

Board of Selectmen
REGULAR MEETING
Town Hall
January 5, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.
MINUTES

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

2.0 Public Forum

Bill Jestreby addressed the minutes from December 1, 2009. He requested that a sentence in the minutes be corrected or stricken from the record as they were mis-stated in the record. He does not feel that the Town should pass an Ordinance on the issue of voter IDs being checked at Town Meetings. The Selectmen will modify minutes later in the meeting.

Ron Cowles and Bill Jestreby asked Okonuk what progress had been made researching voter ID policies. Okonuk replied that she has had no time to investigate this matter over the past month due to holiday hours and a need to concentrate on budget issues. She will certainly look into this issue as soon as time permits, possibly this month. Cowles said the identifying of voters at town meeting is a matter of “sanctity of the vote” and that only registered voters should be voting at Town Meetings. Okonuk agreed although somewhat concerned that checking ID’s at the door may discourage people from attending the meetings. It would be brought to the public to decide, and if the public wants the change, and if it is in keeping with State Statutes, then it could be implemented. Okonuk added that she would not, and could not simply make such a change based on the request of two residents.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 Moved by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 Regular Meeting amended as follows. Item 6.1 under New Business, the following sentence should be stricken from the minutes: “Both men feel that the Town should pass an ordinance instituting voter ID checks at all town meetings for everyone entering the room.” Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.2 Moved by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2009 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

3.3 Moved by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2009 Special Meeting. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.0 Correspondence

Okonuk presented a letter of resignation from Thomas Valone, Town Accountant, for the benefit of the other selectmen.

Okonuk presented a letter from Richard Dexter regarding the traffic situation on Congdon and Scott Hill Roads. Selectmen discussed the history of complaints and the response in the past from the Police Department. Okonuk to contact Resident State Trooper Keith Maynard and Public Works Foreman Tom Conley to discuss the possibility of increased patrols and possibly speed bumps as a traffic calming methods. She will bring info back to the Board at a later meeting.

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Alicia Wayland presented an estimate for repairs to the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House which she received from Tom Linsky, owner of West River Restoration. The estimate includes both exterior and interior repairs and stipulates that due to the unpredictable conditions, the labor estimate is not a fixed number. The total estimate for labor and materials is \$6,000. Linsky also noted that a crucial sill on the east side of the museum is deteriorating and should be watched closely. This sill is tied to many utilities and support structures and would be a major undertaking to replace. Okonuk suggested pursuing an

historic restoration grant for the future replacement and Wayland agreed to contact the State Board of Historical Preservation to see what funding/grant options may be available.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to waive the bidding requirements for a project over \$4,000, as the estimate from Tom Linsky comes from a highly specialized contractor who has previous experience working for the Town. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to award the contract for repairs to the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Museum to Tom Linsky of West River Restoration, cost not to exceed \$6,000, funds to come from the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Endowment Fund. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

5.2 No action at this time.

5.3 Okonuk explained that the original estimate from C&R Insulation for insulating the attic of Town Hall did not include the “overlay” of additional batting as previously thought. The total cost to complete the project would be \$2,605, which is still considerably lower than the other estimate that was received from Quality Insulation, Inc. for \$5,895.00. Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to authorize the additional payment of \$1,450 (and “not a penny more”) to C & R Insulation to complete the job as specified, funds to come from TIP. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

5.3 Okonuk outlined the recent progress made on probate court redistricting. She met with Judge of Probate Jody Thomas of Colchester on December 24, 2009 with representatives from Windham, Hampton, Chaplain and Scotland to discuss the details of the new court structure. The intent is for the seat of the Court to be in Windham, open five days per week, with a “satellite” court in Colchester, open two days per week. The budget will be finalized in January; the name of the new court is still being discussed.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to authorize the First Selectman to execute and deliver a contract with the State of Connecticut for the 2009 Farm Viability Grant. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.2 Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to authorize the transfer of ownership of numerous silver items from the Jonathan Trumbull Library to the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Museum. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.3 Okonuk asked the Board about providing additional recommendations to the Plan of Conservation and Development Committee (POCD) re the possibility of initiating the study of a possible Town Charter sometime within the next ten years. The Board agreed to add that suggestion to their comments in the POCD although making the decision to create a town charter is a huge undertaking that will have significant impact on our form of government.

Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to recommend to the POCD the statement of investigating the possibility of studying the possibility of a Town Charter. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.4 The Selectmen discussed a proposal for the supply and renewal of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) through Sterling Planet. Bendoraitis noted that buying the RECs fulfills the requirements for the 20% by 2010 Program. He also recommended choosing the Green America option for the two-year contract, 2010 & 2011 at \$4.00/MWh for 46 Megawatt Hours. Bendoraitis will contact Kat West of Sterling Planet and ask her to prepare a contract.

6.5 Okonuk reported that a tentative date for the Tribute to Hugh Trumbull Adams has been set for Saturday, June 12, 2010. She said a committee will be formed to plan the event. Finelli felt that Russ Blakeslee may be interested in sitting on the committee. Other recommendations included Reverend Dr. Sharon Ledbetter (Pastor, First Congregational Church), Alicia Wayland, (Town Historian) and Ed Tollmann, (President of the Lebanon Historical Society).

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to add item 6.6 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon the closure of Town Hall for February legal holidays. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.6 Okonuk said that she had met with the Town Clerk and Tax Collector to discuss when the legal holiday called “President’s Day”, listed as a holiday for town union employees, would be taken in February. Several calendars show President’s Day on February 22. However, Washington’s Birthday, a Federal legal holiday is being observed on February 15. It was decided that President’s Day, Monday, February 22, 2010, would be observed by Town employees as “President’s Day”, and that Town Hall would be open on Washington’s Birthday on the 15th for normal working hours. Moved by Finelli,

seconded by Bendoraitis to close Town Hall and observe President's Day on Monday February 22, 2010 as a paid union holiday; Town Hall will be open and employees required to work on February 15, 2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to add Item 6.7 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon advertising a RFP for a Small Cities and STEAP Grant Administrator. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.7 Okonuk explained that she needs to advertise a RFP for a Grant Administrator per state requirements.

Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize the First Selectman to advertise a Request for Proposal for a Grant Administrator to oversee the CDBG Small Cities Program Application Preparation and Program Administration and for the Administration and Implementation of Program Income and Administration of the Small Town Economic Assistance Program. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to add item 6.8 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon budgeted increases for elected officials and part-time employees. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.8 Okonuk explained that she had met with the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector to discuss budgeting for wage increases for non-union, part-time, appointed and elected employees. Discussion followed regarding keeping the budget flat, and whether or not increases should be put in the budget. Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to recommend, for budgeting purposes only, that departments budget a 3% wage increase for all elected, part-time, and appointed non-union employees, for FY 2010-11. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to add item 6.9 to the agenda: Discuss and act upon approving a request for a Family Fun Run. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.9 Moved by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to approve the request from Jim Shifrin to hold the 4th Annual Bailey's Garden Family Fun Run on May 2, 2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

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

7.1 Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Finelli to appoint Linda Desmarais to the Town Center Parking Lot Committee, term to expire at the end of the project. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to add item 7.2 to the agenda: Re-appointments of conservation Commission members. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

7.2 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Finelli to re-appoint the following regular members of the Conservation Commission: Jan Fitter, Alton Blodgett and Keith LaPorte, terms to expire on 4/01/2012. Vote: Yes, unanimous. Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint Antoinette Willard as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire on 4/1/2010. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Motion made by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint John Slate as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, term to expire 4/01/2013. Vote: Yes, unanimous. (These re-appointments are to correct term end-dates that were previously recorded in error.)

Motion made by Bendoraitis, seconded by Finelli to add item 7.3 to the agenda: Re-appointment of the Tree Warden and Deputy Tree Warden. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

7.3 Motion made by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to re-appoint Joan Nichols as Tree Warden, and Howard Wayland as Deputy Tree Warden for one year terms to expire on 2/01/2011. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

8.0 Financial Reports

Selectmen reviewed the year-to-date line item reports with all expenditures/balances appearing appropriate.

9.0 Tax Refunds for December 2009

NAME	AMOUNT
Rall, Michelle T & Susan E.	\$857.34
Rall, Michelle T & Susan E.	\$844.74
Enterprise Leasing Co. of Kansas	\$85.27
Dunne, Patti C.	\$3.34
Parker, Norbert & Deborah M.	\$23.47
Parker, Norbert C. or Deborah M.	\$5.05
Parker, Norbert C. or Deborah M.	\$2.66
Honda Lease Trust	\$77.63
Toyota Motor Credit Corp.	\$242.78
CAB East LLC	\$62.62
Baldi, Michael	\$10.17
Ives, Edward K.	\$14.50

Motion made by Bendoraitis seconded by Finelli to approve the tax refunds for December 2009 as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

10.0 Executive Session

None

11.0 Selectmen continued to review the Operating Budgets and Capital Budget Requests for FY 2010-11.

12.0 Motion made by Finelli, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn at 9:00 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman