

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2015 –4:00 PM
Town Hall
MINUTES

- 1.0 First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Selectman Linda Finelli and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present; Selectman John Bendoraitis was absent. Town Planner Phil Chester was also present. Audience: 1.
- 2.0 **Public Forum** - none
- 3.0 **Correspondence** - none
- 4.0 **Discuss and act upon Report and Recommendations from the Treasurer** – none
- 5.0 **Departmental Update** - none
- 6.0 **Minutes**
- 6.1 Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 Special Meeting (2:00 pm). Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 6.2 Motion made by Finelli/Okonuk to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 Special Meeting (4:00 pm). Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 6.3 Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2015 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 6.4 Motion made by Finelli/Okonuk to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2015 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.
- 7.0 **New Business**
- 7.1 Okonuk explained that some of the action steps from the 2014 Fair Housing Action Plan were not feasible for the Town. Okonuk worked with Peter Huckins to come up with steps that were possible for the Town to complete to be in compliance with the Fair Housing Action Plan. **Motion made by Finelli/Okonuk to amend the Fair Housing Action Plan for 2014 as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous. (SEE ATTACHED).**
- 7.2 Joan Nichols, Lebanon's Tree Warden joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m. to discuss the purchase and installation of a new evergreen for the annual tree lighting program on the Green. Chester presented a map of the proposed expansion for the Jonathan Trumbull Library as well as an aerial view of the current library and Green. Okonuk and Chester explained the reasons behind replacing the tree. First, the old Norway spruce that has been used for the past 44 years is getting too big to be climbed and lit every year. The Bender and Tollmann families, who have been lighting the tree since the beginning, have said that it is becoming too dangerous and difficult for them to climb. In addition, the old tree will be in the way of the planned expansion as the excavation required to install more windows in basement of building will directly impact the tree and its roots. The tree also blocks sunlight from entering the south side of the building. It was agreed that the tree will have to be removed. The discussion continued with deciding the best location for the new tree, as well as the native species and size that would be most appropriate. It was generally agreed that a variety of spruce is best. As Nichols worked with American Landscaping in Franklin on a previous planting project on the Green, she will contact them again for their advice as well as costs to transport and plant. She was very pleased with their expertise and transplanting ability. She will also contact Prides Corner Farms for stock availability and

costs. Nichols, Chester and the Selectmen will conduct a site visit of the green to try and determine best location to propose for new tree, keeping in mind annual events held on the Green and the space that they normally occupy.

Nichols also said that she had been approached about reviving the Tree Replanting Committee that was dissolved in 2010 to facilitate memorial tree donations for the Green. Nichols and the Selectmen agreed that the Green should not become a memorial ground and that the Town already has memorial benches along the walking path. Nichols pointed out that although the Green appears to have a lot of room to plant trees, finding locations that do not interfere with haying, annual activities, utilities and DOT right of way is not easy. It was agreed that there was no pressing need to reestablish the committee.

7.3 It was the recommendation of Veronica Calvert, Finance Director, to renew a CD for the Mary Chase Library Fund currently in the Savings Bank & Trust Institute that matures on February 13, 2015. **Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to renew a CD for the Mary Chase Library Fund in the amount of \$7,989.33 with the Savings Institute Bank & Trust for six (6) months. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

7.4 It was the recommendation of Veronica Calvert, Finance Director, to renew CD for Town School Prizes (currently in the Savings Bank & Trust Institute) that matures on February 13, 2015. **Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to renew a CD for Town School Prizes in the amount of \$1,780.36 with the Savings Institute Bank & Trust for six (6) months. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

7.5 **Motion made by Finelli/Okonuk to hire Shelly Ashcom as the part-time Social Services Administrator for 19 hours per week at the six-month probationary wage of \$17.18 per hour, effective January 25, 2015. Her wage will increase to \$17.70 per hour following a favorable performance review in July. Vote: Yes, unanimous.** Okonuk noted that Ms. Ashcom brings considerable experience to the position and her background will be a great asset to the office.

8.0 **Reappointments**

8.1 **Motion made by Finelli/Okonuk to reappoint Jim Bender, Jim Hallene and David Martin to the Inland Wetlands Commission for three (3) year terms to expire on 6/1/2018. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

8.2 **Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to reappoint Keith LaPorte and Shaun McCarthy to the Cemetery Commission for three (3) year terms to expire on 2/1/2018. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

9.0 **Police Report** The Selectmen reviewed the activity reports for December and January.

10.0 **Financial Reports** – No reports were available for this meeting.

11.0 **Motion made by Okonuk/Finelli to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman