

Minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on January 24, 2012

Supervisor Connell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilman Tyler
Councilman Paquette
Councilman Sherman
Councilman McCormick
Supervisor Connell

Others present:

Sheila Borden, Town Clerk
Dennis Westover, DPW & Highway Superintendent
Elizabeth Lee, Youth Commission Director
John McWilliam, Nancy Page, Chris Maron, Sheera Broderick,
Jessica D. Buehler-Essex County Complete Streets Coalition

RESOLUTION #38 MINUTES

On a motion by Councilman Tyler seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2012 as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT – none at this time

COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM – Jessica Buehler was present to explain and answer questions in regards to the program. The concept of the program is that streets are designed, constructed and maintained to allow safe, comfortable, and convenient travel for everyone, regardless of age or ability-motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders.

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RESOLUTION #39
COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE STREETS

On a motion by Councilman Tyler seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes	Tyler, Paquette, McCormick, Connell
1 Nays	Sherman

RESOLVED to approved the following resolution:

DEFINITIONS:

“Complete Streets” is defined as streets that are safe, convenient and comfortable for all ages and abilities using any mode of transportation (motor vehicle, public transportation, foot, bicycle, etc).

“Complete Streets Program” is a system of implementing Complete Streets.

“Multi-modal transportation” refers to various modes of transportation (walking, bicycling, automobile, public transit, etc.).

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport recognizes that the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities should be considered in the planning and design of all new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken in the Town; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets concepts, design-features and practices include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, paved shoulders suitable for cycling, designated bike lanes, lane striping, share-the-road signage, crosswalks, curb ramps, audible pedestrian signals, pedestrian crossing signage, traffic calming measures such as curb bump-outs, center islands, and pavement markings, sidewalk snow removal and routine shoulder and bike lane maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets has been recognized and adopted as law in New York State; and over 300 Complete Streets policies and laws have been adopted at the state, county, town, village and city levels across the country for the purpose of improving multi-modal transportation options, safety, and accessibility for all users; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westport recognizes that Complete Streets will increase opportunities for multi-modal transportation, increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, incorporate traffic calming actions, limit greenhouse gas emissions, improve rates of physical activity and related health outcomes, improve neighborhood vitality, increase social interactions, create a stronger sense of community, strengthen the local economy, and improve the quality-of-life for people in the community; and

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WHEREAS, the Town of Westport and its Department of Public Works has the ability to work with the Westport Planning Board, the Essex County Complete Streets Coalition, Westport Central School, and others to explore the development, maintenance and enhancement of pedestrian, bicycle and trail connections within neighborhoods, hamlet centers, and rural areas of Westport and put into practice a Complete Streets Program to address issues of these amenities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Westport hereby recognizes the importance of creating Complete Streets through the planning, design, budgeting and implementation of local highway, street and sidewalk projects undertaken by and in the Town that enable safe multi-modal transportation for people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults and individuals with disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town encourages the NYSDOT and Essex County to consider incorporating Complete Streets concepts, design-features, and practices in the planning, design, construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of their respective roadways in the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby resolves to establish a Complete Streets Policy as follows:

1. The Department of Public Works shall consider incorporating Complete Streets concepts, design features and practices in the planning, design, budgeting and implementation of local highway, street and sidewalk improvement projects undertaken by the Town of Westport.
2. The addition of Complete Streets facilities shall be consistent with the scope of the construction or improvement project, sensitive to the surrounding environment, and shall not be disproportionate with the cost of the larger project.
3. Complete Streets facilities may be planned, designed, developed, and maintained in accordance with bicycle and pedestrian facility guidelines adopted by the United States Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and other guidelines approved by the Town of Westport.
4. If the Department of Public Works determines that the inclusion of bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities are unable to be accommodated on a roadway or within the Town right-of-way proposed for construction or improvement, The DPW Superintendent shall provide said determination in writing, with supporting documentation, to the Town Board for their information.
5. The Town Board shall create, and solicit citizen participation through, an “advisory board” or a subcommittee of the Planning Board to make recommendations to the Town and the Department of Public Works on the planning, design, budgeting and implementation of Complete Streets improvements in accordance with this policy.

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This RESOLUTION was adopted on January 24, 2012.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – Director Lee reported that there are three programs taking place at present: Dance, Basketball and Skiing. All of which are doing very well.

She requests permission to again apply for the Stewart’s grant this year.

RESOLUTION #40
APPLY FOR STEWART’S GRANT

On a motion by Councilman Sherman seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Director Lee to apply for the Stewart’s grant.

OLD BUSINESS

WADHAMS WATER – There is nothing new at this time.

SEMO/FEMA – Dennie gave him the last of the paperwork today on the landfill. He stated he should have us finished up in the next week or two.

CONTROL PANELPUMP STATION

RESOLUTION #41
ACCEPT GRAYCO ELECTRIC BID

On a motion by Councilman Tyler seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the low bid from Grayco Electric for the control panel at a cost of \$4,365.

SITE INVESTIGATION-TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE

RESOLUTION #42

SITE INVESTIGATION-MC ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

On a motion by Councilman Sherman seconded by Councilman McCormick and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the low bid from McEnvironmental Services Inc. to perform the site investigation at the Town Highway Garage as per their proposal.

HIGHWAY GARAGE OIL/WASTE SEPARATOR

RESOLUTION #43

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR OIL/WASTE SEPARATOR

On a motion by Councilman Sherman seconded by Councilman Tyler and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Engineering Ventures to design the set up for the oil/waste separator for the Town Highway Garage.

RESOLUTION #44

MUNSON CONTRACT

On a motion by Councilman Tyler seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize Supervisor Connell to sign the sand and gravel pit lease with Mark Munson for \$2,500.

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TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS

William Johnston has offered to do an analysis of the Town Hall and to work with the current Building Committee.

RESOLUTION #45
APPOINTMENT WILLIAM JOHNSTON

On a motion by Councilman Tyler seconded by Councilman McCormick and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to appoint William Johnston as Chairman of a committee to do a study on renovating the present Town Hall.

MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROADS

The certified letter has been sent out to the five property owners notifying them of the hearing on Tuesday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m.

2011 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

We are in receipt of Betty White's 2011 Historian Report, which is her tenth, and final report as Westport's Town Historian. She has spent numerous hours tracing the ancestral roots for so many families and she has enjoyed every moment of it. She has personally taken on the task of cataloging and indexing the cemeteries in Westport and adding them to a website on the internet. Her research, her scrapbooks she has put together and records she has obtained will forever be an invaluable asset to the Town.

RESOLUTION #46
2011 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

On a motion by Councilman McCormick seconded by Councilman Tyler and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the 2011 Historian's Report and to express the sincere thanks from the Board for the years of service Betty White has given to the Town of Westport and to preserving the history of our Town and quite probably in some form will continue to do her share.

DEPOT THEATRE-SECURITY SAFETY DEVICES

Since we lease the building to the Depot Theatre and they are in need of Photoelectric Smoke Detectors being installed plus Weatherproof Horn Strobes they are wondering in the Board would consider covering this cost.

RESOLUTION #47
FIRE SAFETY DEVICES-DEPOT THEATRE

On a motion by Councilman Sherman seconded by Councilman Paquette and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, Connell
0 Nays
1 Abstain McCormick

RESOLVED for the Town of Westport to cover the expense for the Photoelectric Smoke Detector and the Weatherproof Horn Strobe.

WADHAMS SEWER DISTRICT #3 – Supervisor Connell discussed the debt they currently owe of \$12, 500 and trying to find a plan to pay it off sooner to save on the interest.

RESOLUTION #48
APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion by Councilman McCormick seconded by Councilman McCormick and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Tyler, Paquette, Sherman, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 1B for Vouchers 2012-43 through 2012-69 in the amount of \$43,756.41.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – DENNIS WESTOVER

Mr. Westover reported that the new hire was having his required shots and has been working out very well. He discussed the possibility of cutting the brush on the south side of the Depot Theatre and trimming back the cedar hedge on the West Side. He will contact people at the Depot. He presented the Board with road truck cost comparison expenses between November and January of 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

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SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

We are in receipt of a notice from the Regional Computer Recycling & Recovery showing the quantity of items that were turned in to the landfill. They have made two pickups now.

We have received notice of a Veterans Exemption on taxes that was left off that we would have to refund.

We enclosed the form that must be filled out when any major highway projects are planned as per Section 284 of the Highway Law.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 14th. The hearing is at 6:30p.m. with the regular meeting to follow immediately thereafter.

RESOLUTION #49
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Paquette with a unanimous second the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted

Sheila A. Borden, Town Clerk