

TOWN OF CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2009

Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031

PRESENT: First Selectman, Patricia Allyn Mechare; Selectman, Peter G. Lawson and Selectman, Charles H. Lewis.

- I. I. CALL TO ORDER: Regular Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by First Selectman, Patricia Allyn Mechare.

AGENDA

- II. Public Comment (limit of two minutes): N/A

Agenda additions:

Under New Business:

H. Request from Great Mountain Forest for use of lower space at 107 Main Street;

Under Communications (Written):

5. letter received from David M. Hunt Library
6. Communication received from Music Mountain

III. Approval of Pending Minutes:

-10/5/09 Regular meeting: **On a MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson it was moved to accept, as presented, the minutes of the 10/5/09 Regular meeting. Unanimous.**

IV. TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS:

-Treasurer's report (October, 2009): Mechare advised that Paviol had advised at the Board of Finance meeting that the percentages column in her report were incorrect and should be ignored but the numbers reflected were accurate. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson it was moved to receive, as presented, the (October, 2009) monthly report of the Town Treasurer. Unanimous.**

-Tax Collector's report: (October, 2009): Pat commented that the report reflected that collections were on track with last year's at this time. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson it was moved to receive, as presented, the (October, 2009) monthly report of the Tax Collector. Unanimous.**

V. COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Written

1. State of Connecticut Department of Transportation – Project 21-105: Railroad Station Depot project audit completed and the Town will receive \$193.47 (less than expected), which processes as a pass-through Grant; thus, funds will be due to the Historical Society;
2. Connecticut State Office of Rural Health – annual report received;
3. Department of the Treasury/Internal Revenue Services – summary of things that apply regarding stimulus funds;
4. David M. Hunt Library – request for use of lower space at 107 Main Street for a *Chocolate And Chili in the Village* fundraiser scheduled to be held on February 27, 2010, if the space is not rented. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson, to approve the request of the David M. Hunt Library for use of the lower space at 107 Main Street for a *Chocolate And Chili in the Village* fundraiser scheduled to be held on February 27, 2010, condition upon the space not having been rented in the interim. Unanimous;**

5. letter received from David M. Hunt Library – regarding loan (promissory note) to the Town of Canaan, which has been paid down by \$70,000.00, giving notification that the balance due is in the process of being financed;
6. Communication received from Music Mountain – Pat advised that the Music Mountain concert venue has applied for a Special Permit for a liquor license with Planning & Zoning Commission and that the Town, as an abutting property owner, had received notice thereof from Attorney Amy Schuchat, Attorney on behalf of Music Mountain.

B. Oral – N/A

VI. REPORTS

Town Board and Commission Vacancies – Recreation Commission/One Regular Member; Planning and Zoning Commission/One Alternate Member – Pat advised that she had received a recommendation from the Recreation Commission to fill the vacant seat, created as a result of Darren Dodge's resignation;

B. Public Safety Planning Council and REPT (Regional Evaluation Planning Team): Pat attended the meeting held today in Southbury, which discussed federal government money and projects, including re-allocation of funds for projects under budget;

C. COG Report – Web-Eoc training and updates on local needs, collaborative of Towns. Mechare reported that Andrea Downs will take the training for the Town of Canaan. Mechare further advised that there would be no COG meeting in November and advised of a luncheon being held tomorrow for public service honorees;

D. STEAP 103, FVVFD

STEAP/103: MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson to schedule a Town Meeting for Two Agreements (Lease Agreement and STEAP Grant Agreement) and the Call Of The Town Meeting (To see what action the town will take to advise the Selectmen regarding a proposed lease and agreement with the Falls Village Children's Theater. Copies of the proposed lease and agreement are on file with the Town Clerk) acceptable for November 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 108 Main Street. Unanimous;

-Special Meeting of Board of Selectmen to be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 @ 10:00 a.m. for purposes of discussing any comments from November 24, 2009 Town meeting;

-STEAP/FVVFD – Pat advised that she is now in receipt of the financial information from Linda Paviol, Town Treasurer so the paperwork can be completed to submit the request for the next (second installment) reimbursement, which Pat needs to finalize;

E. Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative – Pat advised that the study for the Incentive Housing Zone continues and is moving forward and currently the Committee continues to look for suitable land in Town and that property owners are being approached and asked for studies to be conducted on their land;

F. Route 7 and Lime Rock Bridge project – update; bridge was closed over Halloween weekend and re-opened by 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, which was ahead of schedule. Further, another closing will be necessary but probably not until the spring.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on ARRA EECBG Grant Funding – Solar Panels (at Town pool site/Energy Grant of approximately \$28,000.00 to the Town of Canaan): Mechare advised that the guidelines and process had changed significantly from originally presented and initially the project had been chosen due to it's limited costs but now it appears that the costs will be 20-33% higher and the Town currently has no budgeted funds for such a project and she is concerned about the added expenses involved, including electrical costs and maintenance. Mechare advised that November 19th is the new deadline

for application. Mechare asked Lawson and Lewis their opinion on moving forward with the application and noted if they proceeded, it would be necessary to go to the Board of Finance for funds. **By Consensus of the Selectmen, the Town will not apply unless it is determined that costs can be reduced;**

B. Action on Library Board of Selectman Appointee/Ellery Sinclair – Upon clarification, it was determined that a request for an appointment by the Board of Selectmen was being requested. **MOTION by Lawson, seconded by Lewis, to appoint Ellery Sinclair, as a Board of Selectmen Appointee, to the David M. Hunt Library Board. Unanimous;**

C. Update – Tree Situation/Prospect Street – Pat advised that she had received a letter from Tom Scott regarding the condition of the tree (discussed at last month's regular meeting) on Town property on Prospect Street and he concurred that the tree was not in good health and was threatening to the neighbors. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mechare would advise Downs to arrange to have the tree on the Town property on Prospect Street taken down by the Town's tree company sub-contractor;

D. Update – Water Tank Project – Shane Grant scheduled to start installing pipe and valves on Wednesday, moving forward, preliminary work has commenced. Mechare reported that she spoke to Gerry Baldwin regarding a property address for the property, as a requirement for the loan, and she and Hazel McGuire had assigned the property a 9-1-1 number. Mechare commented that all paperwork would need to be approved by Judith Blank.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Sale of Bill's Refuse Service to Welsh Sanitation Service/Confirmation of Service – Receipt of written statement from Welsh for transportation services previously provided by Bill's Refuse Service, which services would continue for the same costs (as negotiated by Fred Palmer, per Pat);

B. Recommendation of Betsy Howie for the Vacant Seat on the Recreation Commission – **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson to appoint Betsy Howie to fill the Regular Member vacancy on the Recreation Commission created by the resignation of Darren Dodge. Unanimous;**

C. Report on Shed and Backwash Project at the Pool – actively being worked on by TAHD (Torrington Area Health District). Town crew doing work, shed to be built over pumping system, (transfer of funds to pool project last year), recommendation by Tim Downs and Trevor (cost effective);

D. Technical Report from AT&T re: Proposed Communication Tower on Barnes Road – copy of Technical Report provided by Selectman to P&Z Commission and Inlands/Wetlands Commission and environmental concerns given to the Citing Council; given concerns raised by both Commissions, necessary to request that an information meeting be arranged;

E. Request for Monetary Pledge/United Way – UW seeking donations from the Town (\$150.00+/-). Mechare advised that although she supports the UW, the current budget does not provide for such a donation. Following discussion, it was decided that inasmuch as the current budget does not provide for such a donation, no donation would be made at this time; however, such a donation could be considered for the next budget year and that the UW should be advised to consider asking for such a donation in future budget years;

F. Request from Recreation Commission to create a Multi-Purpose Field Committee – creating of a Committee for the planning and development of a multi-purpose Field. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed that they had no objection to the forming of such a committee and further, that the Recreation Commission had the authority to form such a sub-committee under it's Commission and that the permission of the Selectmen was not necessary;

G. Approval of Resolution Re: Historic Developments Preservation Program – certified Resolution (annually) regarding Historic Documents Preservation. **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

RESOLVED: That Patricia Allyn Mechare, First Selectman, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the municipality of Canaan a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant; moved by Lewis, seconded by Lawson and carried unanimously.

H. Request from Great Mountain Forest for use of the lower space at 107 Main Street – request by Jean Bronson on behalf of Great Mountain Forest seeking permission to use the lower space at 107 Main Street on Saturday, December 5, 2009 starting at 4:30 p.m., for a presentation/lecture.

MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Lawson, to approve the request of Jean Bronson on behalf of Great Mountain Forest for use of the lower space at 107 Main Street for a presentation/lecture to be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, starting at 4:30 p.m. Unanimous.

-Mechare advised that Dom Ciati had also inquired about use of the lower space at 107 Main Street for his after-school program. Mechare reported that she had advised the BOF of Ciati's request and that Paviol had commented that there may be restrictions on the use of the space under the terms of the Grant; thus, Mechare would need to review the Grant file to see if there were any restrictions on the use of the space while it remained un-rented. Mechare noted that Ciati's proposal was different in that the use would be for a long-term period rather than for a specific function. By Consensus, Mechare will review the Grant regarding any use restrictions and that action on Ciati's request will be added to the Agenda for the BOS Special Meeting scheduled for November 25, 2009.

IX. ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD: N/A.

X.ADJOURNMENT: **On motion by Lewis, seconded by Lawson the meeting unanimously adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Alice Macchi, Recording Secretary.

Town Meeting: November 24, 2009
Next BOS Special Meeting: November 25, 2009
Next BOS Regular Meeting: December 14, 2009