

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018
8:30 A.M. – GUILFORD TOWN HALL**

First Selectman Matthew Hoey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Present: Board Members: Matthew Hoey, Susan Renner, Louis Federici and Sandra Ruoff

Town Officials: Human Resources Director Mitch Goldblatt, In-House Counsel/Purchasing Pam Millman, Superintendent of Highways Tom Fillion, Environmental Planner Kevin Magee, Parks and Recreation Director Rick Maynard and Clerk Traci Brinkman

Others: About 10 others joined the meeting while it was in progress

Media: Guilford Courier Reporter Zoe Roos and Mike Graziano, taping for GCTV

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Federici led the pledge.

2. Public Forum (limited to 3 minutes regarding agenda items)

None

3. Approve minutes of:

3.1 June 18, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Federici noted that under the CNAAP program the Women & Family Life Center was seeking \$21,500 to replace windows, but the total project cost is \$31,000, which included contingencies.

Mr. Hoey noted that they were getting funding from other sources besides the CNAAP program.

Mr. Federici said the discussion under Medical in Section 5 about the fund was not to clear. It sounded like the town had already approved the use of those funds. He suggested they add the wording – “they felt it **would be** appropriate to **potentially** use the portion of the fund balance both contributed to in 2013.”

Mr. Federici noted a correction to section 6. A COLA has not been granted since 2008 not 2018.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018 Regular Meeting as amended.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

3.2 June 21, 2018 Public Information Meeting

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2018 Public Information Meeting as presented.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner and Federici
Opposed: None
Abstaining: Ruoff

3.3 June 27, 2018 – Special Meeting

Mr. Hoey explained that they had this special meeting to ratify the firefighters contract, which was successfully negotiated. It is his belief that it is a fair contract for the town, the employees and the taxpayers.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 Special Meeting as presented.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to add to the agenda as item 8 – to discuss and take possible action on the Neglected Cemetery Grant.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

4. Human Resources Director (Mitch Goldblatt):

4.1 Remove from the table to consider and take possible action on Town of Guilford Policy for Travel Expenses for Town Business.

Mr. Hoey stated that the town has had a variety of common practices related to travel expenses, but didn't have a concise document related to it. He worked with Mr. Goldblatt, Ms. Malavasi and Ms. Millman to pull together a draft document for the board's review.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to remove from the table to consider and take possible action on the Town of Guilford Policy for Travel Expenses for Town Business.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

Mr. Goldblatt explained that they had a couple of old policies for travel and one was last approved in 2003. They all worked together and updated the policy.

Mr. Hoey added that this is a dynamic policy and they can still make changes going forward as needed.

Ms. Ruoff asked if the department heads have had a chance to see it.

Mr. Hoey stated that this is a management decision based on past practices. He added that the managers will have an opportunity to weigh in on it.

Mr. Goldblatt stated that there are no huge changes to the policy it just cleans everything up and asks the employees to look for discounts when they can and to make sure that their travel is in their budget.

There was a brief discussion about the frequency of travel. Mr. Goldblatt explained that it is very limited.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve the Town of Guilford Policy for Travel Expenses for Town Business.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

5. Tom Fillion (Superintendent of Highways):

Mr. Fillion explained that Morton Salt has agreed to extend the contract for treated road salt at the current price of \$73.39 a ton and DVRN Enterprises has agreed to extend the contract for rock salt for the current price of \$62.50 per ton. Both are reliable and they have been pleased with their quality products.

5.1 Discuss and take possible action on contract extension for purchase of Treated Road Salt.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve the contract extension with Morton for the purchase of Treated Road Salt in the amount of \$73.39 per ton.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

5.2 Consider and take possible action on contract extension for purchase of Road Salt.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve the contract extension with DVRN Enterprises for the purchase of rock salt in the amount of \$62.50 per ton.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

6. Kevin Magee (Environmental Planner):

6.1 Consider and take possible action on Agreement Between Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District and the Town of Guilford for Operation and Maintenance of Best Management Practices Installed at the Town-Owned Northern Heights Property.

Mr. Magee explained that the town received 90 acres of land as part of the North Heights Subdivision on Crooked Hill Road, which the Agricultural Commission oversees. They divided the property so a portion of the property is used for grazing and haying. They received a grant for the installation of fencing to keep the cattle out of the wetlands and the streams. The second grant they received is for the installation of water on the property and it requires an approved management plan to go along with it. The grant amount is \$19,400 and it required matching in-kind services of \$12,700. Public works dug the water line and created a heavy use area around the trough for the cattle as well as supervisory time. A well has been installed over 300 feet down to get the water and a pump house pumps the water to the trough the cows drink out of. All of these components need to be evaluated on a yearly basis. In addition the system needs to be turned on in the spring and off in the fall to prevent freezing.

Ms. Renner asked how much of Mr. Magee's time will have to be spent on this.

Mr. Magee stated that getting this implemented has required a good deal of his time, but going forward it will be minimal. He noted that the town

does receive money from the person who grazes animals on the property. Ms. Millman added that they put that out to bid. Mr. Magee said once that contract is up and they bid it again they are going to include the electrical costs for the water in the contract as well.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agreement Between the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District and the Town of Guilford for Operation and Maintenance of Best Management Practices Installed at the Town-owned Northern Heights Property.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

7. Parks and Recreation Director (Rick Maynard):

7.1 Consider and take possible action on purchase of a Redexim Aerator.

Mr. Maynard explained that this aerator has blades that create slits into the soil 12-15 inches deep. He added that the fields are heavily compacted and the roots are not very deep so when you get hot weather they burn out. Mr. Maynard said they had a company aerate three fields and it cost \$3,900. He added that they are able to purchase this aerator for \$10,800 and extra blades for a total of \$11,519. Mr. Maynard said they got three quotes and hits was the cheapest because the company is going out of business and this is the last machine. It was a demo, but wasn't used much at all. If they need to get it serviced one of the other companies that submitted a quote is taking over this business so they can still get parts for the machine.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a Redexim Verti Quake aerator with an extra set of blades from Steven Willand in the amount of \$11,519.10

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

8. Consider and take possible action authorizing the first selectman to apply for and accept on behalf of the town a grant from the Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program and authorize him to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said grant should the town be selected for a grant award.

Mr. Hoey said he received an email from the Office of Policy and Management about a grant that allows municipalities to apply for up to \$2,000 in grant money to restore neglected cemeteries. He reached out to Tracy Tomaselli, Joel Helander and Carl

Balestracci and all three responded and were able to identify a couple of cemeteries where these funds would be appropriate. Mr. Hoey said that they can't be active working cemeteries. He added that this is no cost to the town, but if there is enough need they can apply for these funds on an annual basis.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to authorize the first selectman to apply for and accept on behalf of the town a grant from the Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program and authorize him to enter into and execute any and all agreements, contracts and documents necessary to obtain said grant should the town be selected for a grant award.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

9. Appointments and Resignations:

9.1 Act on resignation received from Joseph Travaglino from the Public Works Commission.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to accept with regret and appreciation the resignation received from Joseph Travaglino from the Public Works Commission.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

9.2 Act on resignation received from Michael DeMeo from the Economic Development Commission.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to accept with regret and appreciation the resignation received from Michael DeMeo from the Economic Development Commission.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

9.3 Act on reappointment of Deborah Daddio to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Deborah Daddio to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire July 21, 2022.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff

Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

9.4 Act on reappointment of Barbara Hemming to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Renner and seconded by Mr. Federici, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Barbara Hemming to the Board of Ethics for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

9.5 Act on reappointment of Peter Beauvais to the Harbor Management Commission for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to reappoint Peter Beauvais to the Harbor Management Commission for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

10. Requests for Use of Town Property:

10.1 Act on request from the North Guilford Congregational Church to place a sign on the Green advertising its Church Fair taking place August 18, 2018.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Ms. Ruoff and seconded by Ms. Renner, the board voted unanimously to approve the request from the North Guilford Congregational Church to place a sign on the Green advertising its Church Fair taking place August 18, 2018.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None

10.2 Act on request from the Women & Family Life Center to place a sign on the Green advertising its Men Who Cook event taking place October 21, 2018.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to approve the request from the Women & Family Life Center to place a sign on the Green advertising its Men Who Cook event taking place October 21, 2018.

Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
 Opposed: None
 Abstaining: None

11. Correspondence

None

12. Committee Reports

Mr. Federici said the Committee reviewing the building permits is still waiting on some information from CCM so there is nothing new to report at this point.

Ms. Ruoff said the Housing for Economic Development Committee has its next regular meeting on July 17 at 5 p.m. here at Town Hall. It is open to the public. They will be having a large public information meeting on August 21 at the Library. There will be upcoming publicity about that. She has been asked to participate in an upcoming program at Manchester Community College about Affordable Housing and to speak about what has gone on in Guilford in the past and what they are trying to do currently.

13. Old Business

Mr. Hoey said he was notified by the Governor’s Office that the town has been selected to receive \$400,000 for housing improvements for homeowners that meet certain thresholds. These are no interest loans those property owners can take advantage of and those loans are satisfied once the property changes hands.

14. New Business

None

15. Public Forum (Limited to 3 minutes regarding any issue)

Tom Page of 226 Kenyon Street in Hartford said he wanted to speak about Simon the dog. He heard the town believes that since the matter is in appeal it is out of their hands and can’t do anything. He added that this is not correct. If he gets a judgement of \$100,000 against the town and one of them appeals, but the town contacts him and asks if he would take \$75,000 and he agrees then they can throw out the appeal. Parties are free to negotiate a settlement at any time. The attorney general’s office has confirmed that this could still be done.

Another issue is towns are afraid to face the liability if the dog were to bite again. He added that issuing reasonable restrictions would not leave the town liable if the dog bit and they were to be sued.

Cindy Vaporis of 7 Alpine Drive in East Haven and also a member of Desmond’s Army spoke out about Simon. She stated instead of upholding a prior administration’s decision this board should do the right thing. This situation is bad for Simon and for Dr. Young

Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2018

and his family. Simon can be retrained and there are other things that can be done, but he doesn't need to be killed. She is asking them to open their hearts, minds and morals and fix this situation. Dogs protect owners and he was just protecting is property.

Carla Valenti of Old Saybrook and Ellen Carafano of New Fairfield also spoke about Simon. Ms. Carfano read a prepared statement by Ms. Valenti. It stated that the town could still do something to reverse this decision even though the litigation process has already begun. The owners should have been able to quarantine the dog at home and should still be able to do so until a decision is made. She asked when the town is going to hold the parents of the 13-year-old responsible for trespassing on private property. If the neighborhood and the parents had felt Simon was such a dangerous dog, the parents had the responsibility to teach the child how to behave. Mr. Young should be treated like everyone else and Mr. Hoey should send a letter to the Department of Agriculture because mistakes were made.

Dr. David Young of 87 Oxbow Lane went over the law that governs decisions made by the Animal Control Officers. They must determine if a bite warrants a disposal order or if there is a likelihood of the dog attacking again in the future. How they make this determination is left up to the individual officer, which is an incredible responsibility to put on person. He added that there must be guidelines regarding a propensity to bite and should not be speculation based on a past bite or attack. Just because a dog has bitten once for a particular reason does not mean it will bite again.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Mr. Federici and seconded by Ms. Ruoff, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

*Vote: In Favor: Hoey, Renner, Federici and Ruoff
Opposed: None
Abstaining: None*

Respectfully submitted,

Traci K. Brinkman
Clerk
Board of Selectmen