

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
Town Hall
August 5, 2008 - 6:00 PM
MINUTES

1.0 First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Selectman John Bendoraitis and Selectman Russ Blakeslee were present. Also in attendance, Administrative Assistant Mary Ellen Wieczorek; Audience: 1.

2.0 **Minutes**

2.1 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2008 Special Meeting. Vote: 2 Yes (Bendoraitis and Okonuk); 1 Abstain (Blakeslee) Motion carried.

2.2 Blakeslee requested the following amendment to the minutes of the July 8, 2008 9:00 a.m. Special Meeting. The 3rd paragraph, 5th sentence; Blakeslee stated that it was his recommendation for the number of appointees; not Chester as the minutes reflect. Sentence corrected to read: Membership may number 5-7 appointees, with **Blakeslee** recommending a minimum of seven. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Blakeslee to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2008 9:00 a.m. Special Meeting, as amended. Vote: 2 Yes (Okonuk and Blakeslee); 1 Abstain (Bendoraitis). Motion carried.

2.3 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2008 4:00 p.m. Special Meeting. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

2.4 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2008 Special Meeting. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

3.0 **Correspondence** No Correspondence to review or record.

4.0 **Old Business** No Old Business to be acted upon.

5.0 **New Business**

5.1 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to call a Special Town Meeting on Monday, August 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium. Vote: yes. Unanimous. A copy of the Legal Notice to follow minutes.

5.2 No action on the Fire Safety Complex kitchen inspection. The Board will bring to a future meeting and include the Town Planner.

5.3 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to award the contract for the improvements to Section 2 of the Air Line Trail in Lebanon to Nutmeg Gravel and Excavating, Colchester, CT in the amount of \$69,373.00, as recommended by the Rails-to-Trails Committee. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

5.4 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to authorize the First Selectman to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for the 2007 Homeland Security PSIC Grant Funds. Vote: 2 Yes (Bendoraitis, Blakeslee); 1 Abstain (Okonuk). Motion carried.

5.5 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to pass a Resolution for the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the 2007 Homeland Security PSIC Grant Funds. Vote: yes. Unanimous. A copy of the Resolution to follow minutes.

5.6 The First Selectman received an email request from on July 7, 2008 from Dori Bruce requesting that the minutes of the June 3rd Selectmen's Meeting include her response to the discussion regarding her appointment to the Ethics Code Draft Committee. Motion by Okonuk, second by Bendoraitis to amend the minutes of the June 3, 2008 Selectmen's meeting to include the comments made by Dori Bruce as provided to the Selectmen on July 7, 2008. Amended as follows: *My response, as you and the other Select persons will recall, was that if any of my statements at the town meetings had offended anyone, I sincerely apologize. Further, I stated that many of my comments during those meetings had been intended to bridge areas of disagreement and had in fact on several occasions resulted in compromise motions which had been accepted and passed. One such was the Ethics Drafting Committee's own continuation. So again if anyone was offended I apologized because that certainly was never my intent.* Vote: yes. Unanimous.

5.7 Selectman Bendoraitis briefly discussed the possibility of changing Town Hall hours to Monday through Thursday, closed on Fridays—with the goal of energy savings. Town Hall is closed Wednesday but opens for evening meetings. The Town spends money to heat or cool, that had been empty all day. There are no municipal or Board meetings scheduled on Friday evenings, however the building remains open to the public. Closing the building on Friday would reduce the need for cooling or heating the building for three consecutive days. Blakeslee had concerns about closing the building for four consecutive days which would occur with Monday holidays. Blakeslee also stated he wished the Town Hall were still open on Saturday mornings. The First Selectman will discuss operating hours with the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

5.8 There were no Resignations from Commissions/Committees.

5.9 There were no Appointments/Re-appointments to Commissions/Committees.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Blakeslee to add Item 5.10 to the Agenda: Discuss and act upon a request from the Lebanon Cooperative Nursery School to use the Town Hall front lawn on September 20, 2008 from 9am to 2 p.m. for a plant sale fundraiser. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

5.10 Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the request from the Lebanon Cooperative Nursery School to use the Town Hall Lawn on September 20, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a plant sale fundraiser. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to add Item 5.11 to the Agenda: Discuss and act upon authorizing the First Selectman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2009 EMPG Grant for the State Department of Homeland Security. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

5.11 The 2009 EMPG Grant will reimburse the Town \$1,500 for the Emergency Management Director which is the rate of 46 cents per capita. The Town is matching with funds in the 2009 budget. The equipment grant does not match funds. The State may provide \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$15,000 to the Town for enhanced Emergency Operations Center equipment. This equipment must be purchased from the State list. Motion by Blakeslee, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize the First Selectman to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2009 EMPG Grant for the State Department of Homeland Security. Vote: 2 Yes (Bendoraitis, Blakeslee); 1 Abstain (Okonuk). Motion carried.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Blakeslee to add item 5.12 to the Agenda: Discuss and act upon a Resolution for the 2009 EMPG Grant Program. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

5.12 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to pass a Resolution for the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for participation in the FY 2009 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. Vote: yes. Unanimous. A copy of the Resolution to follow the minutes.

6.0 There were no tax refunds to be acted upon.

7.0 No Financial Report. Selectmen will meet at a Special Meeting to discuss budget adjustments.

8.0 **Public Forum** - Resident Ron Cowles addressed the Board regarding removal of two Planning and Zoning members, who were fined by the Elections Commission for election violations following the last municipal election. Mr. Cowles insisted that the Board of Selectmen act immediately to remove these two individuals from their elected seats. First Selectmen Okonuk explained that the Selectmen do not have the authority to unseat an individual elected to a municipal position or to usurp the power of the voters of the town. Blakeslee and Bendoraitis agreed with Okonuk. Bendoraitis stated that the Elections Commission has already heard the complaint and rendered a decision, resulting in the fine. Mr. Cowles reiterated that the Selectmen can and should do something about their positions including demanding their resignations. The Board thanked Mr. Cowles for his participation.

9.0 There was no Executive Session.

10.0 Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman