

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
April 8, 2010

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

Also present: Approximately 12 residents including members of the Elderly Commission

Selectman Stomski called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Shove Conference Room.

Privilege of the Floor

Arnaud Bourgeois, 270 Main Street South, President of the Woodbury/Bethlehem Youth Soccer, said he would like to see the funds put back into the Parks & Recreation account for Fiscal Year 2010-11 instead of charging each participant yearly assessment fee. Selectman Stomski advised him that the subject will be discussed later in the meeting, however, Mr. Bourgeois opted to leave the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 Special Meeting as written. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 regular Meeting as written. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to approve the minutes of the March 30, 2010 special meeting as written. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Bids/Contract Awards

Tree Maintenance – Only one (1) bid was received – C&R Services, who attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. The Public Works Department and Shade Tree Committee recommends award to C&R Services.

Tree Planting – Two bids were received. The Public Works Department and Shade Tree Committee recommends award to Hutter's Landscaping, who attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to award:
2010 Tree Maintenance Contract to C&R Services at the following costs:
50 trees at \$35 each, for a total of \$ 1,750
2 planting beds along Main Street at a total of \$420,
for a total contract of \$3,170.
2010 Tree Planting Contract to Hutter's Landscaping at the following cost:
2" - 2½" - \$275 per tree
3" t- 3½" - \$325 per tree

Discussion: Selectman Hale asked to look at the bid packages.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

New Business

Field Maintenance – Selectman Stomski reviewed the condition of the athletic fields. Last year the lawn contractor could not keep up with the mowing, only to find out that multiple individuals and groups were fertilizing the fields, as well as the Town.

The town is responsible for all applications of chemicals to the athletic fields. The Town will make all applications of fertilizers, lime pesticides and mechanical improvements to the fields. The Town will instruct the Park and Recreation Director to notify the groups and organizations that they are not to be applying any chemicals to the athletic fields.

Selectman Stomski said he approached the groups and organizations who utilize the fields in December 2009 along with Jenifer Miller, Parks & Recreation Director, to look into implementing a small assessment to off set the maintenance and improvements of the athletic fields. The assessment would be used for assisting with the cost of seed and fertilizers. The assessment would not be a user fee since all residents may use the facilities, but more of a maintenance fee. A pole of other towns utilizing this type of fee schedule indicated that a range of \$50.00 per person to \$10.00 per person was being levied. The Board of Selectman have instructed the Parks and Recreation Director and the Park and Recreation Commission to provide the method of how the program and fee schedule during the summer of 2010 will be implemented, and to also make a recommendation back to the Selectman on the implementation of this program.

The Board of Finance wants all fees to go into the General Fund. However, costs associated with the maintenance and improvements would be budgeted specifically for the fields.

Selectman Hale asked who would decide if a child/adult should be assessed? The decision would be up to the Parks & Recreation Director.

MOTION: Selectman Stomski moved and Selectman Hale seconded to assess a fee of \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child for the maintenance and improvements of the Town's athletic facilities. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Old Business

AT&T Property - Selectman Hale asked for an update on the Annex/AT&T. There is no update, advised Selectman Stomski. AT&T is still trying to determine how to sell the

property. The Town is in the 4th year of a 5-year contract, advised Selectman Stomski. We need to decide how to proceed for the future. AT&T also needs to be pressured to address the two buildings in the front of the property. Selectman Hale asked if it would be worthwhile to open on-going communications with AT&T and have the Public Building Commission review the issue and submit a rough draft report in 6 months. Selectman Stomski will update the Public Building Commission on a regular basis.

New Business

Driveway Issue – Catherine Adsitt, Town Planner, has submitted a written request asking the Board of Selectmen to provide a recommendation regarding approval of the existing driveway at 9 Timber Lane. The owners need the approval in order to have their bond released. After review of the documentation provided, the Board of Selectmen agreed the request should be forwarded to the Planning Commission to assure there are no outstanding issues pertinent to the Planning Commission.

Elderly Needs Assessment – The Elderly Commission requested an opportunity to present a summary of the results from the Elderly Needs Assessment Study. Bea Arneson, Chairman, explained that the study included a written survey as well as personal interviews.

The following are some of the findings:

- Transportation is a primary concern. Need to find a way to reach the isolated senior who wants to get out. Also need to promote the use of the mini-bus. Look for incentives to get more riders.
- Getting the clients from their door to the bus is problem. Liability issue. Contact other Towns to see how they handle.
- Affordable Housing – Need to start planning for more affordable housing.
- Look into grants to supplement programs.
- Data system (software) needed to track participants, etc. Selectman Stomski said to look into software and related costs.
- Need to promote transportation, programs.
- Look into grants.
- Submit more news releases on the programs available.

The Commission is also working on a Policy and Procedure Manual.

The Friends plan to sponsor a brochure that will include all service providers.

Selectman Stomski asked how the Board can help the Council and was told assurance and support to help complete the jobs at hand

The Selectmen will re-visit the Elderly Tax Abatement Program.

The Elderly Commission members thanked the Selectmen for allowing them to meet with them.

Old Business (con't)

Police Corporal Rank – Tabled until Sgt. Rafferty submits a memo.

Donations

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept with gratitude the following contributions:
Charcoal Chef Restaurant - \$150 – Town Hall Restoration Fund
Nutmeg Wine & Spirit Shoppe, LLC - \$250 – Police Trailer Fund
TD Bank - \$1,500 – Parks & Recreation Outdoor Movie
Newtown Savings Bank - \$400 – Parks & Recreation Summer Concert
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Correspondence

Copy of letter sent to CRRA by Public Works Director David Monckton requesting permission for the Town to initiate a campaign utilizing civic organizations to collect the nickel (5¢) deposit containers and utilize the funds to augment funding for the Community Services Council, a 501(c)(3) organization.

MOTION: Selectman Hale moved and Selectman Perkinson seconded to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

FILED SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Anderson
Clerk