

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on August 11, 2015

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

The Assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Page
Councilperson Viens
Deputy Supervisor Paquette
Excused: Councilperson McCormick
Excused: Supervisor Connell

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Albert Haberle, James Herrmann, Philip Siarkowski, Gladys Siarkowski, Patricia French, Edward French, Simone Stephens, Heidi Sweet, Dee Carroll, Derinda Sherman, Elizabeth Lee, Edward Kroepelin
Excused: George Hainer, Dennis Westover

RESOLUTION #130 MINUTES JULY 28, 2015

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Paquette
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting, changing “board approval” to “supervisor’s approval” under Building Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Albert Haberle would like a town “crier” to be emailed once a week. It would list town events, committee meetings, and board meeting agendas. Deputy Supervisor Paquette will discuss the idea with Supervisor Connell.

RESOLUTION #131 BUDGET TRANSFER

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Paquette
0 Nays

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RESOLVED to decrease account DA51101.3 General Repairs by \$261 from \$50,000 to \$49,739 and increase account DA51122.3 Permanent Improvements by \$261 to \$101,261.

RESOLUTION #132
BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Paquette
0 Nays

RESOLVED to increase account DA 51122.3 Permanent Improvements by \$15,117.46 to \$116,378.46 and increase account DA3501.3 State Aid/CHIPS by \$15,117.46 to \$116,378.46.

RESOLUTION #133
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Paquette
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the Town Clerk's July report as received.

RESOLUTION #134
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Paquette
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 8A in the amount of 36,829.34 for Vouchers 2015-427 through 2015-451.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – no update

BUILDING COMMITTEE – The last meeting left off with Bill Johnston’s email, in which he sought the supervisor’s approval of his “Proposed” work statement before forwarding it to Sunshine. Councilperson Page suggested that the board pass a resolution in favor of Bill submitting his statement, as the plan was to have the contract by September 1st. The “Proposed” work statement reads as follows:

Development construction to include: 1) stiffen and strengthen the building frame; 2) repair foundation deterioration, damp proof, and install perimeter drainage; 3) construct new interior stairs; 4) remove existing ramp and install lift; 5) insulate building to create high-efficiency envelope; 6) replace existing windows with historically appropriate, high-efficiency windows; 7) correct electrical system deficiencies; 8) install mechanical ventilation system; 9) restore front entry and sunburst window; 10) remove dropped ceiling and replace ceiling to accommodate historic size windows; 11) remove existing roofing and reroof; 12) install vapor barrier and concrete slab in basement; 13) scrape and paint exterior siding; and 14) repair disturbed interior areas.

RESOLUTION #135
PROPOSED WORK STATEMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Page, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and defeated on a roll call after discussion.

2	Ayes	Page, Viens
1	Nay	Paquette

RESOLVED to accept Bill Johnston’s “Proposed” work statement.

DISCUSSION on the previous motion included the following (not verbatim):

Councilperson Page: HAPEC and Bill Johnston are volunteering their time to administer the grant. Preliminary work qualifies as part of the 75% reimbursement.

Deputy Supervisor Paquette: Would vote “no” if he didn’t hear about the Fire/DPW project moving forward.

Derinda Sherman: We are only one of two communities in the county with no senior activities. Where in the project are free activities for youth/seniors?

Councilperson Page: There will be space for activities. The design moves offices upstairs where they wouldn’t be disturbed by overhead noise.

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Derinda Sherman: Senior programs come from within town boards.

Councilperson Page: This was discussed last year, the board has it's hands full and would need more community involvement to run programs.

Simone Stephens: The building needs to be made accessible first.

Nancy Decker: Who would pay for the programs? Can the community afford it on top of building expenses for three projects?

Deputy Supervisor Paquette: We have to stay under the tax ceiling. He doesn't want to spend taxpayers money and doesn't think the building can be fixed within the proposed budget.

Heidi Sweet: What happens if the Fire/DPW building is completed and there are fewer volunteers in the fire and emergency squads?

Nancy Decker: Has the town had a meeting about not having a fire department? Where would fire coverage come from?

Patricia French: What was the total cost for the three building plan?

A: \$7 million

Councilperson Page: This is the least expensive, fastest, most efficient plan for the building.

Heidi Sweet: What would happen if the building is no longer used as the Town Hall?

Deputy Supervisor Paquette: Suggested turning the current firehouse into the Town Hall after building a new Fire/DPW building.

Edward French: There are no grants for the Fire/DPW project. The town hall is a separate issue and there is no sense in holding up this project for the other.

Simone Stephens: We are one of nine applicants to receive this grant. If we do not go forward, we will not be able to get any grants in the future.

Dee Carroll: One of the reasons the three-building project failed was that people didn't want the town hall outside of town. Sending the letter doesn't make the project a done deal.

Patricia French: Stated that she would like to remind board members of their responsibilities (she quoted the law which states the responsibilities) and how their votes affect residents. The grant was awarded last December; it's time to move forward.

Edward Kroeplin: The town is rightfully concerned of overage costs. It is required to spend above the \$500,000 grant?

A: Yes, \$180,000.

Elizabeth Lee: Will run senior program personally and for free if necessary. We are the only town in the county with a paid youth commission. Everything in the building is compromised by the state of it and property values are going down.

DPW REPORT - Fitzgerald Road is getting ready for paving.

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PUBLIC COMMENT - Dee Carroll was disappointed by the vote, but isn't giving up. Deputy Supervisor Paquette stated that he would prefer a referendum vote as it would be fairer and the voice of the town. Derinda Sherman asked about the justice positions. The vote at the upcoming election will be for one judge. Action will be taken on the other position at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #136
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Page, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk