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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
March 2, 2011
Meeting Room A**

Present: Philip J. Miller, First Selectman
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman
Norman M. Needleman, Selectman

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the Agenda with an addition to add under Approval of Minutes the Budget Workshop Minutes of February 16, 2011 and to add under New Business C. Appointments and Resignations Boards and Commissions. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the February 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Philip Miller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the February 16, 2011 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. Philip Miller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Residential Garbage Disposal Fee Structure

Mr. Alvin Wolfram and Mr. Randall Osborne reported that the Sanitary Waste Commission was thinking about looking at ways to reduce the amount of cash that goes through the transfer station and looking at other options. Some time ago they did garbage bags at a cost, and then they tried stickers. The honor system has always been used at the dump. Mr. Wolfram stated that he was looking for support from the Selectmen to possibly change the way of collecting fees at the landfill.

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Mr. Osborne suggested looking to charge a per-unit fee or annual fee. Mr. Osborne suggested that members of the town pay for a sticker on the car. He stated other towns like Darien, Montville, and New Canaan use this annual fee type of system.

Mr. Wolfgram stated that the town employees at the dump are not the enforcers. Mr. Wolfgram suggested possibly having a guard shack and checking stickers of cars and possibly coordinating with the tax collector to see who is going to collect the money. The Sanitary Waste Commission is looking for a policy change and would like to know if the Board of Selectmen is in favor of this possibility. Mr. Wolfgram stated that this new system may stabilize the revenue better. It was estimated that \$50,000 is collected every year.

Mr. Miller inquired about what the cost is for these scenarios for other towns. Mr. Randall stated it is all over the place with other towns and they are exploring the options.

Mr. Miller stated that the current system is an honor system and that the current system appears to be working well. Mr. Miller has concerns about issuing stickers for the fiscal year. Mr. Wolfgram stated that we would have to re-educate the residents. Mr. Needleman stated that the town may not want the change.

Mr. Miller stated there are approximately 2900 households in town.

Mr. Wolfgram inquired if he should take this idea to the Board of Finance. Mr. Miller suggested that Mr. Wolfgram bring this back to the Board of Selectmen with some specific figures and scenarios.

Mr. Marzi stated that he pays close to \$90 a month for his trash removal service and inquired as to whether we have ever considered a municipal pickup. Mr. Wolfgram and Mr. Osborne asked if the Selectmen would, at all, be interested in supporting this idea.

Mr. Needleman stated that he felt that this was not worth the effort. He felt that 98% of the people that come to the land fill are honest. You could possibly say NO CASH ACCEPTED, and accept only checks or install an ATM system. Mr. Needleman states that the "pay-as-you-go" system seems to work for the town. We also know that it is a subsidized service to the town.

B. Abatement – Clarks Pond

Motion was made by Philip Miller to waive the Property Taxes on Clarks Pond Lane, Map 59, Lot 006-08 that was transferred to the Town of Essex, a tax-exempt organization. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Part of the give back to the town was some open space and a piece of property from the pond.

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C. Appointments and Resignations Boards and Commissions

Motion was made by Philip Miller to recommend the following Board of Selectmen's appointment of Robert Russo to the position of regular member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to recommend the following Board of Selectmen's appointment of Jack Lima to the position of alternate member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller stated that the Park and Recreation Commission has a vacancy and it should be filled with a Democrat.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to set a Special Town Meeting two weeks from today on Wednesday, March 16th, 2011 at 6:45 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Kelly Sterner reminded the selectmen the need to discuss the cost of the demolition work cut through the land use department.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Miller reported that he just forgot that he needed to go to Board of Finance to appropriate funds prior to doing work. Mr. Miller stated that he thought there were funds available for building improvements.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to recommend to the Board of Finance an amount not to exceed \$4,424.90 be taken from the Municipal Properties Sinking Fund to fund the work for the demolition and the opening between the Building and Zoning department offices. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:37 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli