

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2023**

Present: Ryan Curley-First Selectman, John Dillon, Michael Hernandez, Robert Hetrick, Jr., Shaun Manning, Michael Pelton, Ralph Zampano

Others Present: Members of the Public and Media

1. FIRST SELECTMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER

First Selectman Ryan Curley called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) January 4, 2023

Shaun Manning made a motion, seconded by John Dillon, to approve the January 4, 2023 minutes, all were in favor, motion carried.

4. ACCEPT AGENDA

Under New Business add, *A) Solar Project at Transfer Station, "Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Date"*. John Dillon made a motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Monthly Report – Committee on Solidarity

The Committee's report took place later in the meeting under Item #10, Public Comment.

B) Appointments/Reappointments to Boards and Commissions

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) Solar Project at Transfer Station (Set Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting Date) Rob Klee and Allen

Rob Klee and engineer Allen Sabins presented the results of the Land Fill RFP and what the next steps are. The market seemed to like the nonresidential program better where they can save money on the electric bill. The presentation included forecasts, projections and

other predictive statements that represent the RFP bidder submissions based on currently available information. The shortlist included Ameresco and GreenSkies, with the recommendation being GreenSkies. Timelines and the next steps were then presented, followed by a Q&A session.

Ryan thanked all involved for their work, along with Andy Bauer. The BOS agreed to continue with a public hearing and a Special Town Meeting.

Michael Pelton read the motion to hold a public hearing on February 1 at 6:30 p.m.; it was seconded by Ralph Zampano. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Michael Pelton made a motion to hold a special town meeting at 6:45 p.m. on February 1, it was seconded by John Dillon. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

B) Resolution: Support for Extended Producer Responsibility Proposed Legislation

Ryan introduced John Hall, Director of the Jonah Center for Earth and Art. John made a presentation explaining what the resolution does. The legislation benefits the municipalities. Packaging makes it difficult for recycling and the resolution addresses the problem. Middletown pays more for recyclables and trash at this point than Portland. It is controversial legislation.

Shaun Manning read the resolution and made a motion to accept it as follows. It was seconded by Ralph Zampano. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, Connecticut
JANUARY 18, 2023**

A Resolution Declaring the Support for a State of Connecticut Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Law for Packaging

WHEREAS, communities in Connecticut and across the nation are struggling to manage the rising cost of recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, producers of packaging have little incentive to design packaging to minimize waste, reduce toxicity or maximize recyclability, and there is no organized coordination between the producers of packaging and municipalities that are responsible for disposing of or recycling the packaging; and

WHEREAS, producers of packaging have taken some or all responsibility for the management of post-consumer packaging in Europe and Canada, and as a result have greatly increased recycling rates and infrastructure investment, created jobs and reduced taxpayer costs; and

WHEREAS, after 2017 when China changed its import policies to severely restrict the amount of contaminated and poorly sorted plastics it would accept, the U.S. began shipping plastics to parts of Southeast Asia and Africa with poor infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a strategy that requires the manufacturers to assume financial responsibility for the end-of-life management of their package and is currently used for e-waste, paint and mattresses, saving municipalities in CT millions of dollars in recycling costs;

WHEREAS, EPR legislation for packaging will level the playing field for manufacturers and require manufacturers to assume the cost of collection, transportation and processing of recyclables, saving the Town of Portland, and its residents thousands of dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Portland Board of Selectmen hereby approves to support federal and state passage of legislation for Extended Producer Responsibility for all forms of packaging and encourage continued discussions with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to ensure that this legislation represents the best interests of the Town of Portland and their residents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town to be affixed on this _____ of January in the year 2023.

Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman
Town of Portland, Connecticut

C) School Facilities Study Committee Update

Lou Pear made a presentation on procedures and asked the BOS to allow them to continue to work and get to plan by spring. They looked at 10-12 different options. Hopefully, they will have a plan by May and he is asking the BOS to allow them to work until June. They met once with the State and explained what they propose doing. The precedent in the State is that the square footage in the formula identifies the amount of reimbursement. If there is lots of space but a low number of students, the reimbursement goes down. One whole floor is not being used for students so the question is if the square footage in the formula could be reduced to identify the reimbursement rate. They are trying to be fiscally responsible. The meeting will be on February 9 via Zoom; Ryan said he would like to attend. Ralph Zampano made a motion to extend the work of the committee, it was seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

D) Refunds of Excess Payments:

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Dickson, Justin M [\$499.46]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Daimler Trust [\$317.75]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse JP Morgan Chase Bank NA [\$546.68]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

9. STATUS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ryan gave an update as follows:

- Brownstone Avenue project is back underway. They are finishing the remediation work.
- Brainard Place: Discussions took place regarding a retaining wall with respect to Building E. It was decided to have the retaining wall and the plan should be back relatively soon. They lost a blue tarp that was on the Hart Jarvis building. The tarp made the roof secure and watertight to preserve it for restoration.
- GZA is doing geophysical surveys of four properties and looking at two additional potential properties. They are getting much data on options for future water. They are being careful regarding drilling because of the cost. They are getting closer to a test well.
- No update on the track. According to the contract, they must select a contractor by March 15. Ryan told of the timeline. They are waiting to finalize the bid.

Ralph Zampano gave an update as follows:

- Parks & Rec is working on the permit and policy for parks and will hold a special meeting next week. Parks & Rec, EDC and Youth Services will now hold joint meetings regarding seasonal events. Working together as a group will provide them with more resources.
- The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 1 with a rain date of April 2
- The RFP deadline for the water & sewer project for Russell and Coe Avenue was today.
- The EDC survey is ready for distribution. They are working with the Chamber of Commerce for distribution with results coming back to EDC. They are working on an updated Business of the Quarter and Business of the Year program.
- A water repair was done on Main Street.
- We were 2-1/2 million gallons above the MDC contract due to the summer drought.

Robert Hetrick asked about the 20-year upgrade for the sewer plant and this year's estimate of cost. We are now in our 23rd year. He told what happened in East Hampton. Ryan said we are doing some work.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Shelly Nolan reported on the Committee for Solidarity. They will continue to update their pamphlet as appropriate. They are revisiting their list of events and developing them for 2023. They will be collaborating with other town departments as well as Middletown on future events.

11. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Shaun asked about the status of the transfer station. Ryan said they are working on it and it should be done soon.

Regarding the Brownstone RFP, Ryan said it will not be going out until the remediation work is completed. They must weigh and pay for the contaminated soil; this can result in some savings for the town.

12. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- **Ethics Ordinance**
- **Review Town Charter:** Ryan sent the BOS sections of the charter. He plans to hold off on it until Fall. He would like to have the question ready for the 2024 ballot. John Dillon suggested we work on it in the fall after the budget season. The more work we do in the beginning, the better it will be.
- **Policy on Fixing Real Property Assessments**

13. ADJOURN MEETING

Shaun Manning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded John Dillon, all were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy
Board Clerk