

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FINANCIAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 6, 2024**

Present: Ryan Curley-First Selectman, John Dillon, Michael Hernandez (via Zoom), Robert Hetrick, Jr., Shaun Manning, Michael Pelton, Jim Tripp

Others Present: Dan Bertram, Public and Media

**1. FIRST SELECTMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

First Selectman Ryan Curley called the Financial Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room located at 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ACCEPT AGENDA**

Shaun Manning made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by John Dillon, all were in favor, motion carried.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) February 21, 2024**

Shaun Manning made a motion, seconded by John Dillon, to approve the February 21, 2024 minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Murphy, 40 Carousel Drive, asked what the expectation was for the number of kids that would be residing in the Brainard Place project.

**7. MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT**

Tom Robinson gave the monthly budget report. There will be a tax sale of seven properties in May. He told accounts that will continue to be carefully watched.

**8. Update on EV Charging Station Study (Andy Bauer)**

Andy Bauer gave a summary of EV Charging Equipment Options in Portland including Firehouse #1, the Brownstone/Middlesex Lot, and Pavilion Lots Option A and B and the costs associated therewith. They are looking at a number of sites in Portland that look promising.

The EV chargers make destinations more attractive to drive an EV. Maintenance costs and operating costs favor EV's. You become your own fuel source. Andy gave examples of towns using EV's. Chargers will clean up the air quality and reduce greenhouse gas.

Shaun Manning expressed concern having a charger at Firehouse #1 because of the shortage of parking spaces that might exist during an emergency call. Andy said they were looking for the easiest installation. John Dillon shared Shaun's concern but said it would be close to town offices and businesses on Main Street. If a municipality has fleet vehicles, they could put a charger at the town garage and still get the incentive. Ryan suggested that questions be sent to him.

#### **9. Presentation on Brainerd Place by Dan Bertram**

Regarding EV chargers, Dan Bertram said that the parking garage for Building E plans to have four charging stations. They are still evaluating the commercial lot. Bertram continued with a slide presentation showing the planned changes for the project and the locations for all the buildings. He answered Dave Murphy's question as to how many more children the project will house by stating that they expect probably about 24 children. It really wasn't designed for children, there is no child care, it was designed for college grads and the senior crowd. The revised plan is now going through P&Z.

#### **10. Discussion & possible action on Fixed Assessment Agreement: BRT DiMarco PTP, LLC**

A discussion ensued with each BOS member providing input as to whether it should go to P&Z before the BOS vote. The concern was that P&Z has already approved a 3-phase project but this is a 2-phase project. If they vote on it and then it goes to P&Z, it would be void. After much discussion, the BOS consensus was that they like the plan but take no action on it tonight, they want it to be approved by P&Z before the BOS vote.

Dan Bertram said it wouldn't be the end of the world if it wasn't voted on tonight.

#### **11. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

John Dillon made a motion to nominate Victoria Short as an alternate to the Youth Services Advisory Board, seconded by Jim Tripp, all were in favor, motion carried.

John Dillon made a motion to nominate Cynthia Tyler as a full member of the Committee on Solidarity, seconded by Jim Tripp, all were in favor, motion carried.

John Dillon made a motion to nominate Meg Scata as a full member of the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee, seconded by Jim Tripp, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **12. REFUNDS OF EXCESS PAYMENTS:**

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Foley, Loretta A & Foley, Michael R [\$86.16]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Global 17 LLC [\$540.00]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Richey, Benjamin [\$196.76]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Croteau, Brian J [\$117.86]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Gilbert, Thomas W & Leslee [\$6.00]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Helga Romanek [\$99.82]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Susan K Glover [\$3.62]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Ernest R LeMay Jr [\$16.88]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse June C Martin [\$372.23]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Andrea R Farrington [\$16.23]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Osborne, Jarrett & Osborne, Tiffany [\$3,062.51]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton, to reimburse Ryan [\$16.30]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

### **13. STATUS REPORTS**

Ryan Curley shared the following:

- Ryan's budget was done on March 1. A town hearing is scheduled for March 12 at 7:00 p.m., and budget workshops will commence on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Received the GZA report. We are looking for next phase of the water project which should cost between \$1.5 million and \$2 million. They are exploring funding options. Looking to move forward on the well by late summer.

- Sidewalk project going out for bid for Main St. in next couple of weeks. Will go from Arvid Road to about 510 Main Street. A grant is still in play; if received, they will continue on.
- The Russell Avenue water main replacement and road reconstruction is going on now.
- The Coe Ave. pump station project is getting ready to move forward.

John Dillon gave an update of the BOE meeting of March 5 which included:

- Kid Governor Overview and presentation
- PHS musical tickets are now on sale for shows on 3/22 and 3/23
- Softball auction hosted on 3/28/24
- Resignation of BOE member Stacy Benham and Science Teacher Caitlin Tenney.
- Dr. Britton meeting with DAS for grant application.
- Under new business, there are course revised proposals, and an educator diversity plan
- New elective for reading and multi-media course and essentials of math pathway course

Robert Hetrick said Long Range Capital Commission wrapped up now that we are in budget season and P&Z will be very busy with Brainerd Place, the Rt. 66 gas station, the Arrigoni Winery and the spa at Quarry View. Their next meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m.

Shaun Manning said the first meeting of the Land and Building Usage Assessment Committee went well. They put together some ideas and are doing a walk-through of Gildersleeve and Brownstone on Saturday [3/9/2024] and will have a meeting the following Monday [3/18/2024] to discuss it.

#### **14. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ben Srb, West Cotton Hill Road, said he was glad the BOS tabled the action on the Fixed Assessment Agreement. It isn't just a simple tax abatement. There will be some hurdles along the way. Some regs will have to change, i.e., the ratio of commercial and residential. The BOS made the right decision to hold off voting on it. We have to give and take. He was one of the [previous] BOS who voted to give Dan an abatement. If he is going to change the ratio, we aren't getting what we asked for. These are things that need to be discussed.

#### **15. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Shaun Manning thanked Ryan for getting the new defibrillator installed at the Route 17 park. He hopes no one will ever have to use it. Public Works helped to install it. Ryan thanked the Kenny Fletcher car show and the Knights of Columbus for donating toward it.

Robert Hetrick asks about the advertising signs on the fences at the new park. Ryan commented that they wanted to keep children from running into the parking area after balls and they also had to take a portion of the fence down so the children wouldn't run into it when sledding.

**16. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- **Review Town Charter**
- **Ethics Ordinance**

**17. ADJOURN MEETING**

Shaun Manning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Pelton. Vote unanimous; the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy, Board Clerk