

Minutes of the Regular Town of Westport Board Meeting on September 9, 2014

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
Councilperson McCormick
Supervisor Connell

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Deputy Town Clerk
George Hainer, Zoning & Codes Officer
Dennis Westover, DPW Superintendent
Elizabeth Lee, Youth Commission Director
Robin Severance, Keven Severance, Philip Siarkowski, Greg Moore, James Herrmann, Gerald Goulet

RESOLUTION #197 MINUTES AUGUST 26, 2014

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2014 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Keven Severance will serve as liaison between the Town Board and the Union concerning health insurance rates. Gerald Goulet commented that the stop sign on the corner of Washington and Main Streets is faded.

RESOLUTION #198 MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2014

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

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5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2014 Special Town Board Meeting with corrections to the Funding section.

OPENING OF TIMBER BIDS

Four timber bids were received for the following amounts:

The A. Johnson Co. LLC - \$56,299
Prentiss & Carlisle - \$32,384
Finch Paper LLC - \$32,527
Josh Laware Logging & Excavating LLC - \$46,094.50

RESOLUTION #199

TIMBER BID SELECTION

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick
1 Nays Connell

RESOLVED to send bids to the forester for a recommendation on which bid to accept.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEE – There will be a special meeting on Monday September 22 with fire commissioners and the DPW to discuss the project. The attorney will also be present. If built, putting the property under joint ownership and filing for separate bonds would help avoid zoning and code issues. A constitutional change would be required for a single bond where one building would lease to the other. That would be a three to four year process.

YOUTH COMMISSION – Elizabeth Lee reported that 60 kids are currently involved in the soccer program. There will be a tournament on September 20th at Camp Dudley that 1,000 people are expected to attend. The dance program will start in late October. Next year's budget has been prepared and will be turned in soon.

OLD BUSINESS

WESTPORT REVITALIZATION PROJECT – Charles Russell will attend the next board meeting to provide an update. Project subcommittee representatives will then take turns attending future meetings to provide more information to the town.

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BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION

UNION NEGOTIATION – Insurance rates are expected to increase 14%. The exact amount will be discussed and possibly negotiated. A tentative figure may have to appear in the budget until this issue is resolved.

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD – board has not requested an appointment yet.

HERITAGE HOUSE CONTRACT – on hold.

DEER PERMITS – Application has been submitted and a response should be received by the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

VIOLATION NOTICE – Supervisor Connell received a letter from the DEC concerning a violation of the Environmental Conservation Law. Phosphorus levels exceeded the maximum allowed amount. According to Dennie Westover, these higher levels are a result of filter beds not filtering properly. Supervisor Connell will contact AES to discuss the cost of having them investigate the issue and recommend a solution.

PRESERVE NY GRANT – A \$7,000 grant was approved for the Westport Historic District. The decision to accept or reject this grant will be made at the next meeting and it would require a contract with Paula Dennis. The grant would give residents the opportunity to apply for funds to make repairs on their properties. Those that do apply would need to meet regulations of the historic district.

LEE POLLOCK LETTER – To be in compliance with PESH standards, workers must have proper safety gear including hard hats, vests, and air horn warning devices. Highway workers are currently equipped with both hats and vests, but air horns need to be purchased.

TIMBER SALE – The second timber sale of the year has finished marking and the property will be shown on October 2nd. Bids must be in by October 14th at 4 p.m.

RESOLUTION #200

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

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5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the bidding process for Timber Sale 2014B and posting of proper advertisements.

RESOLUTION #201
BUDGET TRANSFERS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the transfer of the following:

General Fund Contingency A19904.1 account to:

Data Processing A16804.1 (\$1,500)

Publicity CE 64104.1 (\$1000)

Parks CE A71104.1.29 (\$1,500)

Water Three Transmission SW3 8340.13 account to:

Administration SW3 83104.13 (\$100)

REQUEST FROM ROBIN CRANDALL – Robin Crandall would like to change her work day hours to 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM as Julie Schreiber has agreed to keep her office hours from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This change may need to be revisited when Sheila Borden returns to work. The Board granted the request.

TOWN CLERK'S AUGUST REPORT – Supervisor is in receipt of August report.

BILLS – The town has received a bill for the tractor rollover incident that is for a higher amount than the received insurance payment. Dennie Westover was told that a second check, which would cover the remaining balance, should arrive soon. The bill will be held until that check arrives.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT –There is the possibility of installing a separate water meter for the campsite at the Fair Grounds. Supervisor Connell will review the procedures and cost for installing a new meter before moving forward. The tractor from the rollover accident has been repaired and returned. New phone lines have been installed along Ferris Road. Concerning the open position in the Highway Department, Dennie recommended that funding be moved from the unused sidewalk fund to cover the salary and health insurance. This cannot be done since the sidewalk fund is part of the General Fund and not the Highway Fund. Funds could instead be saved from the operational

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budget to cover the position. This issue will need further discussion before any decisions are made.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS – Camp Dudley sent a letter of thanks for allowing road closures during two camp events. The Supervisor attended a conference call on September 8th concerning the lawsuit of David Galarneau. Gary Wilson will represent the Town of Westport in the case of William McCutcheon vs. Board of Assessors.

COUNCILPERSON COMMENTS – Councilperson Viens thanked the town for fixing the railroad crossing. Councilperson Paquette questioned the legality of the case against the McGees and whether or not it followed town law. In this case the plaintiff claimed that the McGees were out of compliance with a special permit that they had, otherwise it would require three separate complaints. Councilperson Page commented that Beverly McIntyre is interested in having a Senior Day at the Town Hall. The Board agreed that this was a good idea.

RESOLUTION #202
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, McCormick, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 9A in the amount of \$16,015.90 for Vouchers 2014-541 through 2014-570.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Phil Siarkowski suggested that a representative for Fountain Forestry attends the next meeting in which the timber bids are opened. Kevin Severance asked about how deer permits will be dispersed to residents if the application is approved. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION #203
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Deputy Town Clerk