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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2011
Meeting Room A**

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

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the Agenda with one change, move Novelty Lane to Informational Items. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the April 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Communications and Correspondence:

Preserve

Mr. Miller reported that at this time the Town of Essex is keeping a close eye on this issue. Approximately \$44,000 has been spent on this over the last 7 years.

American Red Cross Blood Services Achievement Award

Mr. Miller reported that the American Red Cross Blood Services presented the Life Share Program Platinum Level Award to the Essex Town Hall in recognition of the organization's achievement and its ongoing efforts in support of the American Red Cross Blood Services Program. Mr. Miller stated that much of the credit goes to Mr. Richard Levene who has been running the blood drive for more than 10 years.

Novelty Lane

Mr. Miller reported that of the town's \$190,000 grant award, all but \$38,000 was used on the Main Street boat ramp and the balance will be used to do some improvement work on Novelty Lane. Mr. Miller stated that there are some issues about ownership on this lane and presently we have members of the economic development and legal council doing some research.

Mr. Needleman reported that Novelty Lane is a complicated issue, and the town has maintained the lane. There are some issues of ownership and we need to come up with a solution that is agreeable to everyone.

Budget Agreement between House senate and Governor.

Mr. Miller reported on the budget agreement between the house senate and the governor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

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OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Town of Essex Retirement Plan Draft

Attorney Bruce Barth, Retirement Committee Chair Ellen Wexler, and Deputy Treasurer Kelly Sterner reported that the retirement committee and council have met and marked up the Retirement Plan document. The Retirement Board is recommending that the Board of Selectmen adopt the changes that are recommended plus any additional changes that the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate.

NEW BUSINESS:

Schedule Referendum or Town Meeting for Budget

Motion was made by Philip Miller to set a Town Meeting for Monday, May 9, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Park & Recreation Light Pick-Up Truck

Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet reported that they rely greatly on public works and their trucks. Mr. Audet requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to purchase a light \$3500 - \$4000 pick-up truck for the Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Audet stated that they will use their special revenue fund for this expense.

Mr. Needleman stated that the automobile expenses budget line of \$1200 should cover everything, maintenance, etc. Mr. Needleman stated that he would recommend purchasing a better truck with low mileage. Mr. Needleman also suggested making sure whoever is driving the truck has a good driving history.

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to enter Traffic Authority. Philip Miller seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Essex Congregational Church, 6 Methodist Hill – Handicap Parking Space was not ready to present at this time.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit Traffic Authority. Philip Miller seconded the motion

Public Comment:

Melanie Phoenix, suggested a couple of names to Mr. Audet to inquire about a truck.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION: None

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli