

TOWN OF LEBANON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
March 24, 2008
MINUTES

A special town meeting of the electors and those qualified to vote at the town meetings of the Town of Lebanon was held on Monday, March 24, 2008 in the Lyman Memorial High School Auditorium, 917 Exeter Road (Route 207) Lebanon, Connecticut. Audience: 49

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

First Selectman Okonuk then called for nominations for moderator.

Moved by Russell Blakeslee, seconded by James Jahoda to appoint Edward Tollmann as moderator. Vote called motion passed

Moved by Robert Slate, seconded by James Jahoda to wave the reading of the call of the meeting. Vote called motion passed

Moved by Joyce Okonuk, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 1 to the floor *[consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Viability Grant in the amount of twenty five thousand dollars and no cents (\$25,000.00).]*

Town Planner Philip Chester explained as follows. The proposed Agricultural Viability Grant will be used to promote agriculture and to promote and advertise Lebanon's Farmers Market. The Town of Lebanon does not have to provide matching funds, it does however have to provide in kind services. How the grant funds are spent are outlined in the grant. The grant will be administrated Board of Selectmen.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: *[consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Viability Grant in the amount of twenty five thousand dollars and no cents (\$25,000.00)]* Vote called, item 1 passed

Moved by Alicia Wayland, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 2 to the floor *[Consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Viability Grant in the amount of thirty eight thousand, one hundred dollars and no cents (\$38,100.00) that will be administered by the Town of Lebanon on behalf of the Land Use Leadership Alliance.]*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The proposed grant funds would be administered by the Board of Selectmen, with funds being used for workshops and training for Lebanon and area towns. Together with Lebanon's Land Use Officer, the Board will appoint a committee to participate in the training program. The Town of Lebanon does not have to provide matching funds or in kind services. Liz Rogers, from the Department of Agriculture, stated that the training sessions/ workshops will provide the towns with tools to use regarding land use in their respective towns.

Teddy Randall suggested that the appointed committee include members of the farming community

Moderator Tollmann called question: *[Consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Viability Grant in the amount of thirty eight thousand, one hundred dollars and no cents (\$38,100.00) that will be administered by the Town of Lebanon on behalf of the Land Use Leadership Alliance.]* Vote called, item 2 passed

Moved by Greg Lafontaine, seconded by Robert Slate to bring item 3 to the floor *[consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars and no cents (\$1,500.00).]*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The State of Connecticut has set up grants to help towns develop improved homeland security. The proposed grant will a provide computer and pay for two (2) years of internet service for the Town of Lebanon's Director of Emergency Management Byron Lennox. Mr. Lennox will document his mileage and work hours, which will provide the in kind services required by the grant.

Moderator Tollmann called the question:
[consider and act upon the acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of one thousand five hundred dollars and no cents (\$1,500.00).]
Vote called, item 3 passed

Moved by Albert Vertefeulle, seconded by Susan Davis to bring item 4 to the floor [*consider and act upon acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Citizens Corp Grant (CERT) in the amount of one thousand dollars and no cents (\$1,000.00).*]

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The proposed CERT grant does not require matching funds or in kind services. Lebanon's CERT is a group of volunteers trained to help the town execute its emergency plan. The Grant funds will be used for training and supplies for Lebanon's CERT.

Moderator Tollmann called the question:

[*consider and act upon acceptance and expenditure of a 2007 State Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Citizens Corp Grant (CERT) in the amount of one thousand dollars and no cents (\$1,000.00).*] Vote called, item 4 passed

Moved by Geri McCaw, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 5 to the floor [*consider and act upon establishing a Senior Transportation Fund to be used for receiving revenue and paying expenses associated with senior transportation services and to transfer into this fund fifty two thousand, three hundred twenty two dollars and no cents (\$52,322.00) from Acct. #457, Commission on Aging for FY 2007-08.*]

Liz Charron, Chairman of Board of Finance, spoke to the question. Moving money already used for Senior Transportation into an established Senior Transportation Fund will make it easier to receive and spend transportation funds, and would also allow the town to roll money for senior transportation over from year to year.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: [*consider and act upon establishing a Senior Transportation Fund to be used for receiving revenue and paying expenses associated with senior transportation services and to transfer into this fund fifty two thousand, three hundred twenty two dollars and no cents (\$52,322.00) from Acct. #457, Commission on Aging for FY 2007-08.*] Vote called, item 5 passed

Moved by Albert Vertefeulle , seconded by Joyce Okonuk to bring item 6 to the floor [*Consider and act upon acceptance of Cambridge Court into the town road system*]

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the questions as follows. One hundred eighty feet (180') of Cambridge Court, which is part of a subdivision in the Town of Colchester, connects to Congdon Road in the Town of Lebanon. An Inter-municipal Agreement with the Town of Colchester regarding this road was accepted by Town Meeting on May 7, 2007. The Town of Colchester will be responsible for plowing and sanding of the entire road.

