

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
7:00 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. Steve Levy and John Szewczyk present.

2. Approval of the agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY, TO APPROVE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

3. Public comment

Joe Pasquale noted that he is a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission and Agriculture Commission but was present tonight as a town citizen in support of a town planner position. He stated that there was discussion at the last P&Z meeting regarding a full time planner and asked the Board of Selectmen to entertain the discussion. He talked about the POCD which has expired and is currently three years overdue, monies were budgeted specifically for this item and were never used. The P&Z Commission now has a six month period to modify and submit a revision. He noted that this item was brought up six years ago and the review of regulations took precedence. He felt that the town planner should be leading the effort to get it done.

S. Levy questioned if a town planner would be able to be tasked by the Board of Selectmen to get the POCD done. J. Pasquale stated that it should be a collaborative effort between Planning & Zoning, Agriculture Commission, and Town Planner.

J. Pasquale noted that \$25,000 was budgeted for the project; \$12,500 was taken from the account and only \$4,000 of that has been used. He expressed his frustration over the changes to regulations that had taken precedence over the POCD never being approved, sign regulations being adopted in May 2015 and not being updated on the town website until December 2015, and legal fees being incurred due to the fault of P&Z on an application. He continued by stating if the town had a full time planner this position would serve only Durham, would have a good/useful POCD with community consensus, a plan of economic development is needed, and noted that P&Z, I/W, OFS, and Building & Health heavily rely on a planner. The Selectmen noted that this would be discussed during budget review process.

4. End of Year Appointments

- Administering Board for Property Tax Relief for Emergency Services Volunteers

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY, TO RE-APPOINT JOHN SZEWCZYK FOR A TWO YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2017. L. FRANCIS, S. LEVY; AYE. J. SZEWCZYK; ABSTAIN

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY, TO RE-APPOINT TOM WIMLER FOR A TWO YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2017. ALL AYE

- Economic Development

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO RE-APPOINT KIM TERRILL, JANET MORGANTI, AND TOM STEPHAN TO TWO YEAR TERMS THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2017. ALL AYE

- Recreation Committee

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO RE-APPOINT PAM QUINLEY TO A TWO YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2017. ALL AYE

- Senior Citizen Board

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO RE-APPOINT KAREN THODY AND MARY ELLEN DONTIGNEY TO THREE YEAR TERMS THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2018. ALL AYE

- Water Commission

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY STEVE LEVY, TO RE-APPOINT AIMEE EBERLY AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE WATER COMMISSION FOR A THREE YEAR TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 2018. ALL AYE

5. Formation of Complete Streets Committee

L. Francis stated she is interested in the formation of a Complete Street Committee to work on a bike/pedestrian plan on town roads only (state roads can be incorporated with permission). She noted that there is a grass roots committee through CAT that is creating a plan between Durham and Middlefield and the CEASTF is also working on a plan with Middlefield. Some physical improvements may need to be made and the State of CT now requires a bike/ped plan for certain grant opportunities. She asked the Selectmen if they were interested in the formation. S. Levy stated yes. J. Szewczyk stated yes, if there is a charge for the committee. L. Francis stated that she would bring a sample of plan to a future meeting.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO ADJOURN TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 8:00 P.M. ALL AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO RECONVENE TO REGULAR MEETING AT 8:38 P.M. ALL AYE

6. Permission for the First Selectman to enter into a Small Business Energy Advantage Loan Agreement with CT Light & Power doing business as Eversource Energy to participate in the SBEA program; Fire House Project

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO TABLE. ALL AYE

7. Tax refunds

No business

8. Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes:

a) Regular meeting December 14, 2015

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS, SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK, TO APPROVE DECEMBER 14, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

9. Selectmen's comments

S. Levy asked what the status of the blight ordinance is and if any action has been taken on the issue on Wheeler Hill. L. Francis stated that Attorney Slater has made revisions to the Citation Ordinance that she will get to the Selectmen for review. She noted that the town has the ability to work under existing ordinances and regulations to pursue action and has asked P&Z and Zoning Officer to utilize town counsel to move forward with the Wheeler Hill site. Attorney Slater cautioned that the town does have the ability to clean up the site but there is a gap and the Board is still faced with the decision of a blight ordinance. J. Szewczyk asked if the neighbors have been notified. L. Francis responded no, Attorney Slater wanted to make sure the town was committed, he needed to gather facts and recommended having a neighborhood meeting. L. Francis continued by stating this would be the next step, to meet with the neighbors, collect evidence, and then issue a cease and desist.

10. Old/New business

- a) Korn School update; Board of Education requested appraisal. L. Francis met with Bill Ward a retired executive who volunteers for SCORE and asked the recreation director, social services coordinator, and Chairman of the Senior Citizen Board to come up with a proposed budget for senior center.
- b) L. Francis and Brian Curtis, Town Engineer are working on a STEAP grant application to provide sidewalks along the central corridor of Main Street where they currently do not exist and reconstruct sidewalks in areas where existing sidewalks show significant deterioration.
- c) Verizon intends to install antennae on utility poles at the south end of town. No date yet. They will be filing an approval application to PURA.
- d) Preparation is begin done on year five action plan for Drug Free Communities Grant.
- e) Tax Assessor; follow up to Agriculture meeting. This year the town will not be assessing bedding and feed, or hay. Will continue to try to get the State more prescriptive as how this will be done.
- f) The purchase agreement with the City of Middletown for water is getting very close to completion.
- g) A new VRAD cabinet is to be installed by Frontier on Howd Road.
- h) RiverCOG audit is available for review.
- i) CIRMA completed the workman's compensation payroll audit and generated a return premium of \$3,075. The public works payroll was the primary driver of the return.
- j) Resident State Trooper report for December 2015; TFC Morello, 128 calls for service, 4 criminal investigations, 30 motor vehicle infractions, 5 motor vehicle warnings. Motor vehicle enforcement was conducted on Maiden Lane, Tuttle Road, Maple Avenue, Creamery/Cedar, Routes 77, 79 & 68.
- k) Resident State Trooper yearly report; 4984 calls for service, 97 criminal investigations, 121 motor vehicle accidents; 6 with injuries, 567 motor vehicle infractions, 170 motor vehicle warnings, 1 motor vehicle accident DWI, 5 on sight DWI.
- l) Trooper Morello is collecting data/statistics from the speed sign system and is developing a work plan.

11. Public Comments

Carlton Stoup asked S. Levy if he was aware of a steel casing to a well head on the firehouse property and if so, was the well live. S. Levy replied yes, and he thought that it might already be abandon.

Joe Pasquale made reference to agenda item #5 stating he felt this was an example of what a town planner would do. He also questioned what the "total calls" on the Resident State Trooper report represent. L. Francis stated that they are an accumulation of calls made directly to Troop F for various reasons. She did note that she has received reports in the past which describe

Rick Parmelee noted he felt it would be helpful to know what the RST calls are. He asked if the town had standards for sidewalks noting that current sidewalks are not ADA compliant and the crosswalks were never construction. L. Francis responded that there are no local standards.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata