

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
Town Hall
March 4, 2008 - 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1.0 The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by First Selectmen Joyce Okonuk at 6:02 PM. Selectman John Bendoraitis was present. Selectman Russ Blakeslee was absent because of a medical issue. Also in attendance was Mary Ellen Wieczorek, Administrative Assistant. Audience: 4.

2.0 **Minutes**

2.1 No action on the minutes of the January 7, 2008 Special Meeting.

2.2 No action on the minutes of the January 14, 2008 Special Meeting.

2.3 Bendoraitis requested the following amendment to the February 7, 2008 Special Meeting minutes. Item 6.3, last sentence revised to read: *The Selectmen wish to have the Committee be responsible for the donations.* Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2008 Special Meeting, as amended. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

2.4 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2008 Special Meeting. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

2.5 Selectman Bendoraitis requested the following correction to the minutes of the February 15, 2008 Special Meeting: Strike Item 5.0 as this item was acted upon at the February 7, 2008 meeting. Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2008 Special Meeting, as amended. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

2.6 Selectman Bendoraitis requested the following amendment to the minutes of the February 22, 2008 Special Meeting. Item 2.0; 3rd paragraph, 1st sentence: change "b" and "c" to "2" and "3" Sentence corrected to read: John Bendoraitis recommends we pursue options **2 and 3** simultaneously. Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2008 Special Meeting, as amended. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

2.7 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2008 Special Meeting. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

3.0 **Correspondence** – None.

4.0 **Financial Report Update** - Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to move the Finance Report Update following New Business. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis take up item 6.2 on the agenda. Vote: Yes, motion carried.

6.2 The sister of a Lebanon resident requested to speak to the Board about the possibility of donating a bench on the Green in memory of her sister who recently passed away. Melanie Weed told the Board that her sister's favorite place was to walk the Lebanon Green. Michelle's family considered other avenues to honor her sister, but because she was so passionate about walking the Green, they felt the placement of a bench in her memory would be ideal. Okonuk explained that it had been the communities desire to keep the Green as natural as possible, not wishing for it to take on a "park-like" appearance. In doing so, the two benches there now are made of granite and are very simplistic. Okonuk asked Michelle if Melanie's family would be willing to fund the donation of a bench very similar to what is in place. Should they wish to provide an acknowledgment of the gift, perhaps the wording "Given in Memory of Michele Jaquith" could be etched into the bench itself, rather than having a plaque mounted on the bench. Melanie felt confident her family would be pleased with the suggestion. She will

solicit samples of granite benches and meet back with the First Selectman to review prior to proceeding to order. The Public Works Department would be responsible for the installation. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the request to allow a the installation of memorial bench of a plain granite design similar to the benches presently on the Green in memory of Michele Jaquith pending final design and approval by the Board of Selection prior to the installation. Funding of this bench will be provided by the family of Michele Jaquith. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to take up item 6.1 on the agenda. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

6.1 Resident David Fields presented information pertaining to property tax exemption for renewable energy systems. Dave explained that Connecticut provides a property tax exemption for renewable energy such as solar power, wind power, wave and tidal and fuel cell which are classified as "Class I". The exemption is for single-family homes or multi-family homes limited to four units. Bendoraitis said that some other communities have adopted or are considering adopting incentives for residents who drive hybrid vehicles. The Town of Orange became the first municipality to offer a full motor vehicle tax abatement to residents whose hybrid and compact cars have a federal rating of at least 40 mpg on city streets. Bendoraitis further stated that tax exemption for high mileage motor vehicles could be written into an Ordinance. Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to proceed with drafting an ordinance to take advantage of enabling legislation allowing the Town to provide tax exemptions for high mileage motor vehicles and Class I renewable energy systems in private residences. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

*Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to amend the agenda to add **new** items 6.3 and 6.4 under New Business changing the remaining order of the agenda. Vote: yes. Motion carried.*

6.3 Phil Chester requested the Selectmen to endorse the use of appraisal funds from the Open Space Account for an appraisal at the Rechlin property on Waterman Road for the DEP Open Space Preservation Grant. The appraisal will determine the value of a conservation easement on the 104+/- acre Rechlin property as recommended by the Conservation Commission. Town Meeting on 12/10/07 approved the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for appraisal purposes. Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to authorize the expenditure of up to \$4,500.00 from the Capitol, Non-recurring Open Space Account, Appraisal sub-account, for the purpose of conducting a property appraisal on the Rechlin property on Waterman Road. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

6.4 The Conservation Commission voted at their March 3rd meeting to recommend two (2) alternate seats be created on the Commission. The Commission was originally formed by way of Town Meeting with appointments made by Board of Selectmen, for seven regular members. They have been involved in a high level of activity and with other community members interested in participating, the present Commission feels additional members would be helpful. The town attorney acknowledged alternate seats could be created by a town meeting vote without creating an ordinance. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to bring to next Town Meeting the request of the Conservation Commission to add two (2) alternate seats to the Conservation Commission. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to return to the order of agenda.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Board reviewed a draft of the Election of Members Ordinance. There were no further revisions. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to bring the proposed Election of Members Ordinance to the next Town Meeting for consideration. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

5.2 The Board did not take action on TIP expenditures until an updated report is provided.

5.3 Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize up to \$3,000.00 for the installation of ice shields at the Fire Safety Complex, to be installed by Blakeslee Construction, price to include labor and installation and funding to come from TIP, Buildings and Grounds #208-610-6126, FSC, non-discretionary. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

5.4 No action on Capitol Budgets for FY 08-09.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Tax exemption for renewable energy systems on private residences was acted upon above.

6.2 A request for a donation to the Lebanon Green was acted upon above.

6.3 New agenda item authorizing expenditure from Open Space account acted upon above.

6.4 New agenda item requesting the addition of two alternate positions on the Conservation Commission acted upon above.

6.5. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to advertise for computer and server maintenance for the Town Hall Computer Systems for FY 09. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

6.6. Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to advertise bid requests on the following town owned land for a two (2) year contract:

(a) Planting and harvesting approximately 13 acres of corn land located at the Town owned property adjacent to the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility

(b))Harvesting approximately 22 acres of standing hay located at the Town owned property adjacent to the Lebanon Solid Waste Facility.

(c) Harvesting standing hay located at the Lebanon Fire Safety Complex, 23 Goshen Hill Road.

Vote: yes. Motion carried. Selectmen noted that due to construction at the Senior Center site, there will be no bid for hay located off Dr. Manning Drive.

6.7. Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to amend the motion made at the February 11, 2008 Special Meeting to reduce the TIP request from \$50,000.00 to \$42,500.00 for FY 09. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

6.8 Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to sign a Girl Scout Proclamation in recognition of the 96th anniversary of Girl Scouting. Vote: yes. Motion Carried. Okonuk informed the audience that Lebanon Girl Scouts and leaders have been invited to the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 11th 5:00 PM at which time this Proclamation will be presented.

6.9 Selectmen discussed member contributions to MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) Information was provided by the Finance Office describing an optional method of payment for retirement contributions. Municipalities may request to pay the member contributions, on a pre-tax basis under a "pick up" option. Although optional, it must be elected for an entire group and cannot be made retroactive. Should the town exercise this option, employee contributions will be made on a pre-tax basis – no federal or state income taxes will be withheld on MERS deductions. Bendoraitis asked if there are any other benefits that would be impacted, Okonuk will ask the Accountant and report back.

6.10 There were no resignations from Commissions/Committees.

6.11 Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to reappoint the following members to Commissions/Boards:

(a) John Huling to the Solid Waste Commission with a term to expire 2/1/2011.

(b) Jan Van Woerkom to the Solid Waste Commission term to expire 2/1/2011.

(c) Mark Lang to the Conservation Commission, term to expire 3/1/2011.

(d) Emery Gluck to the Conservation Commission, term to expire 4/1/2011.

(e) Howard Wayland to the Conservation Commission, term to expire 4/1/2011.

Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to add new Item 6.12 to the agenda; Discuss and act upon fencing at the Recreation Fields. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

6.12 The Recreation Commission solicited bids for the repair and installation of fencing at the Aspinall rec fields. Bids were: (1) M& M Tennis at \$9,300.00; and (2) The Fence Man at \$9,995.00. The Rec Commission voted at their 2/25/08 meeting to set aside up to \$12,000.00 for this project. The Commission, however, did not vote to recommend a bidder. Bendoraitis said he would like time to review the quotes and felt that the Rec Commission should provide a recommendation on a contractor. The Board will bring this item to a future meeting and will ask a member of the Rec Commission to be present. No action.

Motion by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to take up item 4.0, Financial Update on the agenda. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

4.0 Financial Update

YTD budgets as of 02/29/08 were reviewed. Public Works running okay, but in Snow Removal, Okonuk pointed out that sand/salt invoices totaling nearly \$12,000 are not reflected on this report. Advertising continues to run over budget due to increased costs and activity with further overage anticipated due to town meeting legal notices, bid quotes and ordinance publications. Okonuk stated that a lump sum payment to MERF benefits were just applied to Account 480 and this should be reflected in the next report. All other accounts are operating within established budget. No action.

7.0 Tax Refunds – Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the tax refunds as presented by the Tax Collector. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Volvo Finance, NA Inc	\$212.98
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William Brauch	\$292.12
Patricia Harper	\$4.55
Dawn Jarvis	\$16.96
Dawn Jarvis	\$17.94
Richard Coffey	\$52.53
B&M Upholstery	\$287.03
F. Spafford & Henry Grabber	\$51.90
Michele Johnston	\$10.03
Krista Palombizio	\$960.71
Nadine Benigno	\$1,010.72
Joseph & Heidi Adgalanis	\$51.59
Margery Nichols	\$8.89
Glenna Vassel	\$7.00
Cheryl Ann Matthewson	\$11.76
Sharon Gatzke	\$16.61
Susan Parker	\$8.68
Danielle Julian or Joseph Julian	\$84.58
Joseph Julian	\$9.24
Michael Collins or Renee Collins	\$46.58
Priscilla Barton	\$35.35
Robert Jenco	\$27.20
Rudolph Antonios or Alice Antonios	\$10.45
John & Sue Lyon	\$368.32
Betty Montany	\$18.39
Richard Smith & MaryAnn Smith	\$800.00
Joseph Thibeault	\$59.90
Marc Nelson & Diane J. Nelson	\$2,066.01
Albert Tays or Rita Tays	\$4.80
John Culpin	\$65.05
John Clark	\$3.21

Joyce McGillicuddy	\$73.43
Theodore or Joann Rappahahn	\$13.03
Normand Nadeau, Jr.	\$24.71
Timothy or Renee Wentworth	\$16.54
Leonel or Trudi Zuidema	\$123.28
Joseph or Glenda Restivo	\$13.56
Leonard Couch	\$51.29
Raymond & Ben Andrews	\$135.34
Elizabeth Cranick	\$15.47
Gary Winters	\$14.68
Gregori Targonsky	\$40.47
Jonathan Wetzel	\$20.95
Rehan Mahmood	\$60.17
Thomas McGann	\$15.84
Raymond or Sally Ouellette	\$10.21
Vartkes & Elizabeth Ajemian	\$112.02
Washington Mutual	\$100.10
Raymond or Sally Ouellette	\$10.21
Rehan Mahmood	\$60.17
Thomas McGann	\$15.84
John Pratt	\$5.57
Ida Giglio	\$85.01
Jose or Nancy Hernandez	\$26.51

- 8.0 Public Forum** – Resident Ron Cowles reported severe road conditions on Gregory Road, especially where Gregory intersects with Kick Hill Road. Okonuk replied that she was aware of the condition of Gregory following this year's plowing season and the road will be included in the paving plan for summer of 2008. The Board thanked Mr. Cowles for his input and thanked him for attending the meeting.
- 9.0 Motion** by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Vote: yes. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk
First Selectman