

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**June 6, 2006**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Cheryl Jones, Personnel Director; Jack Horner, Fire Commissioner; Jeb Walker, Chairman, Park & Recreation Commission; Chris Jarboe, Town Attorney, Lovejoy & Rimer; Michael Bologna, Attorney, Fitzpatrick, Fray & Bologna; Laura Kenyon, New Canaan Advertiser; John Mordecai, New Canaan News-Review.

Judy Neville called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and took the roll, noting the presence of all the Selectmen. She asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2006 be approved and, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, they were approved unanimously.

Attorney Jarboe then talked to the acceptance of Summersweet Lane as a Town road, and introduced Attorney Bologna, representing the Luchesi and Watson parties. He explained that the Planning & Zoning Commission had voted to accept the Lane as a Town road and, if the Selectmen agreed, there would be a general release of all parties, as well as the release of bond funds. Attorney Jarboe pointed out that not all of the releases had been signed by the necessary parties, and that not all the deeds had been executed. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the Selectmen voted unanimously to table the matter pending the resolution of all outstanding issues.

Commissioner Horner then presented a request from the New Canaan Fire Department for a special appropriation of \$150,000 to meet unbudgeted operating expenses for the year ending June 30, 2006. Commissioner Horner acknowledged that the special appropriation of \$252,000 approved earlier in the year did not cover the shortfall for the year, citing (1) two major storms which impacted shift time and callback time; (2) injuries incurred during training exercises and at the Cherry Street fire; (3) damage to equipment; and other contributing factors. Selectman Giusti questioned the accuracy of previous presentations by the Department and also asked what the Department had done to reduce the frequency of false alarms. Commissioner Horner acknowledged the inaccuracy of prior presentations, but argued that false alarms are largely out of the control of the Department, a contention not necessarily accepted by Mr. Giusti. Mr. Giusti then asked how the Department had come to its present "5/5" staffing of shifts, when only "5/4" had been approved by the Selectmen. The discussion on this issue was inconclusive. Finally, Mr. Giusti asked what was being done to upgrade the handwritten records being kept at the Firehouse. Commissioner Horner acknowledged that the condition of the records was a problem and both he and Mr. Conrad contended that issue was being addressed with a new payroll system and other measures. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the request for funding was unanimously tabled, to be addressed at the Joint Meeting of the Town bodies on June 14, 2006, where Commissioner Horner was instructed to respond to the matters raised above.

The Selectmen then unanimously endorsed the Sidewalk Sale to be held on Saturday, July 15, 2006 (sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce), and the Holiday Stroll to be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 1, 2, and 3, 2006 (sponsored by the Village Association.)

Mr. Walker next presented a request from the Park & Recreation Commission that line item transfers be approved to provide \$25,000 for certain remaining work to be done at the Mead Park Lodge. \$10,000 would be provided from funds not needed to move the Town maintenance man to the Public Works garage, and \$15,000 would come from the Waveny Park small capital budget which will not be expended in the current year. On the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts, the request was approved unanimously.

Tax refunds were then approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti. And legal bills were also approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts.

At this point, 11:29 am, the Selectmen voted unanimously to go into Executive session to discuss real estate matters. Upon returning to Regular session at 12:10 pm, the Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Maranis, Secretary