

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, October 1, 2024

In-Person and via Zoom Teleconference

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Scott Storms, Jon Savino and James Cannon

ALSO PRESENT: Lacinda van Gieson, Gary Ruggiero (Fire Chief), Joe Calsetta, Darry Ruitter, Jason Lathrop (Interim Finance Director) and Members of the Public

ATTENDING REMOTELY: Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman Scott Storms called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed

PUBLIC INPUT:

In Person:

Lacinda van Gieson, 70 Grove Street – spoke regarding the traffic congestion and the drivers on Main Street.

Gary Ruggiero, 182 Grove Street – spoke regarding the difficulty exiting out of 120 Old County Circle in a firetruck.

Via Zoom:

None

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Savino moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 17, 2024. Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Selectman Storms stated that he had none to bring to the attention of the Board at this time.

Selectman Storms requested moving Agenda Item New Business 7(a) before (6) Old Business.

Selectman Cannon moved to move 7(a) up to Item 6. Selectman Savino seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. *Bid Waiver of Diesel and Gas Purchase Contract:*

Jason Lathrop, Interim Finance Director, provided an overview of the Town's Purchasing Guidelines and Bid Waivers.

He asked for the following motions:

A request for a waiver of the Purchasing Guidelines in favor of utilizing a consortium purchasing bid with Capitol Region Council of Governments for gasoline for a period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Selectman Savino made that motion. Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried.

A request to waive the Purchasing Policy with an exception granted under Section 8 Item 10 which is Formal Resolution of the Board of Selectmen for the purchase of diesel for the balance of the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Selectman Savino made that motion. Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Building Committee Update:

Selectman Storms stated that the project is on target, the major equipment is on-site, and everything seems to be going well.

b. Main Street Update:

Selectman Storms stated that traffic has been a concern, and they are working on that. Bids for the exterior work on the historic train station are opening on the 9th.

He further stated that Trinity goes before Planning and Zoning on the 10th.

c. Report on Land Planning and Finance Staff Positions:

Selectman Storms explained that Bill Voelker is leaving at the end of October, and he will be meeting with the Chairman of Planning and Zoning to discuss hiring Goman & York on a consulting basis as needed.

He further stated that he is contemplating a long-term contract with the Interim Finance Director through the current fiscal year to get through the audit, bonding and budget season.

d. ARPA Senior Center Beneficiary Agreement – COVID Recovery Fund:

Selectman Storms stated the recovery fund of \$35,000 that was approved by the Board of Selectmen 2 weeks ago was approved by the State and a letter to that effect was provided.

TAX REFUNDS:

Selectman Cannon moved to approve the prior year refund in the amount of \$40.50 and the current year tax refund in the amount of \$82.24 for a total of \$122.74. Selectman Savino seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. (Schedule A attached)

APPOINTMENTS, RE-APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS:

Selectman Storms stated that didn't have any. He stated that there are still a few vacancies and urged the DTC and RTC to fill those positions.

PUBLIC INPUT:

In Person:

Joseph Calsetta, no address provided – inquired about the benches for the front of Town Hall.

Darry Ruiter, 486 Halfway House Road – commented regarding the request to fill the vacancies on the commissions.

Via Zoom:

None

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS:

Selectman Cannon reminded everyone of the Art'Ober Festival this Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park and that Trunk or Treat is on Tuesday, October 29th at the High School from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Selectman Savino stated that the American Legion Pancake Breakfast is this Sunday. He also said that Congressman John Larson would be at the Senior Center at 11:00 a.m. this Thursday regarding Social Security. Further, he noted that many children would be out trick or treating and advised residents to be careful.

Selectman Storms noted that there is a lot of construction around Town and advised people to be careful in those areas and in general.

He stated they are continuing work on the Main Street revitalization regarding project design and costs. Further, Trinity Financial has applied for two \$4M Grants for remediation of the Brownfield conditions. Additionally, he noted that there is some diminished funding in the Meals on Wheels Program and Ann Marie is working to accommodate the deficiency.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. was made by Selectman Savino. Selectman Cannon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Cathy Ziemian

Recording Secretary

