

MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 2, 2020

A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room #1 of 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 p.m. He introduced himself, and Selectmen William Pieper and Sally Buemi, wished everyone a very happy new year followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to amend the agenda to include under item number 10 the appointment of Paul J. Weymann (R), 24 Kimberly Circle to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate to fill the unexpired term of Lewis Borelli, term to expire December 5, 2021.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to amend the agenda to remove the appointment of Michael J. Freda as the Board of Finance representative to the Open Space Commission based upon information provided by town counsel. (Noting that the Board of Finance will need to nominate an alternative member at their next meeting.)

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Freda noted that he would be dispensing with his overview and expects to have some new economic development news for the next meeting.

Continuing with the agenda items, Mr. Freda invited Miss Buemi to speak regarding recent fire department policies Miss Buemi stated that she had two issues pertaining to the Fire Department. The first being the expansion of career firefighters to the Montowese Volunteer Firehouse. She went on to say that we currently have eight people per shift and this change would require ten people per shift to accomplish utilizing the Montowese Volunteer Firehouse as a satellite.

She feels that this expansion is a significant policy decision from a financial stand point, therefore she feels it needs Town Meeting approval. She gave two examples of public safety expansion: the 2009 paramedic program which went to referendum and the supernumerary program which went to Town Meeting. Based on these two examples and the legal opinion that Attorney Donofrio provided regarding the naming of Town buildings falling under the authority of the Town Meeting, it seems clear to her that this expansion of the Fire Department needs Town Meeting approval.

Mr. Freda stated that he sees no correlation with Attorney Donofrio's letter regarding the naming of Town buildings and the Fire Departments public safety hybrid approach. He noted that the paramedic program involved a Safer Grant and that in which the Town Meeting was necessary to get the grant and to hire the four additional firefighters, and the financial impact following year four or five. He stated that in 2008 the Department had over 35 active volunteers and are now down to nine. He also advised that the response times to the Montowese section of Town are longer than preferred and it is the Fire Chief's goal to decrease those times.

Mr. Pieper added that he was not involved then, but he did vote for the Safer grant and it provided advanced lifesaving service that the Town never offered before.

Mr. Freda also commented that with regard to the SRO program, that involved an ordinance that had to go before the Town Meeting as well as the added expense of hiring additional personnel within a fiscal year. He added that the money is already in this budget for the firefighters in the public safety line of the fire budget that was approved.

Miss Buemi reiterated that she is not arguing the substance, but rather the procedure. She then proceeded to address her second issue which was the elevation of four current lieutenants to captains and four firefighters to lieutenants. She feels that these are newly created positions and this is a change to the employment table mid fiscal year. Miss Buemi felt that a legal opinion was in order. Mr. Freda stated that Mr. Swinkoski has the latitude regarding the line item in the budget and no legal opinion is necessary. Mr. Pieper added that all we do is vote on the budget, not the employment table.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, the Board briefly discussed the \$2,000,000 appropriation and bond authorization for school security improvements.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to amend the agenda to include the following resolution as item 6.a on the agenda.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper read the following into the record, motioned for approval with a second from Miss Buemi.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

RESOLVED: that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of North Haven appropriate \$2,000,000 for school security improvements; the appropriation may be spent on the acquisition and installation of equipment, furnishings and materials, and site improvements, including, but not limited to systems, alarms, remote software,

displays and computers, servers and storage, identification systems, digital camera systems, video/intercom entry systems, radios, upgraded exterior lighting, door access controls, doors, tamper resistant glass, window replacement, window film, weather equipment, fencing, generators, training, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, 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 \$2,000,000 to finance the appropriation.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held Monday, February 3, 2020 in the theatre of the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, Connecticut, at 7:00 P.M., to consider and act upon a resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance concerning a \$2,000,000 appropriation and bond authorization for school security improvements.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

After a brief discussion with all the Selectmen in favor, Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the approval of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, is authorized to execute the purchase of retired Police Department's narcotic detection canine Labrador Retriever, Koda, to handler, North Haven Police Officer Alan Cantele, for the purchase price of \$1.00 under the terms of the Agreement between the Town of North Haven and the North Haven Police Union.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Paul J. Weymann (R), 24 Kimberly Circle to the Planning and Zoning Commission as an alternate to fill the unexpired term of Lewis Borelli, term to expire December 5, 2021.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi to accept the resignation of David J. Monz (R), 23 Windsor Road, from the Board of Police Commissioners, term to expire December 5, 2021.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Robert Hannon (R), 26 Highland Park Road, to the Board of Police Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of David J. Monz, term to expire December 5, 2021.

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the appointment of Kevin Rossi (U) 555 Pool Road, #206, as tenant Commissioner to the Housing Authority for a five (5) year term to expire December 31, 2024.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Robin Wilson (R), 45 Summer Lane, to the Community Services Commission for a three (3) year term to expire December 31, 2022.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Deborah L. Moore (D), 155 Ridgewood Avenue, to the Economic Development Commission for a three (3) year term to expire December 31, 2022.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper 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, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the reappointment of Mary Lou Stamp, 292 Upper State Street, 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, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper 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, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi 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, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the reappointment of Cheryl Juniewicz, 101 Knollwood Road, to the Open Space Advisory Committee with the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission for a one (1) year term to expire December 31, 2020.

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, 2020.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

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

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes

- Ally Bank, Ally Financial Louisville PC, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290, in the amount of \$186.21.
- Financial Ser Veh Trust, 5550 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026, in the amount of \$85.50.
- Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681, in the amount of

\$62.96.

- Landino, Jessica, 2 Pentway Lane, in the amount of \$24.63.
- Porsche Leasing LTD, PO Box 24329, Nashville, TN 37202, in the amount of \$380.95.

Mr. Freda stated that the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room # 1 of the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church Street, North Haven, CT.

With additional business before the Board, Mr. Freda opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Nancy Barrett, Crestview Drive had several comments including an inquiry pertaining to previous safety grants which may have been awarded to the Board of Education; the role that consultants play in the Town; and a potential cell tower possibly being erected near the West Ridge Fire House.

Mr. Peter Criscoulo, Fieldstone Court had several comments regarding the Fire Department and the recent staff elevations, span of command and the staffing of the Montowese Volunteer Fire House.

There being no additional public comment Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Freda – yes, Pieper – yes, Buemi – yes