

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler 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 Morrison
Councilperson Viens
Supervisor Tyler

Others present:

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk
Dennie Westover, DPW Superintendent
Laura Benedict, James Herrmann

RESOLUTION #167 MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2016 Regular Board Meeting as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Laura Benedict, from Essex County Soil & Water, spoke about the timber marking. She provided a volume and value estimate of the trees that have already been marked. They should finish the marking soon and have a bid package set up by the end of October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUTH COMMISSION – Councilperson Morrison said that the Bidy Soccer Tournament seemed to be very successful. The board inquired about where proceeds from the event go; Councilperson Morrison will find out.

TOWN HALL RENOVATION – Councilperson Page stated that the bidding documents are with the Historic Preservation office. They must be approved before any further action is taken.

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2016
Page 2

RESOLUTION #168
APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the payment of bills on Abstract 9B in the amount of \$32,169.18 for Vouchers 2016-506 through 2016-537.

RESOLUTION #169
OLD SCHOOLHOUSE BICENTENNIAL

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED WHEREAS the Schoolhouse was one of the 11 School Districts in Westport before centralization,

WHEREAS the Stone Schoolhouse is not only the oldest school house in Westport, but the oldest standing school house in Essex County,

WHEREAS, built in 1816, it served local students for 100 years before closing in 1916,

WHEREAS the Stone Schoolhouse is included in the Dudley Road National Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993,

WHEREAS members of the Champlain Chapter of National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution took an interest in helping to preserve this historical building.

RESOLUTION #170
JUSTICE GRANT

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2016
Page 3

RESOLVED to authorize the Town of Westport Justice Court to apply for a \$30,000 Justice Court Assistance Program grant.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT REPORT – Dennie would like to pump at least two of the three septic tanks in Wadhams. All three were done last year and it is recommended to pump them twice per year.

RESOLUTION #171
SEPTIC TANK PUMPING

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to authorize the pumping of two Wadhams septic tanks and, if budget funds allow, the pumping of the third tank.

DPW REPORT CONTINUED – A part broke on the grader while it was on a work site. It required immediate repair and Supervisor Tyler approved the expenditure of \$1,100 to do so.

The highway crew will start hauling sand soon. It will be purchased through the county contract for the same price as last year.

The excavator, which was purchased in 2003 for \$127,000 is experiencing electrical issues. Dennie spoke with a salesman who has a 2013 model available for \$121,500. The trade in value of the current machine is \$32,500, leaving a cost of \$89,000. There are enough funds remaining in this year's budget and Supervisor Tyler recommended that the board consider this purchase and decide at a later date.

Additional problems were found with the older loader while it was being repaired. It would cost \$1,200 to take apart and an additional \$5,000-8,000 in parts. The repairman recommended that it be replaced.

RESOLUTION #172
LOADER SURPLUS

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to declare the old loader surplus and list it on the Municibid auction site.

Minutes of the Town of Westport Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2016
Page 4

BUDGET MEETING – There will be a meeting on October 7th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the 2017 Tentative Budget.

SUPERVISOR’S COMMENTS – Richard Sherman sent a letter to the board regarding the recent work done on the Main Street sidewalk. He wrote that many citizens are unhappy with the concrete addition and would like the bricks put back in. Supervisor Tyler stated that this is the only written complaint that he has received. Marilyn Trienens submitted a letter of request for funding for the Beautiful Westport Committee. This will be talked about more during the budget process.

COUNCILPERSONS’ COMMENTS – Councilperson Paquette asked if money is given to the Veterans association. Supervisor Tyler responded that there is a line in the budget for this, but we would have to look at past reports to see if it has been expended. The association may not know it’s there. Councilperson Page said the Harvest Festival was a huge success. A report will be given at the next meeting. Councilperson Viens has spoken to Richard Vaughan about the transfer station’s winter hours. Richard had the suggestion to open for four hours on both Wednesdays and Fridays, rather than closing Wednesdays.

RESOLUTION #173
ADJOURNMENT

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

5 Ayes Page, Paquette, Viens, Morrison, Tyler
0 Nays

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Julie Schreiber, Town Clerk