

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

December 19, 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; Bill Oestmann, Administrative Superintendent, Public Works Department; Frank DeNicola, Director of Public Works; Mike Pastore, Town Engineer; Tiger Mann, Senior Engineer; Jim Cole, Chairman, Police Commission; Jeb Walker, Chairman, Park & Recreation Commission; Dr. David Reed, Medical Director; Eric Twerdahl, Chairman, Emergency Medical Services Commission; Chuck Berman, Chairman, New Canaan Housing Authority; Steve Benko, Recreation Director; Steve Kleppin, Town Planner; Rick Werner, Director of Health; Jack Horner, Fire Commissioner; Jack Hennessey, Assistant Fire Chief; Carol McDonald, Director of Human Services; Rachel Fitzpatrick, New Canaan Advertiser; Kristiana Glavin, New Canaan News Review.

Judy Neville called the meeting to order at 10:04 am and called the roll, noting the presence of all the Selectmen. She asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2006 be approved and, on the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts, they were approved unanimously.

Mr. Oestmann advised the Selectmen of the acceptance of the winning high bids, aggregating \$3,738.30, for surplus Public Works Department equipment. The Selectmen unanimously endorsed this action, and confirmed Mr. Oestmann's intention to sell whatever else he could, perhaps on Ebay, and to dispose of the remainder as he saw fit.

Mr. Pastore then presented a request from the Public Works Department to enter into a contract for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 with Fuss & O'Neill (F&O) to provide professional engineering services related to traffic improvements on Farm Road at the New Canaan High School. The funding is provided in the 2006-2007 budget, and this first phase of the work is estimated at \$17,900. Mr. Pastore referenced items 9. and 10. of F&O's Scope of Services and Fees for a more complete description of work to be performed, including pavement revisions, signage, traffic light and island installations, and roadway widening. Mr. Giusti asked that the High School Building Committee be advised of the study, while Mr. Walker asked that the newly appointed School Bus Committee be similarly advised. On the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Pastore next presented a request to enter into a contract not to exceed \$121,680 with BL Companies, Inc. to provide professional engineering services for the repair/replacement of the bridges on Old Norwalk Road and Huckleberry Road. There is a provision of \$125,000 in this year's Capital and Nonrecurring Fund for this item. Mr. Pastore distributed pictures of the state of disrepair of these bridges, and he described the State funding available for the repairs. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the requests were approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda, new fees for the Health Department, was deferred to a future meeting, as was the following item – a request from the Planning & Zoning Department for an appropriation of \$15,000 for additional consulting services from Planimetrics for changes to the Subdivision Regulations. On being queried by Ms. Neville, Mr. Kleppin explained that only \$4,000 was needed for the imminent changes to the Subdivision Regulations, while the remaining \$11,000 was for more substantive (later) changes to the Zoning Regulations. The hope is that the \$4,000 could be found in the existing operating budget.

Mr. Kleppin then presented a request from the Planning & Zoning Department for acceptance by the Town of Parker's Glen as a Town Road. He explained that there were no remaining unresolved issues and, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Walker next presented a request from the Park & Recreation Commission for an appropriation of \$23,525 to install a chain link fence around the synthetic "Watertower" field at Waveny Park. He explained that the fencing was needed to protect the "million dollar" field from damage by vandals and others. On the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Berman next presented a report on the status of the rehabilitation of the Mill Apartments. He distributed schematics of the proposed new Apartments, which were well received by the Selectmen. He explained that he was now ready to move the project on to the Planning & Zoning Commission. He was commended by the Selectmen for "a good start."

The matter of executing an agreement with Dr. David Reed as Medical Director was then addressed. Mr. Cole endorsed the appointment of Dr. Reed, and he enumerated the many services Dr. Reed has performed for the Town in the recent past. At this point, Mr. Potts made a motion to move the discussion into Executive Session, as it related to personnel matters. Mr. Giusti seconded the motion, and it was approved, with Ms. Neville withholding her vote. It was also agreed that Agenda items 10. through 13. would be disposed of before going into Executive Session.

Accordingly, the Selectmen unanimously approved the Schedule of Meetings for Calendar Year 2007, after making three changes to accommodate conflicts with Mr. Giusti's commitments.

The Selectmen next, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, unanimously approved the appointments of (1) Bruce Pauley to the Environmental Commission for a two-year term to December 1, 2008, replacing John Morrow, who resigned, (2) Lucia Zachowski as an Alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission, to fill the unexpired term, to December 1, 2007, of Kent Turner, who advanced to Regular Member, and (3) Scott Gress to the Park & Recreation Commission for a three-year term to December 1, 2009, filling a newly authorized position.

The Selectmen then, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, unanimously approved tax refunds and, on the motion of Mr. Giusti and the second of Mr. Potts, unanimously approved legal bills.

As unanimously approved above, the Selectmen, at 10:52 am, moved into Executive session to discuss personnel matters. They returned to Regular Session at 11:57 am when, on the motion of Mr. Potts and the second of Mr. Giusti, they unanimously (1) voted to remove Fire Marshall Fred Baker and Highway Department employee Neal Coppola from probation, and (2) approved the hiring of a temporary employee in the Tax Collector's Department for the period from January 2 to February 9, 2007. Finally, Mr. Giusti and Mr. Potts voted, with Ms. Neville withholding her vote, to solicit applications for the position of Medical Director for the Town, to serve as an independent contractor for compensation in the range of \$75 to \$100 per hour for an anticipated 14 hours per week.

There being no further business, the Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,

George M. Maranis, Secretary