Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
June 1, 2022
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; E. Dill; T. Govert (remotely)
Also Present: D. Angersola; L. Conroy; D. Dill; E. Glidden; S. Wheeler; L. Zemienieski; and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of May 18, 2022 and Special Meeting of May 31, 2022

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of May 31, 2022, as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence

   There was no correspondence discussed at the Meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Ms. Haines provided the following report:

   - The Shady Brook bridge project at the intersection of Town Street and Wigwam Road has started. Town Street, at that location, will be closed to traffic from June 20th through August 15th.

   - The Town's composting program is going well. Three bins have been filled with residents' compost material and it is estimated that each bin removes approximately 150 lbs. from bulky waste.

   - Chatham Health District has been working on a reciprocal licensing program for food vendors that they expect to launch in the near future.

   - She has begun a review process for Town employees that has two levels: a self-review done by each employee, and a review of each employee done by their direct supervisor.

   - The Ambulance Association has significantly improved its mutual aid numbers for first calls and their attorney has reached out to the Town's attorney to discuss their contract. A second ambulance is expected to be delivered by the end of the summer.

- As a follow-up to recommendations made at the May 18th BOS meeting, she spoke with the Town's attorney concerning making adjustments to the terms for some elected officials and board/commission members and changing certain elected positions into appointments. She reported that the terms can be modified by making changes to the relevant ordinance, which can be processed via a Town Meeting; however, modifying the roles of Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, etc. to appointed positions would require adopting a town charter.

- The first round of interviews for the Redevelopment Agency members was held on May 31st and the second round is scheduled for June 16th. She hopes to name the appointments to the Agency at the July BOS meeting.

Ms. Haines noted that there has been some problem behavior at the Town Beach this season and she asked Ms. Conroy to provide additional information. Ms. Conroy provided information regarding a theft, loud music, and other unruly behavior at the beach by non-residents. She noted that it has been very challenging for the young lifeguards to deal with uncooperative beach-goers. Ms. Conroy reviewed the non-resident policies in place at several of the surrounding town beaches and stated she would like to institute a parking fee for non-residents which she hopes will better control the number of out-of-Town visitors at the beach.

Ms. Haines advised that the Town's attorney had informed her that the Recreation Commission can present a proposal to institute a parking fee at the Town Beach to the Board of Selectmen who can then act on the proposal without the need to revise any ordinance. It was noted that the police can enforce the state's no trespassing regulations if visitors violate the new policy.

Mr. Dill recommended that Town tax payers be issued a resident pass that will allow them electronic access to Town parks and the Transfer Station. He stated that there would be an initial investment in the technology and to install electronically controlled gates; however, it would mitigate the on-going expense of hiring staff to collect fees and monitor parking.

Ms. Govert noted a CT Supreme Court ruling that cities and towns cannot ban non-residents from town beaches and municipal parks; however, acknowledged the ruling does not prevent establishing fees for non-resident parking and/or annual passes.

A. Board of Assessment Appeals – Spring 2022 Report: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to a copy of a report from the Board of Assessment Appeals, dated March 28, 2022, in their meeting packets. The report notes that the Board reduced the assessment on four properties for a total adjustment to the Grand List of -$114,180.00. Expenses for the Board's work totaled $640.00 and the report stated that the number of appeals was very low as compared to previous years.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments raised at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

8. New Business

A. Gift Acceptance – Consumer Reports: Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to correspondence in their meeting packets from Jennifer Stockburger, Director, Auto Test

Operations, Consumer Reports, Inc., dated May 16, 2022, advising of two donations, made in lieu of property taxes, to Town organizations.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Haines, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports for the Senior Center in the amount of $10,000.00 for the Senior Meal Program and send acceptance of said donation to the Board of Finance and Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Dill abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Motion made by Ms. Govert, seconded by Ms. Haines, to accept a gift from Consumer Reports on behalf of the Food Bank in the amount of $15,000.00 to assist servicing our citizens in need. Mr. Dill abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (Library Trustee): Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to letter in their meeting packets from Juliana Tryon Ranaudo, Co-Chair of the Library Trustees, dated May 13, 2022, advising that the Trustees recommend appointing Mary Mazur to the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to appoint May Mazur to the Board of Library Trustees to fill the balance of a vacant term to expire with the 2023 election. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: There was one tax refund presented at the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Govert, to award a tax refund in the amount presented:

- $654.69 to Nissan Infinity CT.

Unanimous aye.

9. Public Comment

Recreation Director Conroy advised that the Parks and Recreation Department had just received a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. She stated that she would submit the particulars of the grant to the Board for its acceptance at their next meeting.

10. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison Reports: There were no liaison reports provided at the meeting.

B. Other: There were no other items discussed by the Board at the meeting.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss Mr. Dill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill
Secretary