

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 7, 2021

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in conference room #1 of the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church Street, North Haven, CT.

Members Present:

Michael J. Freda, First Selectman
William J. Pieper, Second Selectman
Sally J. Buemi, Third Selectman

Staff:

Valerie Goodkin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Freda called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Selectman Pieper and Selectwoman Sally Buemi. Mr. Freda and the Selectmen then proceeded in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Buemi asked to make a comment relative to the agenda. She stated that there is nothing in the Governor's executive orders that prohibits public comment during an electronic meeting and that the Board of Education has successfully incorporated live public comment via telephone into their meetings. She requested once again that public comment be made available for the Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Freda agreed to work on that to make it possible for their next meeting.

Miss Buemi asked for a modification to the December 3, 2020 minutes. She requested that language be added to include that following her suggestion for the Fire Chief to come back before the Board in approximately nine months, *that the Chief agreed to come back at the request of the First Selectman and Mr. Freda stated he would be happy to have him back.* After a brief discussion with Mr. Freda agreeing he did say that, he noted that he does reserve the right to change his mind.

Mr. Pieper then motioned to make the amendment to the minutes with a second from Miss Buemi.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to approve the amended minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of December 3, 2020.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Freda proceeded with his overview, beginning with the Governor's Executive Order 9R which allows the Town to offer to eligible taxpayers an extended grace period through and including April 1, 2021 for the payment of real property, personal property, motor vehicle and supplemental motor vehicle taxes. He invited the Tax Collector, J. Stacey

Yarbrough, to address the Board and the public regarding the specifics of the order and the extension of the grace period. The Board discussed the topic with Ms. Yarbrough. Miss Buemi wanted to reiterate to the taxpayers that the due date is still January 1st, it is just the grace period that has been extended to April 1st. Ms. Yarbrough explained that any payments received “after” April 1st would be delinquent. Mr. Freda also spent some time detailing his top ten priorities for 2021 and concluded with an update on the COVID-19 Vaccine.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Mr. Freda noted that the Board received correspondence from Mr. Gary George pertaining to a suggestion for the Town to adopt the appointment of a Town Poet Laureate and youth Poet Laureate. Ms. Goodkin explained that his suggestion was passed along to our Director of Library Services, Sue Griffiths. Ms. Griffiths did some research with the State and found that several other town’s have enlisted their Library Boards to develop a Poet Laureate program. Ms. Griffiths agreed to include the topic at the next Library Board meeting. Ms. Griffiths has already contacted Mr. George and he was pleased to learn that it would be considered. The Board made several comments and thanked Mr. George.

Mr. Freda invited Fire Chief Paul Januszewski and Attorney Jeff Donofrio to join the meeting via teleconference to provide some background information as they considered a resolution recommending to the Town Meeting the approval of an Amended Town of North Haven Volunteer Firefighters’ Pension Plan. The Board discussed the amended plan with several comments and observations. Miss Buemi noted that she was in favor of the Pension Amendments and the support of our volunteers, however, she thought that perhaps the Town would be best served if the number of pension committee members was changed from six to seven so that with an odd number the chance of a tie vote would be eliminated. She felt the seventh member could be a member of the public. Attorney Donofrio stated there is nothing legally prohibiting a seventh member and that member being a member of the public. The Board discussed the suggestion and Chief Januszewski stated that Mr. Andrews who represents the volunteers agreed. Mr. Donofrio would make the changes to the redlined version of the amended plan to go before the legislative body.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends the approval by the Town Meeting of the Amended Town of North Haven Volunteer Firefighters’ Pension Plan, established on July 1, 1991 and amended on June 27, 2019, for the exclusive benefit of the Town of North Haven’s Volunteer Firefighters, in accordance with the provision of Section 7- 148(c)(5)(A) of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 6:30 pm remotely, via Zoom to consider and

act upon the following:

- a) RESOLVED: That in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen and pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-148(c)(5)(A), the Amended Town of North Haven Volunteer Firefighters' Pension Plan, established on July 1, 1991 and amended on June 27, 2019, is approved and the First Selectman is authorized to execute said Amended Town of North Haven Volunteer Firefighters' Pension Plan in the form presented to the Town Meeting. Due to Governor Ned Lamont's March 10, 2020 declaration of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency and his subsequently issued Executive Orders, and, due to the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Connecticut including New Haven County, in-person public access to this meeting will not be permitted. This will be an electronic meeting and a videoconference link and conference call dial-in will be provided for those individuals who would like to listen and participate (if electors) in the Town Meeting.

- b) RESOLVED, the Special Town Meeting will consider and act upon a resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to approve the Amended Town of North Haven Volunteer Firefighters' Pension Plan and authorize the First Selectman to execute same.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to accept the resignation of Wesley O'Brien (R), 337 Kings Highway, from the Board of Education, term to expire November 30, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to accept the resignation of Paul Cicarella, Jr. (R), 104 Kings Highway, from the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire November 30, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the appointment of Andrew Gorry (R), 108 Standish Avenue from an alternate to a full seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Paul Cicarella, Jr., term to expire November 30, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Theresa Ranciato-Viele (D), 100 Bassett Road to the Regional Planning Agency of South Central Connecticut for a two (2) year term to expire December 31, 2022.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the appointment of Luigi (Lou) Coppola, Sr. (R), 27 Maple Avenue, to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate, to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Yaccarino terminating on November 30, 2023.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Richard Monico, 23 Sachem Drive to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Board of Finance for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Hugh H. Davis, 1261 Ridge Road, to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Conservation Commission for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Mary Lou Stamp, 134 Middletown Avenue to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Theresa Viele, 100 Bassett Road, to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Mark Cofrancesco, 6 Frost Drive, to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Land Trust for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Stephen J. Fitzgerald, 34 River Road, to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the First Selectman for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the following Property Tax Refunds:

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

- Acar Leasing, LTD – 4001 Embarcadero Drive, Arlington, TX 76014, in the amount of \$528.38.

- Ambel, George – 194 Quinnipiac Avenue, in the amount of \$58.88; and in the amount of \$58.88.
- Cab East LLC – PO Box 67000, Dept 231601, Detroit, MI 48267, in the amount of \$561.19; and in the amount of \$394.45; and in the amount of \$122.88; and in the amount of \$363.42; and in the amount of \$615.45; and in the amount of \$364.65; and in the amount of \$294.78; and in the amount of \$370.88; and in the amount of \$365.72; and in the amount of \$269.17; and in the amount of \$173.72; and in the amount of \$80.40; and in the amount of \$153.20; and in the amount of \$61.04; and in the amount of \$87.15; and in the amount of \$380.01; and in the amount of \$271.08; and in the amount of \$274.02; and in the amount of \$608.48.
- CCAP Auto Lease – 1601 Elm Street, Ste 800, Dallas, TX 75201, in the amount of \$340.84.
- Financial Ser Veh Trust – 5550 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026, in the amount of \$206.74; and in the amount of \$54.19; and in the amount of \$444.21; and in the amount of \$418.20; and in the amount of \$213.42; and in the amount of \$350.80.
- Honda Lease Trust – 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040, in the amount of \$207.82; and in the amount of \$479.17.
- JP Morgan Chase Bank – PO Box 901098, Fort Worth, TX 76101, in the amount of \$359.39.
- Nissan Infiniti LT – PO Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265, in the amount of \$260.56; and in the amount of \$289.41; and in the amount of \$261.70; and in the amount of \$287.05; and in the amount of \$287.05; and in the amount of \$200.23; and in the amount of \$330.89; and in the amount of \$115.69; and in the amount of \$202.56.
- Toyota Lease Trust – 20 Commerce Way Ste 800, Woburn, MA 01801, in the amount of \$593.54; and in the amount of \$364.83.
- Vault Trust – Ally Financial Louisville PPC, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290, in the amount of \$168.96.
- VW Credit Leasing LTD – 1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048, in the amount of \$524.39.

Mr. Freda advised that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 in conference room 1 of the North Haven Memorial Town Hall.

With no additional business before the Board, Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi –yes