

Town of Lebanon
Board of Selectmen

REGULAR MEETING

Town Hall
October 27, 2009 – 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- 1.0** Selectman John Bendoraitis called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Selectman Russ Blakeslee and Administrative Assistant Patti Handy were also present, First Selectman Joyce Okonuk was delayed and entered the meeting at 6:10 pm. Audience: 6.

2.0 **Public Forum**

None

3.0 **Minutes**

3.1 Moved by Blakeslee, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2009 regular meeting, amended as follows: Item 6.10, third line should read “Considering the many variables over which the Town has no control, including *the* passing of the funding...” Also, Item 6.12 should read: “Cowles made several valid points about improving the process, *which the Selectmen acknowledged.*”
Vote: Yes, unanimous.

4.0 **Correspondence**

None

5.0 **Old Business**

5.1 Ron Cowles was not present to discuss Roberts Rules of Order

6.0 **New Business**

Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to amend the order of the agenda and take up Items 6.2 and 6.3, and then return to Item 6.1 when the speaker arrives. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.1 (See above)

6.2 Moved by Blakeslee, seconded by Bendoraitis to approve the following Holiday Hours for the Town Hall: December 18, 2009 (Holiday Luncheon) – closing at 1:00 pm; December 24, 2009 (Christmas Eve) – closing at 1:00 pm; December 31, 2009 (New Year’s Eve) – closing at 1:00 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.3 Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to reimburse Richard and Leah Tanger \$100.00 for the returning to the Town two double cemetery plots: 840 – 1 & 2 and 841 – 1 & 2 in the New Lebanon Cemetery. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

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

7.1 Moved by Blakeslee, seconded by Okonuk to appoint Chris Warner to the Economic Development Commission as a regular member, (was an alternate) term to end 2/01/13. Vote: Yes, unanimous. Moved by Blakeslee, seconded by Okonuk to appoint Mike Sundquist to the Economic Development Commission as an alternate member (was a regular) to fill the vacancy left by Chris Warner, term to end 2/01/12. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

7.2 Okonuk explained that presently there are only three members of the Flood and Erosion Control Board who are willing to be reappointed, and they are all alternates. She proposed appointing Leigh Rider, Kirk Matson and Wayne Handfield as regular members, keeping the existing alternate term end dates. The other two members, John Meli and Dixie Sorenson have expressed, via telephone, that they are no longer interested in being members. They will be asked to resign from the Board in writing to make it official. Moved by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to reappoint Leigh Rider, Kirk Matson and Wayne Handfield

as regular members of the Flood and Erosion Control Board with terms to end as follows: Rider: 6/01/2010; Matson: 6/01/2012 and Handfield: 6/01/2012. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

7.3 Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to reappoint Lynn Russo, Beverly Duntz, David Fields, Joyce Okonuk, and Alicia Wayland to the Town Parking Lot Committee, terms to expire at the end of the project. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Moved by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to appoint Art Wallace to the Town Parking Lot Committee, term to expire at the end of the project. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Moved by Okonuk seconded by Bendoraitis to amend the order of the agenda and take up Item 6.1. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.1 Kara Fishman, Chairman of the Energy Task Force Advisory Committee, and Jim Macauley, member of the Committee, were present to discuss the application process for the Energy Block Grant. Fishman stated that the Town has been approved to apply for the grant in the amount of \$46,294. The grant is administered at the state level and the deadline for applying is November 5, 2009. She explained that the Connecticut Department of Energy criteria stipulates what projects the funds may be used for, and the Office of Policy and Management has further itemized the allowable uses for the funds. Fishman provided the itemized list to the Selectmen, and explained the Energy Task Force's recommendations. Bendoraitis pointed out that the use of the funds must be decided on now, although the funds will not be available for one to two years. Macauley added that the town should have a strategy, and earmark the funds for a specific purpose, such as the Siemens Energy Audit. Okonuk expressed concerns that if OPM is looking for detailed estimates in order to approve the grant application, the town does not yet have that for projects identified in the Siemens Study. Other possible uses were discussed including new ceiling insulation and windows in the public hall at the Fire Complex. Bendoraitis pointed out that the town has funds set aside for improvements there already. Macauley also pointed out that the initial audit showed that the overall energy usage of the FSC is fairly low, compared to the schools, which have the highest energy consumption overall, with the biggest losses identified in the 1966 wing of the Lebanon Elementary School (LES). Elementary School window replacements would be consistent with the information that the Task Force has already put forward, and since it was already identified in the preliminary study it would probably be approved. Okonuk asked Fishman if the Energy Task Force Advisory Committee would be comfortable with the Selectmen's recommendation for use of the grant funds to replace the windows in the 1966 wing of LES, and she said yes, adding that she has a resolution that must be signed for the application process to forward. Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to designate the \$46,294 Energy Block Grant for the purchase and installation of high efficiency windows for the 1966 wing of the Lebanon Elementary School. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Moved by Blakeslee, seconded by Bendoraitis to authorize the First Selectman to sign an application for ARRA Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant on behalf of the Town. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Okonuk will contact a window contractor to get an estimate on Energy Star rated windows. She also stated that after the grant award is received, further acceptance of the grant by Town Meeting will be required.

Moved by Okonuk seconded by Blakeslee to return to the order of the agenda, and add **Item 6.4** to the agenda under New Business: "Discuss the recent passing of Hugh Trumbull Adams." Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.4 Okonuk reported the sad news that the town's benefactor, Hugh Trumbull Adams, passed away on October 15, 2009 at his home in New York; he was 96. His funeral was held on October 27th and he was buried alongside his parents in Greenwich, CT. Many family members, friends and associates were present, including Okonuk and Howard and Alicia Wayland. Plans are underway to hold a memorial service in Lebanon at the Congregational Church, the date and time to be announced. There will also be a memorial service at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC in his honor, tentatively scheduled for January 2010. At a future date, Okonuk would like to discuss with the Selectmen the wording to be put on the stone that was placed on the walking path on the Town Green, which was dedicated to Mr. Adams in 1996. The Town mourns his passing, and is forever in his debt.

Moved by Bendoraitis seconded by Okonuk to add **Item 6.5** to the agenda under New Business: “Discuss and act upon the 2009 Agricultural Viability Grant.” Vote: Yes, unanimous.

6.5 Moved by Bendoraitis seconded by Okonuk to authorize the First Selectman to apply for a 2009 Agricultural Viability Grant for up to \$50,000 as described in the Town Planner’s memo dated 10/27/09. (See attached). Vote: Yes, unanimous. Bendoraitis thanked Phil Chester for his efforts in obtaining this grant and several others in the past.

8.0 Financial Reports

9.0 Tax Refunds for October 2009

NAME	AMOUNT
Williams, Gregory A.	\$1,177.90

Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to approve the tax refund for October 2009, as presented. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

10.0

Executive Session

10.1 Selectmen entered Executive Session at 7:05 pm for the purpose of discussing the purchase of cemetery property. Cemetery Commission members Howard Wayland and Keith LaPorte and Phil Chester, Town Planner, were invited to attend Executive Session.

Moved by Bendoraitis, seconded by Okonuk to return to regular session at 7:30 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Moved by Bendoraitis seconded by Okonuk to authorize the First Selectman to enter into negotiations with Laura Koziol for cemetery property adjacent to the Liberty Hill Cemetery. Vote: Yes (2) Okonuk and Bendoraitis; Abstain (1) Blakeslee. Motion carries.

11.0 Moved by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Vote: Yes, unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman