

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on December 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 Viens
Supervisor Connell
Excused: Councilperson Paquette
Excused: Councilperson McCormick

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennis Westover, DPW Superintendent
Ike Tyler, Barry W. Morrison, James Herrmann, Heidi Sweet, Alan Hipps, Bill LaHendro

RESOLUTION #196 MINUTES NOVEMBER 24, 2015

On a motion by Supervisor Connell, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on a roll call vote after discussion.

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the November 24, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting as received.

MINUTES DISCUSSION – Councilperson Page wanted to clarify inaccuracies in Supervisor Connell’s comment regarding the contract covenant. This will be noted under the Building Committee report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – No update, but there should be a report at the next meeting.

BUILDING – At the last meeting, Supervisor Connell stated that the covenant would give the state control of the building for 35 years. After checking the covenant, he corrected this statement; the covenant is for 25 years.

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on December 8, 2015
Page 2

Councilperson Page said that the covenant would require that the building be maintained in reasonably good order and that any plans or changes would need to be submitted to the state for approval. Regarding the opt-out concern, she stated that anything approved or incurred by the town would be covered by the state, even if the contract were terminated. The town would only be liable for unapproved expenses. Councilperson Page also stated that the covenant must be recorded prior to *or* as part of the first payment, so the town could wait until the final design is completed and the cost estimate is finalized before submitting the covenant.

Supervisor Connell met with Gary Wilson, who should have an opinion letter ready for the next meeting. He said he disagrees with Councilperson Page's comment regarding the submission of the covenant and that his understanding is that it must be signed *with* the contract.

Ike Tyler asked why there isn't a final design. Supervisor Connell responded that the designs are two years old, and, according to VIA, are no longer accurate to the proposed budget. Councilperson Page commented that the project can still be dropped after the final designs have been completed and that the town cannot be forced to finish the project.

Supervisor Connell stated that he will not sign the contract. That decision will be left to the new board members. The attorney is still working with the state over his contract concerns. At the next meeting, the board will decide whether or not the attorney should come to a meeting to discuss his opinions with the new board.

OLD BUSINESS

NEWLY ELECTED TRAINING – A resolution will need to be made to authorize Ike Tyler and Barry Morrison to attend training in Albany. This will be done at the next meeting.

LEDGE HILL BRIDGE – A public hearing will be scheduled in January.

NEW BUSINESS

LETTER FROM LIZ SISKAVICH – Liz Siskavich sent an email to Supervisor Connell about her Rolling Redemption business and offered to provide a free collection box at the transfer station. The town would be paid five cents for each return and proceeds would be given to an organization of the town's choosing.

Supervisor Connell stated that while this sounds like a great idea, there may be problems with it. This would be allowing a private business to operate on town and county property and there would be liability issues.

Supervisor Connell suggested tabling this for the new board and contacting the comptroller. He will contact Liz with an update.

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

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on December 8, 2015
Page 3

COMPTROLLER LETTER – The comptroller’s office sent a letter in response to the town’s corrective action plan. The letter states that the plan does not adequately address two of the recommendations from the audit report. Supervisor Connell spoke with the audit supervisor and George Hainer will put together a resolution addressing the recommendations, which will be passed at a future meeting.

RESOLUTION #197
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

3 Ayes Page, Viens, Connell
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 12A in the amount of \$13,680.65 for Vouchers 2015-629 through 2015-654.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – They are working on a solution to prevent ramp damage at the transfer station. Geoff May found concrete blocks that, depending on the wheel base of the trucks, may be big enough work as a bumper in front of the ramp. There is an issue with water runoff on Jim Wade’s property. Dave Reckahn will survey the property and come up with a possible solution.

The Mountain Properties meter was completed today. It’s connected to the main line where everything will be metered.

The Federated Church and parsonage have been moved onto the new water line and the old line was capped above the intersection.

The DPW committee met to discuss the two received sidewalk machine bids and awarded the bid to Abele Tractor & Equipment Co.

A third bid, which was certified and guaranteed two-day delivery, was received after the deadline. Supervisor Connell made the suggestion that we recommend hand delivery or USPS/FedEx for future bids.

RESOLUTION #198
ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Viens, with a unanimous second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk