

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

March 21, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Neville, First Selectman; Paul Giusti and Johnny Potts, Selectmen

ALSO PRESENT: Pamela Flynn, Executive Assistant; Bill Oestmann, Highway Department Superintendent; Mike Pastore, Town Engineer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Cheryl Jones, Personnel Director; Carol McDonald, Director of Human Services; Kathleen Holland, Director of Inland Wetlands; Jim Cole, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; Sandy Reddin, Fire Commissioner; Vin Socci, Angelo Gesualdi, Firefighter; Laura Kenyon, New Canaan Advertiser, and John Mordecai, New Canaan News-Review.

Judy Neville called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and took the roll. She asked that the minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of February 14, 2006 be approved. More discussion ensued on the wording of the third paragraph. Mr. Potts made a motion to approve the minutes without change. Ms. Neville seconded the motion, and it was passed, with Mr. Giusti opposed because of his disagreement with the wording dealing with the reduction in the cost estimate to complete asbestos removal at New Canaan High School. The minutes of the regular meeting of March 7th were approved unanimously on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti.

Next, the Public Works Department requested a special appropriation of \$240,000 to replace the HVAC system at the Fire Station. In the discussion which followed between the Selectmen and Mike Pastore regarding the boiler replacement, it was agreed to replace the boiler at the same time. Mr. Potts motioned to amend the request to read "Request from Public Works Department for a special appropriation of \$250,000 to replace the HVAC system, including the boiler, at the New Canaan Fire Station". Mr. Giusti seconded the amendment and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Potts then made a motion to approve the amended appropriation of \$250,000, Mr. Giusti seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Next the Selectmen addressed a special appropriation of \$97,900 for a Vac Truck put forth by Mr. Oestmann who explained that CN Wood, the lowest bidder, could supply the body regardless of the vendor; however if the truck is purchased from CN Wood it would be white and the cab and chassis would be from a southern manufacturer. For a difference of \$689 the truck can be purchased from Hines Brothers and it will be orange to match the rest of our fleet and will be serviced locally in Bridgeport. The appropriation was approved unanimously on a motion of Mr. Potts and second of Mr. Giusti.

Agenda Item number four , Discussion of alternatives for relocation of employees during Town Hall renovations, including Waveny House, was tabled until the April 4, 2006 Selectmen's meeting.

The Selectmen then unanimously approved the appointment of Fire Marshall Fred Baker to the Town Hall Building Committee, on Mr. Potts' motion and Mr. Giusti's second.

Next, Mr. Cole presented the request of the Department of Civil Preparedness for an appropriation from Contingency Fund of \$27,000 in connection with a possible flu pandemic, He explained the need for such items as masks, protective suits, gloves, safety glasses, and sanitizer totaling \$11,000; cots, blankets, sheets, and pillows totaling \$4,000; plus \$12,000 for two Town-wide mailings. The items will be stored in local climate controlled PODS. The request was approved unanimously, on Mr. Potts' motion and Mr. Giusti's second.

The appointment of Tom Ferguson to the Health and Human Services Commission was approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts. Mr. Ferguson is filling the unexpired term (to December 1, 2006) of Marea Dumbauld, who resigned.

The appointment of Virginia Lastner as an Alternate Member to the Board of Finance, replacing John Laird, was tabled until Mr. Giusti has had a chance to meet with and interview her.

The Selectmen then unanimously approved the appointment of Kathleen Corbett to the Board of Finance as an Alternate Member replacing Robert Spangler who has moved to Regular Member. Her term is due to expire on December 1, 2007.

Next, Fire Commissioner Reddin presented a request for a special appropriation of \$42,000 for added costs associated with the acquisition of a Pumper/Tanker. He stated that the original request was 14 months old and that since then the increase in steel prices plus the radio and other equipment necessitated an additional expenditure. Mr. Potts motioned that the request be approved (bringing the cost of the Pumper/Tanker to \$542,000) and that the appropriation be taken from Contingency Fund. After some additional questioning by Mr. Giusti on the cost of steel prices and the equipment, Mr. Giusti seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the Selectmen unanimously approved tax refunds.

On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, legal bills were also approved unanimously.

At this time, 10:55 am, the Selectmen voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Legal matters. Upon Returning to Regular Session at 11:50 am, the Selectmen, on the motion of Mr. Potts and second of Mr. Giusti, voted unanimously to deny a grievance filed by Mrs. James Bendtzen in connection with a request for a Public Works Department pension.

Finally, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville, the Selectmen voted 2 to 1 (Mr. Giusti dissenting) to increase the annual retainer of the Town Attorney, Lovejoy & Rimer, to \$70,000 and to increase the hourly rate of services performed outside of the retainer to \$195 per hour. Mr. Giusti believed that the Board was erring in not having the Town Attorney tasked for overall management and review of all of the Town's legal affairs, irrespective of the law firm(s) involved (a task he contended the Town Attorney had previously agreed to undertake.)

There being no further business, the Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Flynn, Executive Assistant