

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 22, 2010

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

Also present: Julie Crawford, Jaimi Cura (*Voices*) and approximately 20 townspeople

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

Privilege of the Floor

- Julie Crawford, 24 Old Sherman Hill Road, came forth regarding the status of the quit claim for a piece of land abutting her property which contains a wall of spruce trees that are causing a site-line problem. Selectman Hale explained that the request went before Town Meeting and the townspeople were not in favor of the proposal. They felt there should be a monetary exchange for the property. There is also a question as to who owns the property which is a non-conforming lot. Ms. Crawford said her primary interest is to have the trees removed to improve the sight line problem. Selectman Stomski said he will check on previous history and report back at the new meeting. Selectman Hale said the ownership of the property has to be determined. State records will also be checked. Ms. Crawford thanked the Board and left the meeting.
- Duncan McDougal, Middle Road Turnpike, spoke on the Pay Plan. Selectman Stomski explained that last fiscal year's Pay Plan is the same as the present fiscal year. That the salaries had been frozen. The Personnel Director is a new position, noted Mr. McDougal. Selectman Stomski explained that the Board of Selectman is allowed to do so as long as it fits in the Pay Plan. Mr. McDougal also commented on the Police Officers. The police are also under a Union Contract, noted Selectman Stomski.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8, 210 regular meeting as written. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Appointments/Resignations

Letter of resignation dated April 14, 2010, received from Christine Uljua, a member of the Energy Committee.

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to accept with regret, the resignation of Christine Uljua, a member of the Energy Committee. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Bids/Contracts

Parks & Recreation Fencing – Jenifer Miller, Parks & Recreation Director, has secured four bids for the installation of fencing for the Three Rivers Athletic Fields and Judson Avenue Road entrance. She recommends award of contract to Banks Fence, LLC of Southbury.

MOTION: Selectman Hale moved and Selectman Perkinson seconded to award the contract to install fencing at 1) Jack's Bridge Road at Three Rivers; 2) Judson Road entrance for Three Rivers; and 3) Completion of fencing around Hollow Pond, to Banks Fence, LLC of Southbury at a total price of \$3,718.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Traffic Authority – Memorial Day Parade

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to approve the route of the Annual Memorial Day Parade scheduled for Sunday, May 30, 2010 and to apply to the State Traffic Commission for permission to close sections of Main Street and Route 317 during the parade. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Budget Matters

Selectman Stomski provided a brief history of the Selectmen's budget approval process. It was stated in the minutes of March 30, 2010 Board of Finance Special Meeting that the Board of Selectmen approved a budget of 9.5% - 10.0%. Selectman Stomski stated that this number is inaccurate. The Department Heads requested an increase of 8.3%. The 8.3% is offset by the Revenue increases. Those reductions, \$200,000 for the Historic Town Hall, \$40,000 Minibus Grant, \$18,000 Minibus sale proceeds, \$30,705 Police Car, and \$77,000 in the Pension Fund reduce the budget request to 4.0% which is what the selectmen voted for and approved at their March 30th Special Meeting. Selectman Stomski spoke about the Board of Finance budget cut in the Police Overtime Account. Selectman Stomski stated that the hiring of one additional police officer by the past administration to replace one State Trooper did nothing to offset the overtime exposure. Contractual obligations require that two officers per shift are required in the scheduling of the police officers duties. The Resident State Trooper, under the terms of his contract, does not classify him as patrol officer and that he is hired as a Administrative Supervisor. Under the police union contract when an officer is out, the officer with the highest seniority may fill this shift. Selectman Stomski went over the contractual overtime exposure for the police. Each police officer receives 26 days off for personal, holiday and vacation. The 26 days multiplied by the eight full time officers equals 206 days exposed to overtime, which equates to roughly \$72,000. The Board of Finance has approved a budget for the police overtime for \$30,000. Selectman

Stomski stated that he feels that this line item is under budgeted and that it will run into a deficit in approximately 3-4 months into the new fiscal year, similarly to what happened to the Board of Finance approved 2009-2010 budget. Selectman Stomski read a memo from the Board of Finance April 10th meeting. The memo stated that the Board of Finance would like the Selectmen's office to reduce all non-essential spending. Selectman Stomski wondered if the fireworks schedule would be considered essential. Mr. Stomski stated that Selectman Hale stated at a previous meeting that he felt some personal responsibility for the Selectman's proposed budget. Mr. Stomski asked Selectman Hale who he would suggest cutting from the staff to offset the proposed reduction in the Pay Plan as proposed by the Board of Finance. Selectman Hale stated that he was fine with the Pay Plan however he thought that the Department Heads could cut their budgets by an additional 2 1/2%. Selectman Stomski asked Selectman Hale if he could provide the cost savings in dollars that the 2 1/2% cut would save. Selectman Hale stated that he could not. The Board of Selectman will wait until the Board of Finance meets again when they will decide on their final numbers in the Pay Plan and will discuss budget cuts at a future meeting.

