

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2024**

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

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. 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, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) April 3, 2024

Jim Tripp made a motion, seconded by Shaun Manning, to approve the April 3, 2024 minutes, all were in favor, motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE: Jobs Pond Flooding

Ryan read a letter from a Portland resident about a leak from the town meter and the exemplary work of the Department of Public Works in taking care of the situation.

Update of Job's Pond: Ryan reviewed the recent timeline of activities. Ryan has requested federal assistance. If the governor declares it a state of emergency, it will expedite things.

(Name inaudible). Kudos to all who are helping. Water will soon be up to the first floor. They will soon lose their home. This is tough and the process does not support it.

Ellen Mantel, 6 Jobs Gate 1, asked if there were any resources, possibly through Eversource or elsewhere, where the people could get a break in the electricity that is used to keep the water down. Ryan said he is waiting to hear back from the Eversource liaison but he had no information at this time.

Diane Godin, 16 Jobs Gate 1, shares sentiments expressed by others and asks who is the party who would declare Jobs Pond to be a crisis situation and a state of emergency. Ryan said the Governor declares a state of emergency. It would alleviate any permitting issues or any state regulations that would be barring a solution. We don't know the resolution. If

the USDA says to pump the pond out, and the logical place would be the Connecticut River, then the regulations would be alleviated and we wouldn't have to pay permit fees, etc. Waiting to see the watershed protection program, once approved and plan in place, then the declaration. The town could also declare an emergency but it would not do any good for our purposes. We already have that so there would be no additional benefit. The funding is through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to which we have applied.

Veronica Ketch, 17 Jobs Gate 1, stressed the eminent danger. While goal is to get it in motion, so we aren't waiting another 5-7 years, lets get the rest in the process. It should have been done in 1984. Any efforts to expedite the process will be appreciated. Ryan said the goal is to solve the immediate problem but to come up with a remediation program to keep it from happening in the future.

John Dillon asked if the governor's declaration of a state of emergency help expedite reimbursement of the electrical costs to the residents. Ryan said he is trying to find that out right now. He's talked to Eversource as well as Representatives Carpino and Needleman.

(Name of speaker inaudible): Asked if Rt 66 were flooded what process would be followed. They are experiencing personal damages. Every time we get a 2" storm we get 8" in rise. Ryan assured him we are doing the best we can.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Monthly Report – Committee on Solidarity

Liz Hibino gave an update of the committee's activities and the upcoming events. They still have one seat open for a non-democrat on the committee.

B) Appointments/Reappointments to Boards and Commissions

• Resignations

- D) Peter T. Filanda, alternate – Parks & Recreation Commission (resigned 3/26/24) term ends 12/2025
- R) Brian A. Anzellotti, alternate – Planning & Zoning Commission (resigned 4/16/2024) term ends 12/2027

• Appointments

Robert Hetrick nominated Joe Spada to Planning and Zoning, seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, nomination carried.

• Reappointments

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) Adoption of the Water and Sewer Budgets for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Jim Tripp read the resolution and made a motion to adopt it, seconded by Shaun Manning, all were in favor, none opposed, no abstention, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Portland, Connecticut**

April 17, 2024

Adoption of the Water and Sewer Budgets for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

RESOLVED, that the Water and Sewer Budgets for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as outlined on the attached, in the amount of \$1,780,030 in the Water Budget and \$1,283,570 in the Sewer Budget, be and are hereby adopted.

B) Resolution: Contract Agreement with Garafolo & Saraceno Contractors, LLC

Shaun Manning read the resolution and made a motion to adopt it, seconded by Jim Tripp, all were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

**RESOLUTION
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT**

April 17, 2024

CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH GARAFOLO & SARACENO CONTRACTORS, LLC

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes First Selectman Ryan J. Curley to execute and deliver in the name of and on behalf of the Town of Portland, a contract with Garafolo & Saraceno Contractors, LLC, 30 Stack Street, Middletown, CT 06457 for Bid #2024-09 – Main Street Sidewalk Improvements from Arvid Road Going North. The total base bid contract including alternate #1, prior to any change orders, is approximately \$411,000.

C) Fair Housing Policy: Proclamation: Fair Housing Month

FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

It is both the policy and strong commitment of the Town of Portland to promote fair housing opportunities in all its programs and housing development activities and to take affirmative action through education and implementation of policies which ensure equal housing opportunities for all persons and families.

The Town of Portland will take affirmative action to ensure that all tenants, applicants, and residents are treated fairly without regard to their race, color, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, political beliefs, mental disabilities,

learning disabilities, physical disabilities (including blindness), lawful source of income, or because the individual has children.

The Town of Portland will continue to make a good faith effort to comply with all federal and state laws and policies which speak to fair housing practices.

It is the policy of the Town of Portland that all housing-related personnel be trained and educated in the principles of fair housing and equal opportunity so that equal housing opportunity may be available to all qualified applicants.

This Fair Housing Policy Statement reaffirms our commitment to the principles of fair housing and equal opportunity housing practices.

The Fair Housing Officer, First Selectman Ryan Curley, or his designated representative is responsible for the implementation of the Fair Housing Policy Statement and the enforcement of this policy. The Fair Housing Officer may be reached at 860-342-6715.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded by the Town of Portland may be filed with the Fair Housing Officer. The Town's Grievance Procedure will be utilized in these cases.

Complaints may also be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, Housing Discrimination Unit, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 2, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, telephone 860-541-3403; fax 860-541-4701 (1-800-477-5737 ext. 3403).

Readopted this 17th day of April in the year 2024.

Town of Portland, Connecticut
County of Middlesex

Ryan J. Curley
First Selectman

* * *

Shaun Manning waived the reading of the proclamation and made a motion to adopt it, seconded by Robert Hetrick, all were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Proclamation

FAIR HOUSING MONTH

WHEREAS, April 2024 marks the 56th Anniversary of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Civil Rights Fair Housing Act; and

WHEREAS, this Act provides equal housing opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, as well as to ensure fair practice in the sale, rental or financing of property; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 added new rights, remedies, monetary penalties, and strengthened its enforcement procedures; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Amendments Act seeks to provide equal housing opportunities, to affirmatively further housing choices, to eliminate legal

barriers to equal housing and to emphasize equal housing as a fundamental human right for all; and

WHEREAS, recipients of funds from the Town must carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority and minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, disability, age, gender identity, familial status or national origin; *and*

WHEREAS, the Town of Portland, Connecticut fully supports the intent and purpose of the Federal Fair Housing Act, local fair housing laws and follows policies and practices in order to achieve its goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Ryan J. Curley, First Selectman of the Town of Portland Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the month of **April 2024** as “**Fair Housing Month.**”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand, and cause the seal of Portland to be affixed this 17th day of April in the year two thousand and twenty-four.

By,

Ryan J. Curley
First Selectman
Town of Portland, Connecticut

Portland Board of Selectmen:

John H. Dillon
Michael S. Hernandez
Robert W. Hetrick, Jr.
Shaun P. Manning
Michael A. Pelton
James K. Tripp

D) Refunds of Excess Payments:

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton to reimburse Marino Joseph C LU & Phyllis R LU [\$70.00]. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

9. STATUS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ryan reported the following:

- The Brainerd Place developer has resubmitted his applications to P&Z. EDC will hold a meeting on Monday, May 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Portland High School Auditorium for the developer to make a presentation followed by questions. No action will be taken by EDC. It will be accessible on zoom.
- A special joint meeting of the BOE and BOS has been rescheduled to next Tuesday (4/23) in the HS Library to discuss what the town will be doing with the school facilities. A survey has been conducted. The direction was to decommission Brownstone and Gildersleeve and expand Valley View. No decision has been made. They are still in a fact-finding mode. It will be available online.
- The budget town meeting will be on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. and the budget referendum will be on Monday, May 13 from 6AM to 8PM. Absentee ballots will be available starting April 24th.

- DOT will be doing an informational session on the Rt. 9 removal of traffic lights on April 30th from 7-8 p.m. Our concerns were expressed. Ryan is feeling more comfortable that some of the concerns will be addressed.
- Ryan gave a shoutout to Eagle Scout Steve Kimball and his two brothers who completed improvements they were making to the kiosk at the Portland Reservoir. They donated the supplies, shingles as well as their time.

Shaun Manning reported on the recent meeting of the Land and Building Usage Assessment Committee. They are looking at alternatives for schools if the referendum goes through. A committee tour was conducted on April 9. They heard a presentation on what other towns have done with similar buildings. In some instances, the expenses outweigh the benefits. Banks aren't loaning money like they used to do. Another developer will be at the next meeting, along with some realtors to present some other ideas. There doesn't seem to be many good options.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

11. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Work Status: Work has been completed on Russell Avenue, except for the road reconstruction. Coe Avenue has not started yet due to a hold on something.

Michael Pelton shared news of an upcoming fund-raising event at the Portland track to raise money for track equipment. Details will be forthcoming.

The High School track ribbon cutting will take place on Tuesday, April 23rd at 3:15 p.m.

Ryan has made proposed changes to the Town Purchasing Policy.

12. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

- **Ethics Ordinance**
- **Review Town Charter**
- **MAC Fire Truck**

13. ADJOURN MEETING

Shaun Manning made motion to adjourn, seconded by Robert Hetrick; all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy, Board Clerk