

**TOWN OF CANAAN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
Regular Meeting  
Monday,  
September 14, 2009  
Town Hall, 108 Main Street, Falls Village, CT 06031

PRESENT: First Selectman, Patricia Allyn Mechare; and Selectman, Charles H. Lewis. Also present: Member of the Community, John Allyn.

ABSENT: Selectman, Pete Lawson (excused).

ALSO PRESENT: Lakeville Journal Representative, Patrick Sullivan.

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

III. Approval of Pending Minutes:

-8/10/09 Regular meeting: **On a MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Mechare it was moved to accept as presented the minutes of the 8/10/09 Regular meeting. Unanimous.**

IV. TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR REPORTS:

-Treasurer's report (June, July, August 2009) and Tax Collector's report: (July and August, 2009): **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Mechare it was moved to receive, as presented, the (June, July and August 2009) montly reports of the Town Treasurer and the (July and August, 2009) monthly reports of the Tax Collector. Unanimous.**

V. COMMUNICATIONS:

-by consensus, an additional communication was added to the Agenda (#7, letter from Mary Palmer). By further consensus, under New Business, added as matter E., Communication from Dave Seney, FVVFD).

A. Written

1. Falls Village Community and Cultural Center/Scarecrow Contest – Pat advised that she had given verbal approval for the annual scarecrow contest in the village center, with the understanding that she'd place the matter on the agenda for the September regular meeting. **MOTION by Mechare, seconded by Lewis to approve the request of the Falls Village Community and Cultural Center to hold the third annual scarecrow contest in the village center. Unanimous;**

2. Inland/Wetlands Conservation Commission/Run-Off Rt. 126 – Pat advised that she had received a memo regarding concern on Rt 126 property (formerly owned by Duntz & Patton), which she passed along to the State;

3. State of Connecticut/OPM/LoCIP Reimbursement – Share from LoCIP \$18,877.00;

4. NW CT Council of Governments Planning Commission/Zoning Amendments – Interior Lots – amendment creation of interior lots does not conflict with any plan or policy;

5. U.S. Department of Commerce – initiative regarding certain niches in the market –

maple syrup makers in Town – pass information along to those folks that produce syrup (Kent Allyn, Great Mtn Forest);

6. Letter RE: Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department/VFIS – concern regarding insurance coverage on engines – Hazel McGuire went over the facts (Town owns but FVVFD insures) with VFIS;

7. Letter from Mary Palmer, Town Clerk – Mary had never received a formal resignation from Beckie Senev from the Board of Education, which has created a problem for the November ballot. Mary has been advised of procedure to correct.

B. Oral – N/A.

## VI. REPORTS:

A. Town Board and Commission Vacancies – Three Alternate Members of the Board of Finance (Board of Finance fills vacancies between municipal elections); One Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission; One Regular Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals – Jeff Jasmine has submitted resignation from both the Board of Finance and Board of Assessment Appeals;

B. Public Safety Planning Council and REPT (Regional Evaluation Planning Team): PSPC – no reports this month (nothing to report);

C. COG Report – Dan McGuinnis and Lois (Assistant) have gone to a 4-day work week due to lack of funds, discussion regarding stimulus funds, standard meeting/routine business;

D. STEAP 107, 103, FVVFD:

-STEAP/107 Main Street – additional documentation requested and final docs now signed; project closed, however, money not yet taken from account by the State;

-STEAP/103 Main Street (FVCT) –update: progress continues toward final Agreement; Attorneys need to connect; all parties anxious to get project underway; confirmation from State that two-year timeframe commences at signing of Agreement;

-STEAP/FVVFD –paperwork almost completed for request of next (second installment) reimbursement, just waiting on some financial information from Linda Paviol, Town Treasurer. Pat will push for the funds to cover architectural and engineering costs, which should be considered as start work and site work costs, foundation cost triple that of originally estimated cost;

E. Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative – Ready to submit application for grant money for Village centers and economic developing with the assistance of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation with regard to accessory apartments;

F. Route 7 and Lime Rock Bridge project – update; corrected lane now open, timing with lights too short, approximately one month behind project deadline date (expected to finished next July or August);

Chuck Lewis reported that the Housatonic River Commission held a meeting and officials from the EPA gave an overview of the remediation efforts taken to remove PCB's from the sediment in the riverbed in the two miles downstream from the former General Electric plant in Pittsfield, Mass. For Connecticut, it was concluded that the amount of PCB's traveling downstream has been significantly reduced and remediation in Connecticut will probably not be required.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Probate Court Reorganization – update: Pat advised that currently our probate district has been assigned to Litchfield and Torrington and the Canaan office will remain open with office staff 4 days per week;

B. CRRA/Flow Control Model Ordinance/Hartford Landfill Closure – Pat advised she received a letter asking the Town to adopt a flow control ordinance, which she gave to Judy Dixon, Town Counsel, to review and Judy has some questions that should be addressed. Pat advised further

that Fred Palmer has attended numerous meetings regarding landfills and recyclables. Pat hopes future meetings can be attended to stay current and Fred will continue to monitor;

C. Town of Canaan Water Tank Project/Consideration of Financing and Setting for Town Meeting Approval – Financing for the project remains undecided and although USDA is one option, the costs to meet the requirements for environmental studies and engineering reports results in any savings being questionable and the process would be lengthy, thus, probably not the best course of action for financing the project. Pat has discussed options with Bond Attorney, Judith Blank, and a loan from a local bank can be used to finance the project. Pat advised that she had preliminary discussion with Jerry Baldwin at Salisbury Bank And Trust. It would not be a commercial loan but a bonded loan or Note up to \$350,000.00, structured similar to a line of credit loan, fixed rate of approximately 4.5%, 20 year term, no prepayment penalty (all terms to be reviewed by Attorney Blank and Town would proceed based on her recommendation). Matter of financing required to go to Town meeting. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Mechare, to take to Town Meeting, the matter of a loan in the amount of \$350,000.00 for borrowing for the water tank project on Beebe Hill Road, to include specific language from Bond Counsel to advertise the call of the Town Meeting; unanimous.** With regard to new rates, the sub-committee has come up with a new rate-system for water customers to pay for the \$350,000.00 project, plus funds for future maintenance and repairs. A site visit by the Dept. of Public Health is scheduled for Wednesday for the location of the tanks/site approval;

D. Update on ARRA EECBG Grant Funding – Solar Panels (at Town pool site/Energy Grant of approximately \$28,000.00 to the Town of Canaan): Pat had originally been advised that the Town would submit for reimbursement for costs of the project but has since been advised that the Davis-Bacon act (competitive bidding) would apply.

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration of Endorsement of Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative's Village Center Vitality Project Grant Application and Participation – Application by Town for a grant for the Collaborative's Village Center Vitality project. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Mechare that the Town endorses the Northwestern Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative request for grant funding by the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut to initiate the Village Center Vitality project. Unanimous;**

B. Invitation From The Ottery Group to Participate as a Consulting Party to the Section 106 Review of the Proposed AT&T Mobility (Falls Village/Canaan #2413 Telecommunications Facility at 8 Barnes Road – Pat advised of a letter from The Ottery Group, dated August 24, 2009, submitted in compliance with Sec. 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requirements, with such notification being made to invite potentially interested parties that may desire to participate in the consultation process specific to the proposed undertaking of the construction of a telecommunications facility in a densely wood area at 8 Barnes Road in Falls Village. Pat will pass correspondence along to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Lewis will pass along to the Historic Society.

C. Resignation/Jeffrey Jasmine – Alternate to the Board of Finance and as a Regular Member Board of Assessment Appeals: **MOTION by Mechare, seconded by Lewis to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jeff Jasmine as an Alternate Member of the Board of Finance and as a Regular Member of the Board of Assessment Appeals; unanimous;**

D. Consideration of Appointments: Regular Member Board of Assessment Appeals and D. M. Hunt Library Board of Directors:

-Pat advised that she had been asked to consider Susan Kelsey for the position of the vacancy to the Board of Assessment Appeals. **MOTION by Lewis, seconded by Mechare, to appoint Susan Kelsey to the vacant position on the Board of Assessment Appeals; unanimous;**