Old Business

Woodbury Police Corporal Rank – Sgt. Rafferty was unable to attend the meeting. He sent a memo to clarify concerns the Board had in regards to the proposed Corporal rank in the Woodbury Police Office. Per the memo, “The corporal in no way replaces the duties and responsibilities of the resident trooper supervisor. The corporals will act as a rank structure of the resident trooper supervisor. The corporals will act as a liaison between the officers and the resident trooper sergeant and first selectman. The main duty of the corporal will be to carry on the mission of this department set forth by the first selectman and the resident trooper sergeant. The corporals will ensure that the officers are doing their job properly, following the duties of the office, and are working efficiently when the resident trooper sergeant is not working. The corporals will also be responsible for timely notification to the resident trooper sergeant of events that occur at night and on weekends, to include motor vehicle accidents, criminal cases, and personnel issues.”

Selectmen Stomski gave a brief explanation to the members of the public present. He also noted there will be no adjustment in the officers' pay at the present time. Sgt. Rafferty will be asked to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss further. Selectman Hale asked Selectman Stomski to see if there are other towns with the same program.

New Businesses

Request for changes in Town Ordinance and Fines – The Fire Marshal has submitted a request to the Board of Selectmen for changes to the Fire lane Ordinance, Fines for Fire Lane

Violations, and changes to the Town Parking Fines. In her April 15th, 2010 memo to the Board of Selectmen, Fire Marshal Janet Morgan explained the problems she is having with continual violation of the ordinance, especially at the High School. She has the right to

issue tickets but feels the amounts of the fines are too low and would like to see heftier fines i.e. \$75 placed. Announcements will be made and the schools and a news release will be sent out. Selectman Stomski said all of the fee schedules need to be reviewed and updated. This subject will be discussed at a future Selectmen's meeting.

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition Resolution - A resolution prepared by the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition will be reviewed by Selectman Hale before the Board takes any action. Selectman Hale said he felt comfortable with the request wants to make sure the other two towns are in agreement. Selectman Stomski will check with Bethlehem and Southbury on their status.

Police Private Duty Rate – Memo received from Resident Trooper Sgt. Rafferty in asking the Board of Selectmen to raise the private duty rate from \$53.22 per hour to \$58.22 per hour, plus the 10% administrative fee. Action was deferred to the next meeting so the Selectmen can check to see how the increase would affect the officers' pensions.

Connecticut Trust Grant Application – The Town Planner has been working on a Connecticut Trust Grant application for the Historic Town Hall. Three letters of support are needed and she has asked for a letter of support from the Board Selectmen

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman hale seconded to request the Clerk/Administrative Assistant prepare a letter of support for the Board to sign in regards to the CT Trust Grant application being prepared by the Town Planner for the Historic Town Hall. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Open Space Grant Application – Selectman Stomski explained that the Town of Woodbury is applying to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for funds to be used towards the acquisition and preservation of approximately 25± acres of vacant land on Minortown Road, running along the Nonnewaug River. The owner desires to retain approximately five acres of the total parcel through subdivision. If acquired, the remaining treed areas along the watercourses would be protected from further tree removal. Selectman Stomski is asking for a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen to be included in the application package.

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to prepare a letter of support to be included in the CT Department of Environmental Protection Open Space and Watershed Acquisition grant application. Funds to be used towards the acquisition and preservation of approximately 25± acres of vacant land on Minortown Road. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

Selectman Hale noted that the Board of Selectmen, as appointing authority, needs to advise the Charter Revision Commission when their final report has to be submitted. A draft motion will be prepared for action at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

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Selectman Hale said he has been made aware of several residents who knowingly/ unknowingly do not register their vehicles in Town. This makes a difference in the tax rate collection. This needs to be brought to the attention of the residents of Woodbury. Selectman Hale will draft a press release to get the word out to the public.

At a future meeting, Selectman Hale would like to discuss a tax abatement program for a two year exemption on personal property for new businesses; tax buildings on percentage of completion and 100% when completed. Selectman Hale will check to see if other towns may have a similar setup.

Selectman Stomski said a new Economic Development Committee will be appointed and recommendations are needed.

The Senior Tax Abatement program will be revisited.

MOTION: Selectman Perkinson moved and Selectman Hale seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. *UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED*

FILED SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Anderson
Clerk