

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2022**

Note: Some attendees attended in person at the Buck Foreman Room while others participated via Zoom due to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic

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

Staff: Bob Shea (Director of Public Works)

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 7:30 p.m. in the Buck-Foreman Room located at 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Shaun Manning made a motion, seconded by Robert Hetrick, to accept the agenda; all were in favor; none opposed; motion carried.

4. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) February 2, 2022

Michael Pelton made a motion, seconded by Robert Hetrick, to approve the February 2, 2022 minutes; all were in favor; none opposed; no abstentions; motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

A letter has been received from DOT indicating that Rt. 17 will be paved this coming summer from the four corners to Glastonbury. A center line will be installed with a rumble strip. There have been several accidents on that road.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

7. OLD BUSINESS

A) Monthly Report - Committee on Solidarity

April Graves reported that a follow-up survey has been sent out. They received about 70 responses the first day and expect a total of 200. They are working on some upcoming

events including Juneteenth, (Saturday June 18 at 11:15 a.m.); a PRIDE event; solidarity month June 1-June 30 for which they are collaborating with the library and youth services.

B) Re-Entry Committee: Discussion of Services and Programs Offered During COVID 19 – Library Update

Ryan consulted with the Chatham Health Director regarding the mask mandate at all town buildings. At the end of February, the mandate will end and we will move back to in-person meetings beginning on April 1. The covid situation will continue to be monitored.

Jan Nocek reported on the Library activities and said she has concern for young children. They will again have programs but masks will be required. They are not ready to put the toys out in the Wagner Room yet but will have them out by April. Some programs are virtual. The Air Line Trail Committee and Complete Streets meet at the Library. Ryan asked if she foresees scheduling conflicts. She said they probably will see some; that was always the case. Rooms are scheduled on a first-come first-serve basis. People have been very cooperative. Masks will be optional.

C) Appointments/Re-Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Robert Hetrick nominated Joe Spada to the Conservation Commission (regular seat); seconded by Shaun Manning; all were in favor; motion carried.

Robert Hetrick nominated Micheal Nadolski to the Committee for Implementation of the Plan of Conservation and Development (regular seat); seconded by Shaun Manning; all were in favor; motion carried.

Robert Hetrick nominated Anne Whalen to the Youth Services Board (alternate seat); seconded by Shaun Manning; all were in favor; motion carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A) Discuss RFP to Solicit for Restaurant Development Partner for 248 Brownstone Avenue

Ryan said they are looking for a public/private partnership. The RFP is ready to be sent out. He thanked the EDC Coordinator and Brownstone Redevelopment Focus Group for their work on this project.

B) Disband the Brownfields Redevelopment Focus Group (charge completed)

The RFP completes the charge of the Focus Group. Ryan thanked them for their hard work and looks forward to the next phase of this project.

C) Second Amendment to Tier 1 Long Term Municipal Solid Waste Management

Bob Shea reported that the plant is closing in Hartford and this is where our waste has been sent for many years. They don't have a real plan in place and the current plan is to ship it out of state. The proposed tipping fee is going from \$105 to \$116. One good thing is that there is no cost to the town for recyclables. There is no need to take action at this time. It must be voted on it by March 31. They are trying to keep the dumping costs down. They may have to raise the cost of bags.

Michael Hernandez asked if they could use the Airline Avenue facility. It was explained that this facility is only for demolition. Michael asked if they can cover up the cardboard so it doesn't get water absorption. Bob Shea said they do need to protect it and they have covers on most of the containers. We could do better with that.

John Dillon asked if there is a benefit to signing year-by-year. Bob said that is difficult because there is no price right now. Ryan said they will look to see if there is any alternative and will bring it back for the next meeting.

D) Proposed Mailbox Policy

Bob Shea has been working on the mailbox policy. The Public Works Department does a wonderful job in inclement weather but sometimes a mailbox may get hit. The impacted snow can do damage to a mailbox. Typically, Public Works replaces the mailbox. Sometimes it may be a rotted-out post. In the new policy, the Town will not replace the box unless it is physically struck. The guidance allows us to go out and inspect and refer to the new policy. Some issues are that the boxes, due to age, cannot withstand the weight of the snow coming off the plows. Some boxes are leaning out on the road. Now we will have a policy that residents can look at.

Ryan read the policy into the record and made a motion to approve it; it was seconded by Shaun Manning. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

E) Interlocal Agreement with City of Middletown FY 2022-2027

Ryan said we had this agreement for almost 20 years. It has been beneficial to both towns. This is the identical agreement that was in place with the exception of what Portland will be paying. The City of Middletown has had upgrades to their equipment and wants Portland to pay their share. As shown on Page 2, the costs are rising for each of the next 5 years. Ryan believes it is a good agreement and we should continue with it. If Portland takes on the responsibility, we would have to upgrade the police building to accommodate the services. Ryan confirmed that there were substantial negotiations made and this was the best Portland could get under the circumstances.

Shaun Manning read the resolution, it was seconded by Robert Hetrick, all were in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

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Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Portland and the City of Middletown for Dispatching Services

RESOLVED, that the Agreement (attached) between the Town of Portland and the City of Middletown for Dispatching Services for a period of five years, beginning July 1, 2022 and ending on June 30, 2027, Cost of Services as outlined in Section B.1. of the agreement is hereby approved.

F) Refunds of Excess Payments: ACAR Leasing LTD [\$126.99]

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Ralph Zampano, to reimburse ACAR Leasing LTD [\$126.99], all were in favor; none opposed; no abstentions, motion carried.

9. STATUS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ryan gave a status report on a recent issue at the last EDC meeting. He said that Mary Dickerson will be resigning at the end of the month. He wished Mary the best and said it has been a pleasure working with her.

Ralph Zampano said the Long Range Capital Commission is working through the process and there was a deliberation by the Commission to discuss what they would put forward. He reported on Parks & Rec and said Nate Foley is working on the summer staff and the spring schedule; they will be offering a football program as well as boating certification. Little League would like to use the concession stand but probably not for this year. Food for the players is required by the agreement.

Shaun Manning reported on the recent water and sewer meeting. The drive-by transmitting is working very well. Additional meters will be installed to help with that. They are to report monthly to the BOS.

Michael Hernandez reported on the joint meeting with BOS and BOE. Subjects discussed included enrollment projects, and the repair and repurposing of schools.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Elwin Guild, Middle Haddam Road, stressed the significance and work of the River COG and the Rt. 66 corridor study.

Kitch Czernicki, 513 Main Street, asked for a 5-year cost of the dispatch services and the annual increase. She also asked what kind of vetting is done for potential Board members and said better vetting is needed. Ryan said they will look at vetting in greater detail. He will meet and speak with every candidate prior to their appointment and will make sure

that ethics is followed. Kitch offered her sincere thanks to Mary Dickerson and the value she has brought to the Town of Portland.

11. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Michael Hernandez asked for the status of the sidewalk redevelopment from Freestone to Chatham Court. Ryan said they are waiting on the State. Bob Shea said they are probably 90% complete on the design. They are waiting for DOT making changes on Marlborough Street; a property easement is required for the proposed changes. He hopes to get everything out to bid and start work in late summer or early fall.

12. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

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

13. ADJOURN MEETING

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Shaun Manning, to adjourn the meeting; all were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Hoy, Recording Clerk