

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
July 10, 2012 – 5:00 PM
Town Hall
MINUTES

- 1.0** First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m. Selectman Linda Finelli and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present; Selectman John Bendoraitis was absent. Audience: 4.
- 2.0** **Public Forum** - None
- 3.0** **Minutes**
- 3.1** **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2012 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
- 3.2** **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2012 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
- 4.0** **Correspondence** - None
- 5.0** **Police Report** - The Selectmen reviewed the police report for June as provided by the Resident State Trooper.
- 6.0** **New Business**
- 6.1** No action (On agenda twice-- taken up under Item 6.6)
- 6.2** Alicia Wayland was present to request that the Selectmen approve the Museum Administration Budget for the Jonathan Trumbull Junior House for FY 2013. Wayland explained that there were no budgetary changes from the previous year. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to approve the Museum Administration Budget for the Jonathan Trumbull Junior House in the amount of \$12,144.50 for FY 2013, funds to come from the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Endowment Fund. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
- 6.3** Wayland also had a request regarding the disposal of furniture within the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House. She explained that the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Board of Historical Preservation had purchased a bed for a museum exhibit that was too large for the space intended. The Board is requesting permission to sell the bed at auction and replace it with a more appropriate one. As the museum and its furnishings are property of the town, the Accessions Policy for the Museum requires that the BOS grant permission for disposal. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to authorize the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Board of Historical Preservation to dispose of a bed at auction and to use the proceeds to purchase a smaller bed for the Museum. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
- 6.4** Wayland also discussed a request from CPTV to video the Lebanon Green, including the Trumbull Jr. House Museum. The Lebanon Green has been selected as one of "Connecticut's Cultural Treasures" a project of the DECD Tourism Office to promote heritage tourism sites. DECD has joined with CPTV to have professionally produced videos made for promotion of the Treasures. The cost to participate for Lebanon is \$5,000.00, which covers only a fraction of the CPTV's production costs. The Connecticut Humanities Council is offering a challenge grant to the Lebanon Historical Society for \$2,500.00, half the cost of participation. The SAR has pledged an additional \$1,000.00 and the LHS will contribute \$500.00. Wayland requested that the Selectmen approve up to \$1,000.00 from the Endowment Fund for a matching share. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to approve up to \$1,000.00 from the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Endowment Fund as a matching share of the cost of the CPTV production of Connecticut's Cultural Treasures. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
- 6.5** Assessor Ton Tanganelli presented the bid proposal for the upcoming Revaluation for the 2013 Grand List. He explained a physical revaluation is when every property is inspected. The statistical/partial revaluation is based primarily on existing data. The 2013 reval will be a statistical/partial. The Selectmen agreed to proceed with advertising with a return date of August 7, 2012. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to authorize the Assessor to solicit bids for Reappraisal and Revaluation of Real Property for the 2013 Grand List. Vote: Yes, unanimous.** (The Assessor later clarified that industrial, commercial and public use property will be physically inspected. In addition, residential properties may also be inspected at the discretion of the Assessor).
- 6.6** Jim Macauley, Chairman of the Energy Task Force Advisory Committee (LETf), presented an update on the Direct Energy Residential Buyers Group (DE). Macauley explained that DE has reduced the 2012 rates in accordance with our contract, but they were not forthcoming with advertising the lower rates to residents who have already signed with them but rather the customer must request the lower rate. Macauley said that Titan Energy has worked with DE to generate a new contract that is based on the new lower rate. The LETf recommends that the Town terminate the old contract early and sign the new agreement. There is no penalty for early termination, and DE will then market the new rate, both to existing customers and potential new customers; the Selectmen agreed. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to terminate**

the existing services agreement with Direct Energy Residential Buyers Group and to enter immediately into the marketing agreement with more favorable rates, as recommended by the LETF. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

The original contract with DE proposed only a 100% green power option for CL&P customers. Although the cost for 100% green power through DE is lower than the CL&P regular rate, it is still somewhat higher than what competitors may offer. Macauley and the LETF have persuaded DE to offer a new option for signing with them—a standard (14%) green power with the lowest rates available, to encourage more customers to join the program. The new rates are as follows: CL&P (Standard 14% Green): 8.28¢/kWh; DE 100% Green: 7.70¢/kWh (senior's 7.69¢/kWh); DE Standard (14% Green): 7.29¢/kWh (senior's 7.19¢/kWh). **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to allow Direct Energy to market the new contract with the optional standard rate to the Residential Energy Buyers Group . Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

6.7 Julie Lane, member of the Lebanon Energy Task Force Committee, presented a proposal regarding a \$1,000.00 grant they have been awarded from the New England Grass Roots Environment Fund, that will subsidize Home Energy Solution (HES) visits through the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Program. Lane proposed the method by which the LETF will distribute the funds. \$25.00 rebates will be available for the first 40 HES audit participants. The Selectmen reviewed the proposal, making slight changes. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to accept the distribution procedures for the HES rebates as specified. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

6.8 **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to sign a Resolution to contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Document Preservation Grant, at the request of the Town Clerk. Vote: Yes, unanimous. (See attached).**

6.9 Okonuk gave a brief overview of the Central Corridor Rail Coalition and The Palmer Rail Coalition. The Coalition is seeking to reinstate passenger rail service along the Brattleboro, Vermont to New London, Connecticut rail line. This effort has been supported by all WINCOG towns. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to sign a Resolution supporting the Central Corridor Rail Coalition and the Palmer Rail Coalition. Vote: Yes, unanimous. (See attached).**

6.10 The Walker Group has recommended the purchase of a replacement battery backup for the Town Hall Server. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to purchase a replacement backup battery for the Town Hall Server as recommended by Walker Group in the amount of \$583.83 funds to come from TIP Account #208-620-6200. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

6.11 The Jonathan Trumbull Library needs to replace two computers. Per the new budget, funds for replacement computers are to come from TIP. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to authorize up to \$1,326.00 for the purchase of two HP computers through the Ergonomic Group for the Jonathan Trumbull Library, funds to come from TIP Account #208-620-6200. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to add item 6.12 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon authorizing the expenditure of \$8,000.00 from the Open Space Funds for the purpose of conducting property appraisals on the Williams' farm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.12 Phil Chester, Town Planner was present to request the Selectmen authorize \$8,000.00 from previously allocated Open Space Funds for the purpose of conducting property appraisals on the farm previously owned by Bob Williams, presently held in an LLC by his family. There are sufficient funds remaining from the \$40,000 released at the 1/31/11 Town Meeting for the purpose of funding appraisals. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to authorize up to \$8,000.00 from Capital Open Space funds Acct # 220-00-000-2714, for the purpose of conducting property appraisals on the Williams' farm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

7.0 **Old Business**

7.1 Two window air conditioning units, formerly in use within the Town Hall, were installed in windows at the Fire Safety Complex Hall to cool the room during the recent referendums. The Selectmen felt the units should stay in the FSC Hall for other events, but they were concerned about recouping the additional electrical costs. (See the June 5, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes). After discussion, it was decided that as the usage fee of \$100 (plus the refundable \$50 cleaning deposit) has not changed in many years, the rental rate should be increased to offset electrical and heating costs. It was agreed that an increase to \$200 (plus the refundable \$50 cleaning deposit) would be appropriate. **Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Okonuk to increase the rental fee for private party use of the Fire Safety Complex Hall to \$200 (plus a \$50 refundable cleaning deposit) to cover increased costs, effective July 1, 2012. Vote: Yes, unanimous. (Note: Prior bookings will not be subject to this increase – only new bookings.)**

7.2 The Selectmen received a letter from Mark Elliot, President of the LVFD, requesting the formation of a five-member study committee to evaluate the need for Fire Department Substation(s). After some discussion, the Selectmen decided to ask Mark to set up a meeting with Fire Department Officers to review their request. Finelli also suggested that the LVFD should begin to educate the public as to the benefits of having substations as the issue would have to go to Town Meeting eventually for approval. Meeting will be scheduled.

8.0 Appointments/Reappointments to, and Resignations from, Boards, Commissions and Committees

8.1 Okonuk explained that Myles Davis, a member of the LVFD, has expressed interest in becoming the Deputy Director of Emergency Management and Byron Lennox, Director of Emergency Management is supportive of the request. However, as neither Davis nor Lennox was able to attend the meeting Okonuk requested they be present before making the appointment as she wishes to hear from Davis that he is willing to take on the responsibility, attend all the training, and seek certification.

8.2 There are currently five residents who have submitted applications for the newly formed Public Works Facility Study Committee. Selectmen reviewed their letters of interest. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to appoint the following people to the Public Works Facility Study Committee, terms to end at the completion of the project: Linda Desmaris, John Viklinetz, Phil McLellan, David Geligoff and Dennis Goderre. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

8.3 Six residents who have submitted applications for the newly formed Town Charter Study Committee. Selectmen reviewed their letters of interest. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to appoint the following people to the Town Charter Study Committee, terms to end at the completion of the project: John Daviau, Frederick Nelson, Jr., Paul Spedalieri, Keith LaPorte, Betsy Petrie and Alicia Wayland. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

8.4 The Selectmen received three applications for the two openings on the Recreation Commission. Selectmen carefully reviewed the applicants' areas of interest and expertise. **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to appoint Tammy Raymond and Melissa Perkins to the Recreation Commission filling two vacancies, terms to expire on 2/1/2015. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

8.5 No action as the applicant withdrew their application.

9.0 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to approve the following Tax Refunds for June 2012:

Tax Refunds –June 2012	Amount
Adam, John W. and Karen R. (New owner check to be made out to Core Logic)	\$2,067.85
Harmon, Laurie	\$36.02

Vote: Yes, unanimous.

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

11.0 Executive Session

11.1 **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to enter into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation regarding a personnel matter. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**
The Selectmen returned to Regular Session at 7:13 p.m.

12.0 **Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Vote: Yes, unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman