

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

AUGUST 4, 2022

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, August 4, 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 6:30 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.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of July 7, 2022.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to amend the agenda to reflect that under Appointments and Resignations, the resignation of Mr. Monico from the Board of Finance should reflect his expiration of the term as November 30, 2023; and to delete the appointment of Mr. Rudnick to the Board of Education, as that was previously done at the July 7th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

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

Mr. Freda proceeded with an overview of recent economic development in town with a presentation of new businesses that have recently opened as well as the closing of the Only Game in Town and the assurance that there is a new owner with plans for the property.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Miss Buemi discussed the Senior Tax Freeze Ordinance that was adopted on March 29, 2016. She was contacted by a resident who had inquired about the ordinance causing Miss Buemi to reacquaint herself with it. She wanted to discuss the possibility of amending the ordinance by Town Meeting to extend beyond the May 2020 cut off should the mill rate increase substantially in the future.

Mr. Freda motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to invite Mr. Gary Johns, Assessor

and Mr. Sherman Katz, Chairman of the Tax Freeze Committee to speak.
VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Johns provided an overview of the Senior Tax Freeze program as well as the other programs available to senior citizen homeowners. He provided the utilization and approximate cost to the town for these programs. He noted that originally the Senior Tax Freeze Program had 100 participants, but it is now down to 59. He also noted that the program was only available through the reval period which ended with the 2019 Grand List. Seniors could continue to remain on the program after that time provided they reapplied annually and met the criteria, but no new applicants could be eligible.

Mr. Katz explained that back in 2016 there was a committee formed of 9 members, with him as chairman, and there were 4 meetings of the committee that included the Town Attorney, the Tax Collector, Assessor and Director of Finance. He stated that the program passed by one vote. Mr. Katz would not want to jeopardize the program by bringing it back to a Town Meeting, so he would want to know that the existing program would not be put in jeopardy, abolishing it entirely.

Mr. Freda said he would consider Miss Buemi's desire to amend the ordinance by bringing it to a Town Meeting, but we will check with the Town Attorney to address Mr. Katz's concern of if by doing so, could that potentially put the program in jeopardy.

The Board discussed recommending a \$2,600,000 appropriation and bond authorization for the milling and paving of Town roadways. Miss Buemi questioned whether this is a good time to bond for paving with the inflationary climate. Mr. Freda stated that he was in favor of paving because by skipping a cycle, we fall behind. He feels maintaining the Town's infrastructure is important.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the following resolution.
VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$2,600,000 for the milling and paving of Town roadways; the project shall consist of milling and removal of waste materials, paving and materials, installation of manholes and drainage risers, traffic protection, including signage and police and flag personnel; the appropriation may be spent for design, demolition and construction costs, equipment, furnishing, materials, site improvements, survey costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, other consultants' fees, legal fees, net temporary interest and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project; and that the Town issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000 to finance the appropriation. Subject to the Board of Finance's recommendation of the appropriation and bond authorization, the Board of Selectmen will refer this to the legislative body to act upon at the Annual Town Meeting due to be held in September, 2022.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the following bond release:
VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

- **#P20-19 15 Cottontail Lane**

Amount of original bond \$206,500.00

Currently balance of bond \$50,000.00

Release the remaining bond balance of \$50,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Engineer. *This final bond release is contingent upon formal Town acceptance of the road and will be held until such time that the road is formally accepted by the legislative body at a Town Meeting.*

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the following bond release:
VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

- **#P98-39 112 Washington Avenue**

Amount of original bond \$10,000.00

Current balance of bond \$10,000.00

Release the bond in its entirety with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Town Engineer.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to accept the resignation of Richard Monico (R), 23 Sachem Drive, from the Board of Finance, effective July 1, 2022 term to expire November 30, 2023.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Gerri Giordano (U), 36 Carina Road to the Conservation Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on August 31, 2026 .

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Sandra Stetson (R), 542 Middletown Avenue to the Conservation Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on August 31, 2026.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Robert Lewis (U), 20 Ridgewood Terrace to the Conservation Commission for a four (4) year term to expire on August 31, 2026.

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

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

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

- CCAP Auto Lease – 1601 Elm Street, Ste 800, Dallas, TX 75201 in the amount of \$599.77; and in the amount of \$586.41; and in the amount of \$675.62; and in the amount of \$278.42; and in the amount of \$149.56.
- Lennon, Kevin – 5150 E 112th Court, Thornton, CO 80233 in the amount of \$177.13.
- Nissan Infiniti LT – PO Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$224.19; and in the amount of \$160.06.
- Velez, Sophia – 33 Joycroft Road, Waterbury, CT 06708 in the amount of \$444.11.

Mr. Freda stated that the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday September 1, 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.

With no additional business before the board, Mr. Freda opened the meeting to public comment .

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, had several comments in favor of road paving.

Mrs. Nancy Barrett, Crestview Drive, had several comments and questions on recent economic development, fire inspections and had concerns about the mix of retail businesses. She also commented on a vehicle property tax freeze and the bonding for paving.

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