

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FINANCIAL MEETING
September 7, 2022**

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

Others Present: Robert Shea, Fire Chief; Deputy Fire Chief Rob Puida; Members of the Public and Media

1. FIRST SELECTMAN CALL FINANCIAL MEETING TO ORDER

First Selectman Ryan Curley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room located at 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

After Item #7, add a new Item #8, a Resolution regarding the Brownstone Quarry Project, and then continue the sequential numbering. John Dillon made a motion to accept the amended agenda; seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) August 3, 2022; August 17, 2022

John Dillon made a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes of August 3, 2022, seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Shaun Manning made a motion to approve the Regular meeting minutes of August 17 2022, seconded by Ralph Zampano. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE: Civilian Accolade for Bravery (Kelsey McGoff, Christopher Poleck, Joseph Ruitto Jr., Noah Galicia)

Ryan Curley told of an event occurring on May 22, 2022 when a swimmer in distress was rescued by four people. Ryan read the certificates "Civilian Accolade for Bravery" recognizing each one who assisted. Fire Chief Robert Shea thanked them for their courageous and swift action having put themselves in harm's way and presented each of them with a life-saving award on behalf of the Fire Department.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Director Tom Robinson made the report. He indicated that the check from the Exploration & Discovery Park was smaller because they couldn't get enough employees and had to limit the park capacity even though they sold out most days.

8. RESOLUTION: BROWNSTONE QUARRY PROJECT

Ryan explained that after the scheduled remediation is complete, there will still be things that need to be done. As further grants become available, Ryan would like to apply for them, thus the need for the resolution giving approval of the BOS. Ralph Zampano read the resolution and made a motion to accept it; seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, Connecticut
September 7, 2022

2022 Municipal Brownfield Assessment and Remediation Grant Program, Round 16
Brownstone Quarry Project
(222, 230 & 248 Brownstone Avenue)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman of the Town of Portland to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Town any and all documents associated with an application and contract with the State Department of Economic and Community Development for a 2022 Municipal Brownfield Assessment and Remediation Grant, Round 16, as it pertains to the Brownstone Quarry Project [222, 230 & 248 Brownstone Avenue] in the amount of approximately \$1,500,000 up to \$2,000,000.

9. SIGNAGE FOR RIVERFRONT ACCESS AREA ON AIRLINE AVENUE (Rick Sharr)

Rick presented two variations of a sign that will be donated and installed on the future site of the river access park. The Riverfront Access Committee would like to have it linked to the Town website. They were awarded a grant from the State. It will take more than that to get a road built, a fence up, picnic tables and a boat or launch ramp. The Brownstone Quorum set up a bank account. This will give them an operating budget. A discussion ensued as to what should be on the pictures on the sign. One comment indicated that the scanning symbol should be black not blue.

10. Discussion: Zoom for various Town boards/commissions

Ryan referred to a handout indicating the meeting costs with zoom and without online. Zoom is a yearly license. Discussion ensued as to whether it was cost-effective to continue the current format. Dave Kuzminski explained the technology behind it.

Michael Hernandez commented that the public is viewing the meetings but not commenting. Ryan said the service is worthy for the Town but we should make it more economical. No changes were made in this meeting but it will be put on the agenda as a follow-up item.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

12. REFUNDS OF EXCESS PAYMENTS:

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Brunk, Alissa J [\$733.10]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Lapinski, Rose Marie [\$34.38] [\$35.02]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Ferenc, Linda L [\$38.80]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Barrett, Clifford F Jr [\$31.60]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Jarzabek, Gary J [\$35.88]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Barksdale, Susan B / Barksdale, Maurice C [\$30.98]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Stoto, Thomas P / Stoto, Belinda M [\$127.62]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Ruffino, Sebastian J Jr [\$94.14]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse Wicke, Donald K [\$2.00]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

13. STATUS REPORTS

Ryan Curley said he went to a ribbon-cutting for the renovated marina at St. Clements. This coming Friday (9-9-22), there will be an Open House & Supplier Briefing at two Portland marinas that were recently purchased by Birdon. State dignitaries will be attending.

Ralph Zampano told of a meeting that occurred between Parks & Rec. and EDC to discuss the Halloween and winter events.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elwin Guild, Middle Haddam Road, commented that zoom adds to the quality of the meeting. He stressed the importance of transparency and said there is no better way for transparency than the interactive capacity to have citizens engage in it. He is 100% for full zoom capability not just for the BOS but for all elected boards and commissions, especially P&Z. It will become more critically essential that we have this capacity to engage citizens

in all levels of government. He encouraged giving Dave Kuzminski staff and investing in new lapel microphones.

Sharon Hoy, Board Clerk, emphasized the difficulty of hearing with the dated microphones and the noise coming from the air conditioning.

15. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Robert Hetrick asked what it would cost for a better microphone system. The response from Dave Kuzminski was about \$5,000 for a new system; he will research the cost.

Shaun Manning asked about using some available bleachers for the new park. The response was that the bleachers were not in good shape and would not be used for that.

Robert Hetrick asked when the BOS would meet the new Public Works Director. Ryan said he will be present at the special joint meeting next week. Ryan thanked Michael Lastrina for taking additional responsibility during the time when the Town didn't have a Public Works Director.

Michael Pelton asked if there was anything more about the Air Line Trail connecting with East Hampton. Ryan told of the status of the property owners involved and said once things are finalized, the Town can apply for available grants. The Town wants to make sure we can use the properties without causing negative impact on the owners' land.

Ryan said he reached out to the town attorney regarding the fixed assessment agreement for P&Z changes as to whether we need to re-do the tax agreement or amend it. The attorney advised that the best course of action would be to amend the tax agreement now in place. The BOS should meet in an executive session with the town attorney to discuss options to see the project move forward and have the best interest of Portland. Robert Hetrick asked if they were current with their permits. Ryan responded that they are in compliance. Michael Pelton commented on the work being done at the Elmcrest site. It is great to see the progress.

16. FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- Review Policy on Fixing Real Property Assessments
- Review Town Charter
- Ethics Ordinance

17. ADJOURN MEETING

Shaun Manning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Dillon, all were in favor; meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy, Board Clerk