Moderator Tollmann called the question:

[*Consider and act upon acceptance of Cambridge Court into the town road system.*]

Vote called, item 6 passed

Moved by Patricia Hedwall, seconded by Robert Slate to bring item 7 to the floor [consider and act upon an Ordinance Eliminating the Board of Assessors.]

Patricia Hedwall, former Assessor in the Town of Lebanon, spoke to the question as follows. Lebanon's Board of Assessors has been in place prior to 1949. In the past, all residents had to declare their property to the Board of Assessors, and the Board signed off on the Grand List. The property assessments are now done by a certified Assessor, and the State of Connecticut mandates that only a certified Assessor may sign off on the Grand List. Whereas the Assessor now fulfills the duties of the Board of Assessors, the Board is no longer needed.

Assessor Albert Vertefeulle stated he approves of eliminating the Board of Assessors.

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk asked for a motion to amend Section 1 C of the proposed Ordinance to read; The term of Tax Assessor shall Commence May 1, 2008.

Moved by Alicia Wayland, seconded by Charles Haralson to amend Section 1 C. of the proposed Ordinance Eliminating the Board of Assessors to read; The term of Tax Assessor shall Commence May 1, 2008. Vote called motion passed

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk requested that whereas acceptance of this Ordinance has to pass by a 2/3 majority, a vote by show of hands be called.

Selectman Russell Blakeslee stated that he was not in favor of eliminating the Board of Assessors.

Moderator Tollmann called the question, as amended, by a show of hands vote [consider and act upon an Ordinance Eliminating the Board of Assessors.] 35 yes, 7 no, item 7 passed

(A copy of this Ordinance follows these minutes)

Moved by Brenda Bennett, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 8 to the floor *[consider and act upon an Ordinance concerning the Full Election of Membership for the Board of Education.]*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. Acceptance of this Ordinance will allow each political party to nominate as many persons for the Board of Education as there are vacancies for. It will also allow the electors to vote for as many positions as there are vacancies for.

Moderator Tollmann called the question:

[consider and act upon an Ordinance concerning the Full Election of Membership for the Board of Education.] Vote called, item 8 passed

(A copy of this Ordinance follows these minutes)

Moved by John Bendoraitis, seconded by Albert Vertefeuille to bring item 9 to the floor *[consider and act upon an Ordinance Creating Competitive Bidding Standards.]*

Selectman John Bendoraitis spoke to the question as follows. The Board of Selectmen has brought this Ordinance forward, the set guide lines for the town's bidding process.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: *[consider and act upon an Ordinance Creating Competitive Bidding Standards.]* Vote called, item 9 passed

(A copy of this Ordinance follows these minutes)

Moved by Alicia Wayland, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 10 to the floor *[consider and act upon an Ordinance Establishing a Historical Preservation Board for the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Museum.]*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Study Committee, which was appointed in 1995, was established to determine how an endowment from Mr. Adams was to be used to manage and run the house. Upon appointment by the Board of Selectmen of a seven member Historical Board, the Study Committee will be dissolved.

Moderator Tollmann called the question:

[consider and act upon an Ordinance Establishing a Historical Preservation Board for the Jonathan Trumbull Jr. House Museum.] Vote called, item 10 passed

(A copy of this Ordinance follows these minutes)

Moved by Liz Charron, seconded by Charles Haralson to bring item 11 to the floor *[consider and act upon an addition of two alternate seats on the Conservation Commission, with initial terms to be one year and two years respectively, with three year re-appointments thereafter.]*

First Selectman Joyce Okonuk spoke to the question as follows. The Conservation Commission, which has become very active, has requested the addition of two (2) alternate members.

Moderator Tollmann called the question: *[consider and act upon an addition of two alternate seats on the Conservation Commission, with initial terms to be one year and two years respectively, with three year re-appointments thereafter.]* Vote called, item 11 passed

Moved by Timothy Thompson, seconded by Charles Haralson to adjourn at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan C. Coutu
Town Clerk