

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Connell at 3:00 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:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Derinda Sherman, Robert Mahar, Patricia French, Heidi Sweet, Lyn Barrett,
Michael Tyler, Penny Conway, Daniel Conway, Judith Moore

RESOLUTION #151 MINUTES SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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 to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – no update.

BUILDING – Bill Johnston submitted the project budget to Sunshine Jenkins who then forwarded it to OPRHP in Albany.

OLD BUSINESS

2016 BUDGET – Supervisor Connell hasn't received budget requests from all departments. The town receives five separate bills for health insurance (regular health insurance, vision, dental, and two for retirees). According to the insurance broker, regular health insurance will increase approximately \$20,000. There will also be around a \$5,000

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 22, 2015
Page 2

wage increase, as per the union contract. The tax cap allows for a \$19,000 increase from last year's budget and a decision will have to be made on whether or not to exceed that.

RESOLUTION #152
JUSTICE GRANT APPLICATION

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 Town of Westport Justice Court to request up to \$750.00 from the Justice Court Assistance Program.

RESOLUTION #153
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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 to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 9B in the amount of \$53,988.66 for Vouchers 2015-490 through 2015-533.

JUSTICE UPDATE – A certified copy of the resolution to reduce the number of justices was sent to the county. A petition protesting this resolution and requesting permissive referendum was filed with the Town Clerk today (September 22nd). We are waiting on a return call from the Board of Elections before taking further action.

COUNCILPERSON'S COMMENTS - Councilperson Paquette made a statement to clarify an altercation that he had with Robert Mahar at the Post Office a few weeks ago. He apologized for using the word "attack" to describe the altercation and stated that Mr. Mahar "did not assault" him.

George Hainer has received written complaints regarding garbage and cars on Main Street. He wrote a letter to send to the parties who are out of compliance with zoning/codes laws. The letter is with the town attorney for approval before it can be mailed out.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Derinda Sherman commented that the need for a complaint creates bad feelings between neighbors and asked if there is a way to change the law.

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 22, 2015
Page 3

Supervisor Connell replied that most people don't want to register their complaints. George speaks to the owners in question to let them know of concerns and violations, giving them the opportunity to resolve the issue before it goes on record. Penny Conway asked if these issues are a health concern and if George would handle those as well. He does not, and there is no full health department in the county, so it would become a state issue.

There will be a special meeting on October 13th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the budget and the regular meeting will follow at 7:00.

RESOLUTION #154
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Paquette, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk