

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2008

Present: John Anderson, Susan Bransfield, Carl Chudzik, Mark Finkelstein,
Brian Flood, Sharon Peters and Kathleen Richards

1. FIRST SELECTWOMAN CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVE MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

4. ACCEPT AGENDA

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Brian Flood to approve the agenda, amended to include "Reallocation of Money to Purchase Public Works Vehicles" as item B. under New Business. Motion passed unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Bransfield presented Army Specialist Sean Bourbeau with a proclamation honoring his service in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Representative James O'Rourke presented Army Specialist Sean Bourbeau with a proclamation from the Connecticut General Assembly for his military service.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Sgt. Robert Walton honoring his service in the U.S. Army and earning the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Presentation (Bob Fusari) & Resolution: Authorization to File a Grant Application to Housing for Economic Growth Program

Bob Fusari provided information on the Home Connecticut Bill which offers a \$50,000 grant to towns as an incentive to conduct studies to identify eligible properties and create overlay zones. It allows the builder and developer to build housing at the designated locations, of which 20% of the units are made available to qualified buyers at 80% of the median income. The housing could

be a combination of single family, town house or apartment. The town decides on the location and the density of the housing. Mr. Fusari encouraged the town to apply for the grant money to do the study.

Mr. Chudzik commented that there are affordable properties that are currently available in Portland and he did not feel that this program is needed for the town.

Mrs. Bransfield stated that the resolution allows the town to apply for the grant money, but it does not give approval to do the construction of houses.

Deanna Rhodes stated that the grant money would allow for the hiring of a consultant to look at properties that meet the smart growth criteria in an area that would be near the center of town. A public hearing would be required prior to any construction.

Motion was made by Sharon Peters and seconded by Kathleen Richards to approve the resolution "Authorization to File a Grant Application to Housing for Economic Growth Program". (Att. A)

AYES: Susan Bransfield, Mark Finkelstein, Brian Flood, Sharon Peters and Kathleen Richards

NAYS: John Anderson and Carl Chudzik

ABSTAINED: None

Motion carried.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) Reallocation of Appropriation from Purchase/Replace Containers to Facility Improvements in the amount of \$13,000 for Resource Recovery

Mr. Kelsey stated that he would like to replace the open containers at the transfer station with closed containers. The open containers collect water which adds to the town's hauling expense. Mr. Kelsey stated that he would like to purchase a compactor and a line would have to be run along the wall at the transfer station to add power to the area.

Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein and seconded by Sharon Peters to approve the following resolution:

REALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATION – RESOURCE RECOVERY

RESOLVED, that funds with the Capital Improvement Plan (Fund 08) expenditure organization code 89100 be reallocated in the amount of \$13,000 from purchase/replace containers to facility improvements.

Motion passed unanimously.

B) Reallocation of Money to Purchase Public Works Vehicles

Mr. Kelsey reported that the Building Maintenance van was taken off line and he would like to purchase a used van. Also needed is a van with a lift to be used to hang flags and banners from the utility poles. Public Works employees are currently using the bucket loader which is a safety issue.

Motion was made by Mark Finkelstein and seconded by Sharon Peters to approve the resolution "Town of Portland, Connecticut – December 17, 2008" with the caveat not to exceed the money available in the budget. (Att. B) Motion passed unanimously.

C) Water Projects: Approval of Engineering Contract

Mr. Kelsey stated that the voters have approved this project at the referendum and he would like to proceed with the engineering contract.

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Mark Finkelstein to proceed with the engineering contract for the water projects. Motion passed unanimously.

D) Refund of Excess Payments

None

9. STATUS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Minutes for Blight Ordinance Sub-Committee

Mr. Finkelstein reported that the next meeting will be held on January 28, 2009

- Minutes for Energy Conservation Sub-Committee

Mr. Chudzik reported that the committee is still working on the street lights and saving energy in town facilities.

Andy Bauer of the Clean Energy Task Force suggested that the Board of Selectmen pursue a conservation energy plan and to begin looking at town buildings to determine where on-site power can be done. Mr. Bauer stated that he would like to have Portland take advantage of any clean energy funding that may become available. He will draft a resolution for energy efficiency to be presented at the January 7, 2009 meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Chudzik commented on the drainage problem that occurred at the YMCA camp during the recent rain storm. There was extension damage to the camp amounting to thousands of dollars.

12. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

No discussion

13. ADJOURN MEETING

Motion was made by John Anderson and seconded by Kathleen Richards to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Darna
Recording Clerk