

MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Monday, January 12, 2015 7:00 p.m. Town Office Building

In attendance: C. Iino, F. Dudek, L. Annino, Jr.,

Visitors: M. Milano, Jodi Angus, [D. Colonia and D. Glynn attended part of meeting]

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Approval of Minutes: December 8, 2014

Motion by Dudek, second by Annino, to approve December 8, 2014 minutes as written.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Iino, second by Dudek, to add the following items to the agenda:

1. Add appointment of Jeffery Cook to Item 5

2. Add new item 7F: Issuing of Legal Notice for EOC request for proposals

Motion passed unanimously

3. Visitors' Comments: see items 7D, F

4. Tax Abatements and Refunds: None

5. Appointments:

Motion by Iino, second by Dudek to appoint Dawn Rees Mooney to Health and Safety Committee for a term to end on 12/31/15. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Iino, second by Dudek, to appoint Todd Hajek as Fire Commissioner to fill the position vacated by Michael Butler to end on 11/17/2015. Mr. Hajek was recommended by the Killingworth Republican Town Committee. Discussion followed re: the composition of the Board of Fire Commissioners and any potential conflicts of interest, as well as its function to provide fiscal oversight/budget approval and act as liaison between town and KVFC. There being no further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Motion by Iino, second by Annino to appoint Jeffery Cook to the Health and Safety Committee for a term to end on 12/31/15. Brief discussion clarified that Cook was appointed at last meeting but failed to be sworn in within 30 days of appointment. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Old Business

A. Capital projects review

Brief discussion of progress with upgrades at transfer station. It was also reported that the new fire suppression tank has been installed on Green Hill Road at Maple Hill Road.

B. Year-to-date operating budget

Current projects being funded by FEMA (Birch Mill Road, Roast Meat Hill Road cemetery) and the FEMA reimbursement process in general were discussed briefly.

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C. Roast Meat Hill Road stop sign

After further review, the Board agreed that a northbound stop sign at Stevens Road is not indicated at this time. Embankment will be cleared and bushes trimmed back. Telephone pole is in the process of being repositioned, which should also improve sightline.

8. New Business

A. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve statement of support

In the past we have been asked by Department of Defense to show support of the National Guard and Reserve by signing a Statement of Support.

lino moved to recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act by signing the ESGR Statement of Support. Second by Dudek. Motion passed unanimously.

B. CCAP Breakaway benefit bike race through town

Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program would like to have a bicycle ride through town on April 25. This organization seeks to build up the sport of cycling and asks the BOS as traffic authority to authorize the use of designated town roads.

Motion by Annino, second by Dudek to permit the CCAP Breakaway 15 bike race to proceed through town roads on April 25, 2015 as indicated on route map. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Blight Ordinance

Citizen drafted blight ordinance out of concern for a property in town which, having fallen into disrepair, is affecting property values. We have been hesitant to enact a blight ordinance for several reasons, most notably because residents can use it to harass neighbors, and because it is usually expensive and time-consuming to enforce.

Madison's ordinance was reviewed as an example and Dudek noted that their ordinance originated from a subcommittee of Planning and Zoning.

There was extensive discussion and a general consensus that there are already several mechanisms in place to deal with many instances of blight, and that an ordinance such as the one proposed is unwieldy, bureaucratic, and expensive to enforce.

Specifically 161 Burr Hill (old summer camp) has been singled out. With its siding stolen and overall disrepair, the property is unsightly the building official and health official have found no direct health or safety violation.

It was recommended that the resident who drafted the ordinance should approach P & Z with this matter. No BOS action will be taken at this time

D. Property Transfer

On Parker Hill Road Extension, Pattaconk Farm abuts a piece of property owned by the town.

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The Homeowner has been acquiring property and hopes that the town would either abandon this parcel or could sell it to him for a small fee.

Also this property owner has restored an antique house and plans to ask ZBA for a variance to put a porch on the front that would fall within the usual setbacks. This land purchase would show an attempt on the owner's part to be more compliant with town regulations.

Eventually a transfer would need to go to Town meeting, and there are probably utility easements that would need to be transferred. BOS will consult with town engineer to verify that we will retain a 50 feet roadway before any decisions are made. Owner has offered to pay for mapping. Assessor would need to set price.

E. Lovers Lane closing policy

When water over the road in winter creates dangerous icy conditions, Lovers Lane is closed. The question arises whether the town should reopen as soon as conditions are safe or to close for the season. Opening and closing the road several times a season causes confusion for drivers, which becomes a safety issue. Dudek suggests that we repair the road properly while it's closed which would take care of the water issue and the road could remain open for the season. Budget considerations were discussed, as was the necessity for new guide rails. This led to a discussion of an inventory of guide rails and catch basins in town.

Meanwhile it was proposed that Lovers Lane remain closed for the winter season. Dudek repeated his suggestion that the problem be fixed before the road reopens. Annino disagreed and says it should be open when the road is safe. He suggested that we simplify the way we close the road which might make opening and closing easier. The necessity for emergency access was also discussed.

First Selectwoman and Public Works determine when the road is closed, and they make necessary emergency notifications. Iino will check status of current gates, which are reported to have been damaged.

F. Motion by Annino, second by Dudek, to issue legal notice for the solicitation of bids for the construction of a new Emergency Operations Center building Legal notice will refer to website for bid details, and will run this week. Bid documents and architectural drawings will be ready for distribution January 20. No further discussion. All were in favor.

[At this point, Dan Colonia re-entered the meeting with KYL's Dan Glynn .]

KYL presented a gift to the town of an aerial photo of the new Sheldon Park. The photo was well-received by the Selectmen, and it was suggested it be used on the cover of the town's Annual Report. Colonia indicated that Park and Recreation Commission plans to send a letter of thanks to the KYL for its many donations, and another to USTA's Kelly Goodheart and recommends that the BOS do the same.

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lino moved, seconded by Dudek, that BOS formally acknowledge the contributions of the KYL and USTA in writing. Motion passed unanimously.

8. First Selectwoman's Comments

1. We have a number of applicants for the Transfer Station position that will be open upon Don Berry's retirement. Sal will be promoted to Supervisor. Some of the applicants are members of the Fire Company, which is beneficial.
2. AFSCME negotiations are about to begin.
3. Gina Regolo asked the BOS to confirm that we should keep the same budget review process as in previous years. The selectmen confirmed that they like the binder format.

9. Selectmen's Comments

Dudek reported that he was contacted by a resident about a drainage issue on Roast Meat Hill Road, following the installation of drainage pipe along the western shoulder of the road by another resident. The pipe was laid within town property. Dudek questioned the procedure for granting approval for such work. He also noted that, a number of years ago, the town had had a drainage system engineered for that vicinity, but the plans were not carried out, partly due to the inability to secure the necessary easement. Dudek is concerned that, if the town fails to obtain easements needed for the upcoming Parker Hill project, it will similarly abandon its plans.

Dudek also believes that the Roast Meat Hill drainage project should be included in the ten-year capital plan.

10. Adjournment: **Motion to adjourn by Annino, second by Dudek, at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried.**

Attachment: legal notice EOC RFP

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow, Recording Secretary on 1/14/2015.