

Board of Selectmen

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2007

Present: Scott Adamsons, John Anderson, Susan Bransfield, Brian Flood,
Sharon Gibala and Kathleen Richards
Absent: Mark Finkelstein

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Scott Adamsons to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2006 financial meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2007 financial meeting.

AYES: Scott Adamsons, Susan Bransfield, Brian Flood, Sharon Gibala and
Kathleen Richards
NAYS: None
ABSTAINED: John Anderson

Motion carried.

Mrs. Bransfield proposed adding item C) Proclamation in Support of Radon Action Month under New Business.

Motion was made by Scott Adamsons and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

- Reginald Farrington, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee and Commander of the American Legion presented an update on the veterans' memorial. So far, \$43,000 has been raised for the memorial. Portland Restaurant will be sponsoring another "Tip the Veteran" fundraiser on February 14th.

Mr. Farrington displayed a painting by David Magee that has been donated to the town and will be placed in the Town Hall. The painting honors veterans serving during World War II through the present. The frame for the painting has been donated by Gordon Hinz. One thousand 11 x 17 prints have been ordered which will be sold to raise funds for the memorial. Mr. Farrington did not feel that the entire \$55,000 could be raised in time for the dedication on May 28th and he asked if some of the money that has been allocated for the veterans this year for tax relief could be used for the memorial. Mrs. Bransfield stated that she will put this request on the Board of Selectmen's agenda on February 7.

Mrs. Bransfield thanked David Magee for donating the painting and Gordon Hinz for donating the frame.

Mr. Richard Murphy asked if the area where the memorial will be placed could be called "Veterans Memorial Park". Mrs. Bransfield stated that this will be discussed by the Board of

Selectmen at the February 7th meeting.

Mr. William Willinsky commented that any money left over from the cost of the memorial will be turned over to the town to cover the cost of adding the names of residents entering military service in the future.

Mr. Farrington stated that the \$55,000 does not include the cost for installation of the memorial; the memorial will be installed by volunteers with the help of the Public Works Department.

- Mrs. Bransfield read a letter from Steven Kinsella resigning his position on the Charter Revision Commission, effectively immediately.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Fitzgibbons stated that he would like to see the town pass a moratorium on any additional gravel pits. Mrs. Bransfield stated that a moratorium on gravel pits would be a Planning & Zoning issue. Mr. Fitzgibbons also asked that the pole at the corner of Fairview Street and High Street be moved for safety reasons.

OLB BUSINESS

A) Proposed Sewer Rate Schedule as Revised

Motion was made by Scott Adamsons and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the resolution for the proposed Sewer Rate Change and to waive the reading. (Att. A) Motion passed unanimously.

B) Proposed Meeting Room Policy

Mr. Adamsons thanked the Board members for considering his recommendations for amending the document.

Mr. Flood referred to item #6 of the policy and questioned the necessity for a \$1,000,000 certificate of insurance. Following discussion, Mrs. Gibala suggested leaving the policy as written and re-visit it at a later time if it becomes an issue.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Brian Flood to approve the resolution "Policy for Use of Municipal Meeting Rooms". (Att. B) Motion passed unanimously.

C) Planning & Zoning Commission Update - Don Bascom

Donald Bascom, Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission, presented an update on Planimetrics who have been hired to rewrite and revise the zoning regulations. Debra House is no longer with Planimetrics and two partners in the firm will be continuing with the plan. Mr. Bascom stated that the projected date of February 8th for the first draft has been changed to March 15th. The proposed dates for the public hearing and the adoption of the revised regulations will remain the same.

Mr. Bascom stated that a study needs to be done for sewer expansion at the intersection of Rt. 66 and Rt. 17. He felt that this study is vital to any development in that area and that a determination needs to be made as to who will initiate the study and how it will be paid for.

Mr. Bascom stated that it is critical to have Level A mapping done in order to protect the town's water supply. The State has mandated that this project be completed by 2008. The cost for this project is estimated at \$80,000. Mrs. Bransfield agreed that the Level A mapping is needed, but the Board of Selectmen will need to determine how it will be paid for. If it will be paid through the water fund, rates would have to be raised.

Tom Malecky of the Water & Sewer Commission stated that the commission is interested in doing a study of the sewer expansion on Rt. 66 but did not feel it was a priority at this time because of the number of other projects that need to be addressed.

Rick Kelsey commented that the Water & Sewer Commission had voiced concern about maintaining the present infrastructure and would like to have it in good order before any expansions are made.

Mrs. Gibala suggested that the Planning & Zoning and Water & Sewer Commissions discuss this issue in more detail. Mr. Bascom agreed to have Planning & Zoning work with the Water & Sewer Commission to develop a solution.

D) Charter Revision Commission Budget

Mrs. Bransfield stated that money will be needed for legal counsel and a recording secretary. Attorney Mednick has indicated that his services will run between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Mrs. Bransfield stated that no money has been allocated in this year's budget. Mrs. Gibala stated that she would like additional information before making a decision and she asked that this issue be discussed at the financial meeting on February 7th.

E) Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Scott Adamsons to appoint Terri Larson to the Ethics Commission.

Mr. Flood felt that a screening process should be done before appointing members.

AYES: Scott Adamsons, John Anderson, Susan Bransfield, Sharon Gibala and Kathleen Richards

NAYS: Brian Flood

ABSTAINED: None

Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kathleen Richards and seconded by Sharon Gibala to appoint Janet Ellsworth to the Ethics Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A) CL & P Load Demand Response Program Agreement

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the "Agreement for Participation in the Independent System Operator - New England 30 Minute Demand Response Program". (Att. C)

Motion passed unanimously.

B) Refunds

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by John Anderson to approve the refund of property taxes to Frank R. & Kathy M. Rosano for \$116.72. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Eric Springer for \$71.94. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Toyota Motor Credit Corp. for \$228.20. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to D L Peterson Trust for \$287.93. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Nissan Infiniti LT for \$248.80. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Nissan Infiniti LT for \$298.74. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Nissan Infiniti LT for \$163.08. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to Kenneth R. Revicki for \$347.15. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the refund of property taxes to First American Real Estate Tax Service for \$2,113.59. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Proclamation in Support of Radon Action Month

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Scott Adamsons to approve the resolution "Proclamation in Support of Radon Action Month in Portland, CT". (Att. D) Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mrs. Richards highlighted items that the Economic Development Commission is currently working on.
- Mr. Anderson reported that the Senior Citizens Task Force is looking for a freeze of taxed based on the circuit breaker program. This program would be a tax deferred program.
- Mrs. Bransfield reported that the Board of Education passed their budget.
- PUBLIC COMMENT
- Michael Kirchberger suggested that the Board of Education be contacted about working out a program with regard to the CL & P Demand Response Program. Mrs. Bransfield stated that she will communicate this to the Superintendent of Schools.
- Norman Ward referred to the comment made by Nan Zimmer at the public hearing

and stated that the Water & Sewer Commission members have been very sensitive to any increases in rates.

- Bill Willinsky asked if there was anyone who could serve as a grants writer for the town. Mrs. Bransfield stated that she and the Director of Finance will be meeting with someone who has previously written small cities grants for the town and will be setting up a small cities program. The Economic Development Commission will also help with this.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Mrs. Bransfield stated that she is waiting for Attorney D'Aquila's review of the ordinance for the parking on Main Street.

Motion was made by Sharon Gibala and seconded by Kathleen Richards to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna
Recording Clerk