

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 7, 2022

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 6:30 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 6:35 pm and welcomed Selectwoman Sally Buemi and Selectman William Pieper.

Mr. Freda and the Selectmen then proceeded in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

There being no comments relative to the agenda, Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 3, 2022.

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

Mr. Freda stated that he would not be doing a PowerPoint overview but did want to ask Mr. Pieper and Ms. Buemi their thoughts on the Town organizing some type of donation event to benefit the people of Ukraine. He thought that perhaps a drop off event could be planned using the resources of the CERT team. The other option would be some type of monetary donations but there were concerns about where exactly the monies would go. He said that he was made aware that St. Michael's Church in New Haven was willing to accept donations from area towns and would be distributing to the Ukraine. Mr. Pieper wondered if the church would also take monetary donations. Miss Buemi felt if they would we should offer both.

Mr. Freda then asked Valerie Goodkin to share information about this year's Earth Day event being held at the high school.

Mr. Freda then invited Miss Buemi to discuss the items she asked to put on the agenda.

- Discussion of Analysis of 2021 Operations: Miss Buemi recalled that she had some questions at the March BOF meeting regarding the auditor's analysis. She is questioning the document that was handed out that night showing a bottom line net increase \$215,642 which was the same number Mr. Freda gave out in his executive summary of which he cited 4 reasons for the number, with one being \$500,000 of MRSA money. She noted that historically the MRSA money

gets reported as zero and is instead applied to the expense side. Miss Buemi noted that the entire amount was reported in the revenue and in her opinion \$1.3M of MRSA money was counted twice once in the \$753,257 underspent total and the full amount in the revenue. Mr. Freda stated that he worked with the auditors he presented them a draft summary which was later finalized and they certified the \$215k surplus and then he submitted it to the federal government who certified and accepted it. They continued to discuss the matter with Mr. Freda suggesting that Mr. Centofanti contact Miss Buemi to discuss the matter further.

- Discussion of Supernumerary Ordinance: Miss Buemi expressed her concern that the hiring of a supernumerary at the high school will violate the ordinance since the high school was not listed in the resolution passed at the Town Meeting. Attorney Jennifer Coppola expressed that she was not concerned of a violation because the ordinance language itself is not restrictive to the schools.
- Discussion of recent local newspaper story relating to amount of ARPA funding: Miss Buemi felt the newspaper article was misleading stating that we received only \$1M when in fact we got \$7M.
- Discussion of additional Lieutenant in mid fiscal year in the Fire Dept; and
- Discussion of the number of firefighters budgeted in 21/22 FY versus the number of firefighters budgeted in the proposed 22/23 FY budget: Miss Buemi stated that one of our firefighters returned from the service and is now serving as a fifth lieutenant and our budget only contains four. It is her opinion that according to our Charter, any mid fiscal year change in the employment table, especially one that contains more money should be approved by the Board of Finance.
- Retention of AAA rating: Miss Buemi stated that she was surprised at the March Board of Finance meeting how much importance was put on the AAA rating. She wondered if there was a lot of major bonding anticipated in the near future. She felt that we are already set on the rates of the current bonds. Mr. Freda explained that things are changing all across the country and municipal governments going into default. The dilemma is the rating agencies re rated us AAA, what they told Mr. Freda that there are a few red flags, although North Haven scores among the highest in leadership and management and economic development, we score low on our fund balance status. Also they want to see small tax increases every year because that shows revenue coming in. Mr. Freda restated that despite their recommendation he is not going to increase the mill rate on this budget. He felt it was important to get that message out.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to accept the resignation of Sandra Mastroianni (R), 183 Sentinel Hill Road from the Commission on Aging, term to expire December 31, 2022.

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

Ms. Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to accept the resignation of E. Richard Wilson (R), 45 Summer Lane from the Planning and Zoning Commission (full seat), term to expire November 30, 2023.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to accept the resignation of Paul J. Weymann (R), 24 Kimberly Circle from the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate, term to expire November 30, 2025.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Dean Volain (D), 16 Cella Terrace to the Library Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Paul Colella expiring on December 31, 2022.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the appointment of Paul J. Weymann (R), 24 Kimberly Circle to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of E. Richard Wilson, terminating on November 30, 2023.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of E. Richard Wilson (R), 45 Summer Lane to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate to fill the unexpired term of Paul J. Weymann, expiring on November 30, 2025.

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

Mr. Freda invited Attorney Jennifer Coppola to provide and update and share a recommendation from the Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee to have the Town submit a letter to the State explaining the need for an extension to submit our affordable housing plan. She explained that the Committee feels that it needs more time to properly finalize a suitable plan.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adopt the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED, that: First Selectman Michael J. Freda as the chief elected official of the Town of North Haven, is hereby authorized to submit a letter to the Office of Policy and Management of the State of Connecticut detailing why an affordable housing plan will not be submitted for the Town of North Haven to said Office by June 1, 2022 in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-30j and designating a date by which an affordable housing plan will be submitted, as recommended by the Affordable Housing Plan Advisory Committee.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution.

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

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN

WHEREAS, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and The Town of North Haven is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Town of North Haven hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of North Haven or his designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of North Haven and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper adopt the following Resolution designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Haven.

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

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future; and child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the

partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing board of the Town of North Haven declares April National Child Abuse Prevention Month in North Haven and urges all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second by Mr. Pieper for the Call of the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, CT, to conduct the following business:

- 1) To consider and act upon the recommendation of the Board of Finance to take action regarding the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023;
- 2) To establish the due date and number of installments for the payment of property taxes (*Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Supplemental Motor Vehicle*) in accordance with Sections 12-142 and 12-144a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and
- 3) Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to adjourn said town meeting at its conclusion and to submit the question concerning the adoption of a budget for fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to a vote by paper ballot on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, including the establishment of the exact hours of voting at REFERENDUM, pursuant to C.G.S. § 7-9b, that voting will take place between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. at the following North Haven polling place:

ALL DISTRICTS: Mildred Wakeley Rec. Center, 7 Linsley Street

The aforesaid recommendations will be placed on paper ballots as the following question: *“Shall the Town of North Haven, in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance, approve and adopt a budget consisting of \$60,166,330 for the Board of Education and \$55,857,267 for the Town Government, for a total amount of \$116,023,597 for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023?”* Voters approving said question will vote “YES” and those opposing said question will vote “NO”.

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

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

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

- Acar Leasing LTD – PO Box 1990, Fort Worth, TX 76101 in the amount of \$10.19; and in the amount of \$439.00; and in the amount of \$107.79; and in the amount of \$254.03.
- Alfredo, Curt / Marchitto, Gail - 552 Skiff Street in the amount of \$82.98.
- CCAP Auto Lease – 1601 Elm Street, Ste 800, Dallas, TX 75201 in the amount of \$55.25; and in the amount of \$558.96.
- Financial Ser Vehicle Trust- 5550 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026 in the amount of \$175.36; and in the amount of \$233.58; and in the amount of \$196.15; and in the amount of \$277.25.
- Hyundai Lease Titling – PO Box 4747, Oak Brook, IL 60522 in the amount of \$297.06.
- Petra Construction Corp – 98 Rebesch Drive in the amount of \$51.75 and in the amount \$19.56.
- Roberts, Cynthia – 629 Middletown Avenue in the amount of \$93.54; and in the amount of \$92.16; and in the amount of \$92.12.
- Toyota Lease Trust – 424 Church Street, Ste. 150, Nashville, TN 37219 in the amount of \$340.54.
- VCFS Auto Leasing Co – 1800 Volvo Place, Mahwah, NJ 07430 in the amount of \$543.04.
- VW Credit Leasing LTD – 1401 Franklin Blvd., Liberryville, IL 60048 in the amount of \$288.98; and in the amount of \$247.03; and in the amount \$102.79.

Mr. Freda advised that the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday May 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the upstairs conference room # 1 of the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church Street, North Haven, CT.

Mr. Freda then opened the meeting to public comment.

Mrs. Sallie Fowler, Todd Drive, gave a passionate and heartfelt plea for awareness and action concerning child abuse. She spoke of her and her husband, Mr. Raymond Fowler's ongoing program geared at raising awareness and preventing child abuse. She shared the 1-800-842-2288 number to call to report any suspicion of abuse.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive had several comments concerning unlocked cars, out of state license plates, the supernumerary program, paving, the budget and speeding.

There being no further business before the Board Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adjourn at 7:55 pm.

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