

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

August 15, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Neville, First Selectman, and Johnny Potts, Selectman

MEMBER ABSENT: Paul Guisti, Selectman

ALSO PRESENT: George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Gary Conrad, Chief Financial Officer; Catharine Sturgess, Executive Director, New Canaan Nature Center; Kevin Kelly, Staff Member, New Canaan Nature Center; Randy Salvatore, Chairman, and Mike Pastore and Michael Avgerinos, Members, Town Hall Building Committee; Hans Otto, Facilities Manager, New Canaan Public Schools; Rachel Fitzpatrick, New Canaan Advertiser; and John Mordecai, New Canaan News-Review.

Ms. Neville called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and took the roll, noting the absence of Selectman Guisti. She asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 1, 2006 be approved and, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville, they were approved unanimously.

Ms. Sturgess then presented a request from the New Canaan Nature Center to enter into contracts with vendors, as detailed in the correspondence attached to these minutes, for (1) exterior painting of the Visitor Center and the Animal Care Building, (2) repair and painting of Greenhouse railings, (3) lighting projects at two locations at the Center, and (4) installation of new roof and chimney repairs at the Staff House. Mr. Potts asked if all the work had been put out for competitive bidding and was assured that the "process had been followed." Ms Sturgess then described the bollard lighting and assured Ms. Neville that the neighbors would not be bothered by the lighting. When it was noted that the amount encompassed by the request, \$88,141, exceeded the budgeted amount for 2006-2007 of \$70,000, it was pointed out that an unexpended balance of \$44,200 for the Nature Center was to be carried forward from the 2005-2006 fiscal year. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville, the request was approved unanimously, conditioned on the Board of Finance's approval of the carry-over of unexpended capital expenditures for the Nature Center from fiscal year 2005-2006 to fiscal year 2006-2007. (A Memo detailing the items comprising the request of \$88,141 is attached to these minutes).

Mr. Salvatore next presented a request from the Town Hall Building Committee for a special appropriation of \$600,000 for architectural and related consulting and other services in connection with the renovation of Town Hall. He described the process followed by the Committee in selecting the architect, explaining that eight firms had responded to the Town's request for proposal, and that KSQ Architects, PC had been unanimously selected after exhaustive vetting by a highly qualified Committee. He pointed out that preliminary indications were that the renovated Town Hall would be positioned on the same footprint as the existing building, with the possible exception of an exterior elevator. The number of employees was not expected to increase, and some departments may be relocated to other premises.

After commenting on the proposed architectural fee of \$450,000, Mr. Salvatore described the additional items comprising the request for \$600,000, including the \$20,000 budgeted for the selection of site(s) for temporary relocation of Town Hall employees during the construction period. In this connection, Mr. Potts questioned the wisdom of using Waveny House, and he was comforted by Mr. Salvatore that Irwin House and the third floor of the Police Station were preferable alternatives. Mr. Salvatore explained that the architectural phase of the renovation was expected to take "16 to 20" weeks, with some preliminary recommendations within 60 days of starting. Payments to the architect would be made on a phased basis, with about \$250,000 allocated to the first phase. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville, the request was approved unanimously. (Also attached to these minutes is an email from Selectman Paul Giusti expressing his support for this appropriation).

Mr. Otto then asked for approval of a request from the Board of Education to purchase two used vans in lieu of the budgeted new van (for \$28,000) in the 2006-2007 capital budget. He explained that the van(s) are used for the transportation of the five maintenance men throughout the system, and that two vans would provide for more flexibility and efficiency. The two requested vans would replace two existing old vans, which would be sold (Mr. Otto promised to provide the VIN's of the old vans to Mr. Conrad.) On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville, the request was approved unanimously.

Legal bills and tax refunds were next approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Ms. Neville.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Maranis, Secretary