decision. He stands by the court's decision. Against appeal.

Selectwoman Perkinson said she invited the Superintendent of Schools and/or a member of the Board of Education to attend tonight's meeting. As a voter, taxpayer and citizen, there should be an opportunity to vote. The Board of Education has the info to sell it. She would also like to see more written information and data or a town-wide presentation by the Board of Education.

A majority of the Board of Selectmen approves the appeal.
No further action was taken.

Preview Town Website

Joe Donato, a resident of Woodbury, has volunteered his time and talent to create a new Town website. A presentation of the work in process was given. It is not ready to go out for public use. If anyone can think of anything to include on the site, please call Mr. Donato or the Selectmen's Office.

Selectman Hale was told legal counsel will review the site before it goes public.

Correspondence

- Request from part-time Police Officer Timothy O'Hanlon to maintain his part-time Officer status while serving as a Military/Police Advisor to the United States Marine Corps, serving in Afghanistan. Request was granted.

MOTION: Selectwoman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

FILED SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Anderson
Clerk