

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
4:30 PM Town Hall

Present: Matthew Riiska, Sandy Evans, Henry Tirrell, Barbara Gomez, Ruth Melville and Phylis Bernard

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments: None

Minutes: November 1, 2023

MOTION S. Evans to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 meeting as presented. Second M. Riiska. H. Tirrell abstained. Motion carried.

Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule

MOTION S. Evans to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting schedule for 2024 with one correction noted. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments

M. Riiska presented the following slate of committee members for reappointment:

- Elizabeth Borden, Economic Development Committee – term to expire 12/31/27
- Catherine Johnson, Economic Development Committee – term to expire 12/31/27
- Ann Havemeyer – Assistant Municipal Historian – term to expire 12/31/25
- Gloria Gourley – Torrington Area Health District Rep – term to expire 12/31/25
- Jill Chase – Inland Wetlands Agency to regular member – term to expire 12/31/26
- Clint Webb – Inland Wetlands Agency to alternate member – term to expire 12/31/26
- Myron Kwast – Inland Wetlands Agency – term to expire 12/31/26
- Lisa Auclair – Farmer’s Market – term to expire 12/31/26
- Janet Alteri – Farmer’s Market – term to expire 12/31/26
- Douglas McDevitt – Farmer’s Market – term to expire 12/31/26
- Margaret Saxe – Farmer’s Market – term to expire 12/31/26
- Angela Bollard – Farmer’s Market – term to expire 12/31/26

MOTION S. Evans to reappoint the committee members with the terms presented. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Selectman’s Report

- M. Riiska reported that the town purchased three new computers. Two for the Selectmen’s Office and one for the treasurer. The Selectmen’s Office will be changing over to the QuickBooks Enterprise Program at the suggestion of our auditor. Bill Novak of Alden, Novak & Dodd, the company we used for our payroll and accounts payable for the past 25 years, is retiring so there will no longer be support.
- Maple Avenue – Remediation is complete and the stormwater drainage system upgrades are ongoing. State of CT DEEP and Verdantas are on site to monitor groundwater.

Selectman's Report (continued)

- Fuel Spill – Test wells are being installed around 89, 93 & 97 Greenwoods Road East to monitor those properties. The State of CT Department of Health will be drafting a letter to the above property owners providing clearance to return to their homes.
- Plow Truck – The NVFD 1999 Freightliner tanker truck with 19,000 miles was converted into a plow truck for the Public Works department and is ready to go.
- River Place Bridge – M. Riiska attended a meeting this afternoon with WMC Engineers and the State of CT DOT. The bridge has been on hold since November 2022 because of issues with the headwalls needing to be redesigned. New England Infrastructure recently sent a \$1.2 million estimate (in addition to what was already spent) with a timeline of May 2025 for completion. A meeting is being held tomorrow with WMC, NE Infrastructure and the DOT to discuss this project.
- Smith Road and Old Goshen Road Bridges – The State of CT will be paying all engineering and construction costs for the two bridges. The wetlands mapping and surveying began a month ago.
- Botelle School Boilers – The two boilers at the school need to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$164,000. It will take 5-6 months to receive new boilers. M. Riiska is looking into a CT School Construction Grant where we should be eligible for \$40,000 and we currently have \$63,000 in our non-lapsing account which could be utilized. M. Riiska will be getting two additional quotes.
- New Firehouse – The Planning & Zoning Commission hearing for the new Firehouse will be held on Tuesday, 12/12/23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- Budget – In addition to the end of month December budgets, letters will be sent to all departments with a timeline for their FY 24/25 departmental requests.
- Union Contract – The Public Works union contract expires on 6/30/24 and will be reviewed by the selectmen.
- Norfstrum Trailer – S. Evans expressed her concern over the possible return of the trailer to the Transfer Station as it was already decided by the Selectmen to close it down. Discussion ensued.

MOTION S. Evans to adjourn at 5:17 p.m. Second H. Tirrell. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Gomez, Secretary