

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

April 22, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeb Walker, First Selectman; Rob Mallozzi and Sally Hines, Selectmen

ALSO PRESENT: George Maranis, Administrative Officer; Randy Salvatore, Chairman, Town Hall Building Committee; Tiger Mann, Senior Engineer and Assistant Director of Public Works; Steve Benko, Recreation Director; Jim Cole, Chairman, Police Commission; Dave Jonker, Fire Chief; Susan Dahill, Chairman, and Paul Aaronson, member, EMS Commission; several officers and physicians from both Norwalk and Stamford Hospitals; Colleen Flaherty, New Canaan Advertiser; Kristiana Glavin, New Canaan News-Review.

Jeb Walker called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and took the roll, noting the presence of all the Selectmen. He asked that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2008 be approved and, after noting a correction by Mr. Mallozzi, they were approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines.

Mr. Walker then asked that an item be added to the Agenda: a request from the Information Technology Department for the attendance of Sal DeLucia at a Cisco training course. On the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines, this was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Salvatore then presented a request from the Town Hall Building Committee for endorsement of an appropriation of \$60,000 for additional costs and fees in connection with the renovation of Town Hall. He described the progress of the project to date, explaining that KSQ Architects has completed Step 1 (including schematic design and design development documents) for the agreed fee of \$225,000. This design contemplated a renovation on the existing footprint and utilization of space in the basement. Then came the storm of October 2007 and the flooding of the basement, and a request made of KSQ to revisit the original design contemplating no usage of the basement space. KSQ undertook to develop alternative concept plans for which it has incurred \$18,300 in services and has estimated costs of \$38,500 to completion – a total of \$56,800. A contingency of \$3,200 has been added, resulting in the present request of \$60,000. Two additional plans will be developed, one expanding the existing footprint, and the other utilizing space at Irwin Park. The three plans will then be presented to the Town bodies. Mr. Salvatore recommended approval of the request, noting the Building Committee's satisfaction with the work being done by KSQ, and its cooperation throughout the process. On the motion of Ms. Hines and the second of Mr. Mallozzi, the request was approved unanimously.

Ms. Dahill next presented a request from the New Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. to approve a contract between the Norwalk Hospital Association and the Town of New Canaan and the New Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. (NCVAC) for paramedic services for the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2013. Ms. Dahill's presentation addressed Goals, Requirements, Background, Experience with Norwalk Hospital, Details of the Proposals from Norwalk and Stamford Hospitals (including pricing), Comparison of the Two Proposals, and Recommendation. The recommendation of the EMS Commission was to renew the contract with Norwalk Hospital for five years at an aggregate cost of \$1,863,744 (Stamford Hospital's proposal was for \$1,840,000.) Ms. Dahill laid out the timetable for executing the Agreement, and then addressed three additional considerations: (1) Patient preference in hospital choice, (2) Emergency primary angioplasty (PAMI), and (3) Feedback on patient satisfaction. She explained that (1) a protocol exists regarding patient preference, but that it will be re-emphasized in future training, (2) Stamford Hospital presently is certified by the State to provide PAMI, while Norwalk Hospital is waiting for its certificate of need to be approved by the State. and (3) while at present there is no formal evaluation regarding patient transport, Norwalk Hospital and NCVAC are working towards this end.

Representatives of the two Hospitals then made statements in support of their respective proposals, with discussion concentrated on the care of patients suffering heart attacks, and whether they should be sent to Norwalk Hospital or Stamford Hospital for treatment. Ms. Hines decried the absence of protocols for possible acute myocardial infarctions, the standard care of which is emergency primary angioplasty (PAMI.) Time is of the essence in treating such patients, she said, and they should be taken directly to a hospital that performs PAMI (irrespective of the fact that only a very few patients serviced by NCVAC experienced heart attacks.) Ms. Hines also sought assurance that stable patients are given the choice of transport to either Norwalk or Stamford Hospital, and that procedures be adopted so as to obtain evaluation of patients' satisfaction with transport to the hospital. Principally as a result of Ms. Hines' comments and, at her request, the Selectmen unanimously agreed to defer action on the proposed contract until the objections raised by her were appropriately addressed.

Mr. Maranis next presented a request to approve payment of a premium of \$1,132 for umbrella insurance coverage for Medical Director David Reed for the period from April 17, 2008 to June 30, 2008. He explained that the extra coverage of \$10 million is necessary to complement the \$1 million of coverage provided by the underlying policy. Consideration will be given later as to whether to extend the umbrella coverage beyond June 30, 2008. On the motion of Mr. Walker and the second of Ms. Hines, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Mann then presented a request from the Public Works Department to approve a transfer of a 1995 Chevrolet Suburban from the Fire Department to the Highway Department. The vehicle will be used by Administrative Superintendent Bill Oestmann, the only supervisor who presently does not have access to a Town vehicle, and who has been obliged to use his personal automobile. On the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Mann next presented a request from the Public Works Department to approve a contract with F.G.B. Construction, the low bidder at \$36,210, to undertake the installation of sidewalks and ramps under "Sidewalks, 2008 – ADA Compliant Sidewalks and Ramps." Mr. Mann explained that there were 20 locations requiring ADA improvements, and 25 sidewalk locations that were in disrepair. On the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines, the request was approved unanimously.

Mr. Walker then, in Mr. Benko's absence, presented a request from the Recreation Department for approval of a payment of \$10,355 to John Findorak & sons, Inc. to drill a conventional well for the swimming facility at Kiwanis Park, to be funded principally by a line item transfer from the Kiwanis Stone/Coviello continued capital account. Mr. Walker described the conditions leading to the failure of the old well and the need for this work. On the motion of Mr. Walker and the second of Mr. Mallozzi, the request was approved unanimously.

The Selectmen next, on the motion of Ms. Hines and the second of Mr. Walker, unanimously approved the appointments of (1) Laja Thompson and Christopher Chase to the Town Hall Building Committee, (2) Edward Vollmer to the Historic Building Review Committee, and (3) Joseph Paladino to the Park & Recreation Commission for a term expiring on December 1, 2010, replacing Jon Stone, who is retiring.

The Selectmen then, on the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines, unanimously ratified the action of the Fire Commission of March 11, 2008 approving the appointment of David Jonker as Fire Chief of the New Canaan Fire Department for a one-year term expiring on July 10, 2008.

On the motion of Mr. Walker and the second of Ms. Hines, the Selectmen unanimously approved the request from the New Canaan High School Theater Department to place a sign on the front lawn of Town Hall for the two weeks prior to June 7, 2008 advertising the performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on June 5, 6 and 7.

Tax refunds were approved unanimously, on the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines. There were no legal bills.

On the motion of Mr. Mallozzi and the second of Ms. Hines, the Selectmen unanimously approved the attendance, for \$2095, of Sal DeLucia at a Cisco training program sponsored by New Horizons Computer Learning Centers.

There being no further business, the Selectmen voted unanimously to adjourn at 11:15 am.

Before departing, Mr. Walker entered, for the record, a Proclamation declaring May 2008 “Garden Center of New Canaan” month.

Respectfully submitted,

George Maranis, Secretary