

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
January 8, 2013 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall
MINUTES

1.0 Call to Order

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk call the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Selectmen Linda Finelli and John Bendoraitis and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present. Audience: 6

2.0 Public Forum – None

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to add Item 10.2 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon opening bids for Cemetery Mowing and awarding the contract. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn the order of the agenda and take up Item 10.2 under Old Business. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

10.2 A total of three bids were received for a two-year mowing contract for the 2013 and 2014 seasons as follows:

- Bob's Lawn & Yard Service of Chaplin, CT - 2013: \$12,800.00, 2014: \$12,800.00
- K & M Lawn and Garden Care of Storrs, CT – 2013: \$13,000.00, 2014: \$13,800.00
- TNT Landscaping of Lebanon, CT – 2013: \$18,000.00, 2014: \$20,000.00

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to award the bid to Bob's Lawn & Yard Service of Chaplin, CT in the amount of \$12,800.00 for 2013 and \$12,800.00 for 2014. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to return to the order of the agenda with Item 3.1 under New Business. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.0 New Business

4.0 Health Director Dr. Robert Powitz, Sanitarian Reed Gustafson and Town Planner Philip Chester were present to discuss the conversion process for homes currently being used seasonally that wish to upgrade to year-round use. A draft ordinance was distributed that would allow enforceability for mandated health and safety standards. Powitz, who supports the ordinance, briefed the Selectmen on the situation of the seasonal homes that may want to convert to year round. He explained that as these homes are currently used during the months of the year when the water table is at its lowest, the impact on their wells and septic systems is much different than it would be during the winter and spring when the water table is higher. He said that many of these septic systems would fail and wells would become contaminated if the owners do not comply with the year-round standards. He added that there are also safety concerns for homes without proper insulation or adequate heating systems. The Selectmen wanted the "year round requirements" clearly defined in the ordinance. The ordinance would provide homeowners with info as to what is required for year-round use and if they do not follow these guidelines, Powitz said that without a doubt many of the septic systems will fail. Many of the lots are not eligible for conversion due to the lot size. Chester said that if an ordinance is passed, it must have a clear definition of "seasonal." More discussion followed as to the best way to disseminate the information to residents, how current seasonal properties could be tracked in the Land Use Office as they are converted to year-round and how best to determine if a lot is adequate for potential conversion. Gustafson will examine the land maps and estimate the number of lots that could meet the health code (B-13-B100A). All agreed that an ordinance is necessary and the draft will be revised and brought back to the Selectmen for review.

At this point several residents from Card Street had joined the meeting and wanted to discuss a possible traffic study on their road. The Selectmen agreed to return to the Public Forum to hear their concerns.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to adjourn the order of the agenda and return to Item 2.0: Public Forum. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

2.0 Residents of Card Street, including Dan Reynolds and Anne Dawson, were present to request that

the Selectmen consider supporting a State of CT DOT traffic study on Card Street. Reynolds added that Windham was willing to support the study on their end of the road. Okonuk asked why the request was being made. Reynolds said that he and other residents feel that the current 20 mph speed limit on the road is too slow, and that cars and trucks that are obeying the limit are being passed in an unsafe and illegal manner and that the drivers who obey the limit are being harassed for going too slow. Okonuk stated that a traffic count had been done on that road in recent years in response to the resident's complaints that there was excessive speeding which resulted in the speed limit being lowered to 20 mph in the area of Card Street from the Mitlitsky property to the town line. She said if the majority of the residents agreed that the 20 mph was now too slow then she would have the Resident State Trooper and the Town Engineer reevaluate. Reynolds said that he believed that only the State DOT had the authority to change and/or set speed limits. Okonuk disagreed and said that the State Police had that authority. However, Reynolds and Dawson said that they would prefer an unbiased study conducted by the state that would yield hard data. Okonuk questioned what data they were hoping to obtain from the study and to what purpose. She added that unless a change in the construction of the road was being considered, which it is not, then any resulting data would be without any benefit. Should road changes be something the town wishes to pursue years from now, at that time a current study would be requested as the data received now, would be outdated. Dawson reiterated that she would still like to see the data, and that it would not cost the town anything to allow the study. Reynolds said that they hoped that the information from the state would help to set an appropriate speed limit, establish safety standards and mandate changes because of the many trucks that use the road. Chester respectfully disagreed and said that the state could not mandate any changes on a town road. More discussion followed. Okonuk said that another traffic study wouldn't change anything as far as truck traffic was concerned. Reynolds returned to his earlier reason for requesting the study: that of changing the speed limit. Okonuk again offered to have the Resident State Trooper reevaluate the road. The residents declined the offer. Okonuk asked for the opinion of the other Selectmen on having the state conduct a traffic study. Neither objected, but did not see the point of the study. The motion was put on the table:

Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to support the request for a State CONNDOT traffic study on Card Street, with the understanding that the Town would not make any changes based on the outcome of the study. Vote: Yes (2) Finelli and Bendoraitis, No (1) Okonuk. Motion carries.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to return to the order of the agenda with Item 3.2 under New Business. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.1 Chester was present to request that the Selectmen recommend to the Board of Finance the expenditure of up to \$28,000 from the Open Space Fund to preserve the 90-acre Williams Farm located at 231 Goshen Hill Road. Chester explained that this property's preservation will be in conjunction with the other Williams Farm property located at 234 Goshen Hill Road which is already under consideration for development rights preservation under the State program. Chester also stated for the record that this expenditure would use up the remaining balance in the Open Space Fund.

Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to recommend to the Board of Finance to bring to Town Meeting the approval of expending up to \$28,000 to preserve the 90-acre Williams Farm located at 231 Goshen Hill Road, funds to come from Account #220-900-5469, Open Space. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.2 Okonuk explained that Bendoraitis had brought to her attention an outdated ordinance that should be eliminated in anticipation of the seasonal zoning change. Discussion followed; all agreed. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to bring to Town Meeting the recommendation to eliminate the Town Ordinance Concerning the Issuance of Building Permits on Unaccepted Town Roads. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

5.0 Minutes

5.1 **Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2012 Regular Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

5.2 **Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2012 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

5.3 **Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2013 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

6.0 **Correspondence** - None

7.0 **Police Report**

7.1 Selectmen reviewed the monthly Police Report in a new format providing police activity by month on a spreadsheet so that trends could be tracked. Bendoraitis asked if the traffic citations could be broken down by street, Handy said she would check with the Resident State Trooper. No action.

8.0 **New Business (SEE ABOVE)**

9.0 **Resignations**

9.1 Okonuk said that she had received a letter of resignation from Jason Hofmann, Chairman of the WPCA. She said that Hofmann had been instrumental in his leadership throughout the process of the sewer installations at Amston Lake. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to accept with regret and appreciation, the resignation of Jason Hofmann from the WPCA effective January 1, 2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous.** The Selectmen expressed their sincere appreciation for all of the hard work that Jason has put into the WPCA.

9.2 Okonuk informed the Board that Byron Lennox, the Emergency Management Director, would be resigning as of July 1, 2013. She, Tom Conley, and Lennox interviewed two excellent candidates for the position. Inasmuch as Lennox will need to stay on to provide the training of the new EMD being recommended this evening, it was the Selectmen's suggestion that the new candidate be an interim appointment as the Deputy EMD so that both seats could be held simultaneously.

Appointments/Reappointments

9.3 **Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to reappoint Joan Nichols as Tree Warden for a one year term to expire on 2/1/2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to reappoint Howard Wayland as Assistant Tree Warden for a one year term to expire on 2/1/2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

9.4 The Selectmen discussed an application to the Public Works Facility Study Committee. As more than one applicant was interested in the one opening, it was decided to postpone the appointment to further review the applicants and solicit input from the Committee. No action.

9.5 **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to appoint Suzanne Ingalls to the Solid Waste Commission as an Alternate, term to end 2/1/2015. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

9.6 **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to appoint Paul Spedaliere as Deputy Emergency Management Director (EMD) effective 01/08/13. Vote: Yes, unanimous.** Okonuk explained that although there was another excellent candidate, it was a unanimous decision to appoint Spedaliere as he has numerous qualifications, does not have a conflicting work schedule and is willing to undergo the necessary training that will be required for him to eventually take over the EMD position. His appointment today as Deputy EMD will allow him to be trained and oriented by the present EMD, Byron Lennox. On 7-1-13 when Lennox's resignation becomes effective, Spedaliere will be appointed as Lennox's replacement as EMD.

10.0 **Financial Reports**

The Selectmen reviewed the monthly financial report. Bendoraitis raised a question regarding the insurance payments; Okonuk will clarify with the Finance Office and report back. No action.

11.0 **Old Business**

10.2: Discuss and act upon opening bids and awarding the contract for Cemetery Mowing for the

2013 & 2014 seasons. (See Above).

11.1 Continue FY 13-14 budget process. No action.

12.0 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joyce R. Okonuk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman