

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 6, 2023

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 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 6:34 pm and welcomed Selectwoman Sally Buemi and Selectman William Pieper.

The Selectmen then proceeded in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Buemi moved with a second from Mr. Pieper to amend the agenda under appointments and resignations to reflect that Mr. DeChello's resignation is effective March 16, 2023 and that Laurie-Jean Hannon's appointment is to fill the unexpired seat of James J. Lianos set to terminate on November 20, 2025.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second by Mr. Pieper for the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 1, 2023.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 2, 2023.

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

Mr. Freda then welcomed North Haven's new Youth Poet Laureate, Naomi Borenstein, to the meeting. Miss Borenstein prepared and read a poem for the Selectmen, members in the audience and those watching on NHTV. Mr. Freda and the Board thanked Miss Borenstein and wished her much success in her new role and look forward to other readings in the future.

Mr. Freda dispensed with his overview and turned the meeting to Miss Buemi to address the discussion item she requested on the agenda.

Miss Buemi stated that she wanted to follow up on the discussion of the Peter's Rock Mountain Bike Course that she spoke of at the previous meeting now that the Park and Rec Commission Meeting has concluded and the Town Attorney has weighed in. Miss Buemi stated that she was not in favor of the bike course and was pleased that the Commission also disapproved. Mr. Freda reiterated that he does not support the biking course and would not support changing the ordinance to allow for it. The Board discussed the matter and were pleased that action was taken to have the structures removed and that the Association must have the park restored to the condition it was prior to the construction. Miss Buemi explained that she understood the permission granted to store the structures in the Town's shed was done to allow for the quick dismantling of the course.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the resignation of Nicholas DeChello (R) 26 Melissa Drive from the Board of Finance effective March 16, 2023, term to expire November 30, 2023.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Laurie-Jean Hannon (R) 26 Highland Park Road to the Board of Finance to fill the unexpired term of James J. Lianos, term to expire November 30, 2025.

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

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the appointment of Robert Nielsen (R) 15 Sachem Drive to the Economic Development Commission term to expire December 31, 2025.

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

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution for the Town of North Haven.

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

Whereas, 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

Whereas, 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, or gender identity or expression 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

Whereas, 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 RESOVED, 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.

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

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

NATIONAL 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 2023 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in The Town of 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 from Mr. Pieper to adopt the following resolution adopting the 2023 SCRCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

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

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2023 SCRCOG HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Town of North Haven has historically experienced damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those hazards profiled in the plan (i.e., flooding, drought, ice jams, hurricanes, severe winter storms, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and wildfires) resulting in loss of property and life and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Haven has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its hazard mitigation plan update entitled **2023 SCRCOG HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE** under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, public and committee meetings were held throughout the planning process regarding the development and review of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of North Haven; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of North Haven, with the effect of reducing vulnerabilities and protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of North Haven eligible for funding to reduce long term risks of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Town of North Haven Board of Selectmen:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official Plan of the Town of North Haven;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;

3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance are required by 44 CFR 201.6, and FEMA are hereby adopted as part of the resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution; and
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Select Board by the Public Works Director.

In accordance with the authority vested in the Town of North Haven Board of Selectmen, they thereby adopt the **2023 SCRCOG HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE**.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to call for the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 8, 2023, 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024; and
- 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024 to a vote by paper ballot on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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 \$61,643,954 for the Board of Education and \$59,856,429 for the Town Government, for a total amount of \$121,500,383 for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024?”* Voters approving said question will vote “YES” and those opposing said question will vote “NO”.

Prior to the vote, Miss Buemi commented that based on input from the public, if the Board of Finance changes the budget at their upcoming meeting, the Board of Selectmen would need to convene a special meeting to send the revised budget amounts to the town meeting. We are not locked into these amounts just because we are calling the meeting

this evening.

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

- Daimler Trust – 14372 Heritage Pkwy, Fort Worth, TX 76177 in the amount of \$359.22; and in the amount \$473.58.
- Honda Lease Trust – 1919 Torrance Blvd, Torrance, CA 90501 in the amount of \$283.61.
- Hyundai Lease Titling Trust – PO Box 4747, Oak Brook, IL 60522 in the amount of \$408.56; and in the amount of \$434.24; and in the amount of \$515.01; and in the amount of \$498.08; and in the amount of \$366.87.
- JP Morgan Chase Bank – PO Box 901098, Fort Worth, TX 76101 in the amount of \$291.90.
- Toyota Lease Trust – 20 Commerce Way, Ste 800, Woburn, MA 01801 in the amount of \$389.71; and in the amount of \$319.94.

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

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

#P17-32 342 Washington Avenue

Amount of original bond \$35,000.00

Current balance of bond \$35,000.00

Release the entire bond balance of \$35,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Engineer.

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

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

#I06-36 1943 Hartford Turnpike

Amount of original bond \$2,500.00

Current balance of bond \$2,500.00

Release the entire bond balance of \$2,500.00 with the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Town Engineer.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the following Bond Release:

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

#P20-28 8 Massimo Drive

Amount of original bond \$5,000.00

Current balance of bond \$5,000.00

Release the entire bond balance of \$5,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Engineer.

Mr. Freda stated that the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday May 4, 2023 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 opened the meeting to public comment.

Sallie Fowler, Todd Drive spoke about child abuse awareness and the importance of reporting suspected abuse.

Heidi Boettger, Beach Street; Joan Mazurek, Cloudland Road; along with Mary White and Tom White, Summer Lane all spoke about their disapproval of the recent events surrounding the unauthorized installation of a motor bike course on Peter's Rock.

Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, expressed his desire to cut leaf pick up from the budget and feels we need to go after illegally registered motor vehicles housed in North Haven with out of state plates.

Nancy Barrett, Crestview Drive, had several comments regarding the budget, Peter's Rock and Planning and Zoning.

With no further business to come before the Board and hearing no additional public comment, Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adjourn at 8:20 PM.