

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Connell 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
Supervisor Connell
Excused: Councilperson McCormick

Others present:

George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Ed Mason, Youth Commission Director
Paula St. Dennis, Consultant for Historic Preservation Grant
Dave Reckahn, Soil & Water
Barry W. Morrison, Bob Mahar Judy DePew Howell, Patricia French, Heidi Sweet, Dick Fritz, Jim Rule, Alan Hipps, Tom Mann, Bridgette Blemel, Bruce Misarski, Philip Siarkowski, Gladys Siarkowski, Derinda Sherman, Sam Sherman, James Herrmann, Gerald Goulet
Excused: Dennis Westover

RESOLUTION #143

MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2015

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the August 25, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting with a change on Pg. 4 under “Bill Johnston.” It will now read “...and on March 24th the board passed a resolution stating ‘that Daniel Connell, as Town Supervisor of the Town of Westport, is hereby authorized and directed to accept funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in accordance with the provisions of Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, and enter into and execute a project agreement with the State for such financial assistance to this municipality for the Westport Community Center Renovation Project and, if appropriate, a conservation easement/preservation/public access covenant to the deed of the assisted property.’”

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RESOLUTION #144
AMEND MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2015

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

2	Ayes	Page, Viens
2	Nays	Paquette, Connell

RESOLVED to change the headline on Pg. 3 of the August 25, 2015 Minutes from “Town Hall discussion and response to the Bicentennial Committee letter” to “Town Hall discussion and response to the letter posted on the Bicentennial Facebook page.”

The above motion was made in response to a letter submitted by Patricia French, in which she requested that corrections be made to clarify that the letter was not written by any committee member and that the word “agreement” was not used in her statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Bob Mahar had a question on how board attendance (having four members present instead of five) affects the 75% requirement for passing resolutions, since three members voting “yes” would be just 60%. Supervisor Connell stated that three out of four “yes” votes are necessary to pass most resolutions, and that a two-thirds vote is required for bonding, expenditures from reserve funds, and the adoption of special laws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – Ed Mason provided an update. He has submitted their budget to Supervisor Connell. The summer program came to an end, having had 61 kids enrolled, and soccer has started with 57 sign-ups. A tournament will be held at Camp Dudley on September 19th. There is a Youth Bureau meeting next Monday with grant possibilities.

Budget note: All requests go into the tentative budget if received by the September 20th deadline. The supervisor completes the tentative budget and has it certified by the town clerk by September 30th. The town board then works on the preliminary budget, which is presented at a public hearing (by the first Thursday following the general election) before being adopting it as the final budget.

BUILDING – A resolution was passed naming Bill Johnston as the contact person between the town and grant administrators, therefore he does not need approval before submitting anything to OPRHP.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER ISSUE ON SISCO STREET, DAVE RECKAHN – Dave looked at the site with Councilperson Paquette and spoke with Dennie Westover about the issue. Possible causes are: a berm around one of the lots, which could outlet water onto other properties; heavy clay soil that doesn't allow for much infiltration; weekly mowing and short cut grass, which also lessens infiltration; and metal roofing, where water comes off faster than it would with shingles. Runoff from the road doesn't seem to affect many of the homes and existing fences would make it difficult to install and maintain backyard drainage systems. Supervisor Connell will let the landowners know that Dave is willing to meet with them individually.

HISTORIC DISTRICT UPDATE, PAULA ST DENNIS – Paula was contracted by the town to gather the information needed to add more of the town to the National Register of Historic Places. 250 properties had previously been deemed eligible. Paula surveyed the remaining properties and estimates that 74% are eligible. Paperwork was filed to have the Depot Theatre added to the register, however CP Rail (CP Rail owns the land, the Town owns the building) refused to sign it. The project will be finished by the September 22nd deadline and will be uploaded to the state website for review. If accepted, the proposal would go to a review board for a three-month process and then official notifications would be presented to the board and sent to property owners. Paula provided a packet that included a list of eligible properties and information on tax credit benefits for renovations.

RESOLUTION #145
BUDGET TRANSFERS

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the following budget transfers:
\$295.42 from 1990.4 Contingency to 64104.4 Publicity Bicentennial
\$700 from 1900.4 Contingency to 7110.4 Parks
\$500 from 51101.3 General Repairs to 5140.1 Misc. Lawn Mowing
\$1,600 from 8120.2 Equipment to 8130.4 Treatment/Disposal
\$1,800 from 8130.1 Treatment to 8130.4 Treatment/Disposal

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RESOLUTION #146
BETTY BAND AND DAR OFFER

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to give thanks to and accept the offer of Betty Band and the DAR to keep the old school house clean.

RESOLUTION #147
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 9A in the amount of \$20,150.90 for Vouchers 2015-476 through 2015-489.

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – The Supervisor is in receipt of the Town Clerk's August report.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS – In reference to the justice discussion at the last meeting, Supervisor Connell stated that he did not give the wrong numbers (the cost of running the justice department and how much they take in). Matt Chivers gave figures from the State's fiscal year, an approximate \$100 difference from the Town's figures. The town of Jay has eliminated one justice position and has seen no negative repercussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Heidi Sweet stated that she was one of the people to write the letter that was posted on the Bicentennial Facebook page and that the committee had nothing to do with it. The page was only used as a vehicle to the public. Bridgette Blemel asked if it is possible to go back to two judges in the future. It is; the board would need to pass a resolution to add the position.

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RESOLUTION #148
EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED for the Town Board and George Hainer to enter into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss the confidential audit report.

RESOLUTION #149
CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

4 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to close Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:50 p.m.

RESOLUTION #150
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk