

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on May 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 7:00 p.m.

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Paquette
Councilperson Viens
Councilperson Morrison
Supervisor Tyler

Others present:

George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Anita Deming, Boquet River Association
James Herrmann, Richard Vaughan, Phil Siarkowski

RESOLUTION #105 MINUTES APRIL 26, 2016

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the April 26, 2016 Regular Board Meeting with one change, removing “and a contract needs to be written up” from the Red Cross emergency shelter discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – no update.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION – Councilperson Page said that there will be a conference call on Friday with the mechanical engineer to discuss ventilation and boiler systems. VIA is still working on the drawings and they should be completed soon.

ANITA DEMING, BOQUET RIVER ASSOCIATION – Anita spoke about our agricultural district, which is up for renewal. The agricultural assessment program gives tax exemptions to eligible farmland. Farms must meet minimum acreage and sales

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requirements. The assessment is based on the land, by soil type, and not on buildings. Maple syrup and Christmas tree lots may qualify, as can horse farms if they have the required number of animals. Other tree farms can qualify, but only 50 acres per parcel. Around 13,000 acres in Westport receive agriculture exemptions.

OLD BUSINESS

WEB PAGE – Supervisor Tyler and Councilperson Page met with a few different webpage designers. Supervisor Tyler said that they all offer similar programs, but have different levels of experience and design aesthetics. The current site costs \$350/year and after the initial cost, a new program would be \$100-150/year. Councilperson Page recommended Jan Cohen who has a lot of experience and is also a photographer. He currently maintains the CATS website.

RESOLUTION #106
NEW WEB PAGE

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to hire Jan Cohen to design a new town web page, with the initial cost not exceeding \$800.

RESOLUTION #107
COURT AUDIT

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

4 Ayes Page, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays
1 Abstain Paquette

RESOLVED to accept the Audit Committee's February 24, 2016 report of Judge LaHendro's Justice Court Records.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #108
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 5A in the amount of \$28,917.25 for Vouchers 2016-266 through 2016-294.

ROLLING HILLS FARM– As required by the health department, Rolling Hills needs a certified water person. The town has two employees with this certification and the farm cannot operate without this contract. If any issues arise, the certified water person would oversee any work that is done (they wouldn't actually be doing the work). Supervisor Tyler stated that no annual testing should be required and Rolling Hills would pay the town back for hours worked.

RESOLUTION #109
ROLLING HILLS CONTRACT

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, seconded by Councilperson Page, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to enter into a contract between the Town of Westport's Certified Water Person and Rolling Hills Farm.

NYCLASS FUNDS – The town currently has most of its reserve funds in a money market account while a small amount is in CLASS. CLASS interest rates have increased and are now twice the rate of money market. Funds can be wired back to the money market account in the same day at no cost.

RESOLUTION #110
NYCLASS TRANSFER

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

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RESOLVED to authorize the transfer of \$1.6 million from the Champlain National Bank Money Market Account to the NYCLASS Account.

FORESTER – Council members have reviewed both bids. Councilperson Viens thinks the town can save money by choosing Soil & Water. Some of their plans are zero cost and they are local. Councilperson Morrison also said that he likes the idea of keeping it local. Councilperson Page said that Soil & Water has a comprehensible plan and offers an educational program. She stated that Fountains Forestry has done a good job, but they are too far away and charge for travel.

RESOLUTION #111
FORESTRY MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to enter into a 5-year contract with Essex County Soil & Water for Forest Management Services.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – The supervisor is in receipt of the town clerk's April report.

LABORER – The deadline for applications is Monday, May 16. The interview committee will get together next week and should have a recommendation for the next meeting.

LIFEGUARD – Only two applications were received and both applicants have the required certification.

RESOLUTION #112
LIFEGUARD APPOINTMENTS

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to appoint Hailey Chapuk and Ryan Davis as lifeguards for the summer season.

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DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – They are waiting on a work permit for the Dudley Road intersection change. The new intersection will come to a “T”. Eight tires are needed for the excavator. This was planned for in the budget and Dennie has a quote from last year for \$2120.

RESOLUTION #113
TIRE PURCHASE

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, seconded by Councilperson Morrison, and approved on a roll call vote.

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the purchase of eight tires for the excavator for an amount not exceeding \$2,400.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS – Supervisor Tyler was supposed to have a meeting about Main Street paving, but it has been rescheduled due to an accident on the highway. CV-TEC has upcoming training opportunities for adults interested in manufacturing jobs.

RESOLUTION #114
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk