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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 5, 2013**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to approve the Agenda with one change to remove the Job Description item on the Agenda. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the May 15, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. Joel Marzi abstained since he was not present at that meeting.

Communications and Correspondence:

Due to the high cost of having a Referendum and the low voter turnout, there was discussion on whether Region 4 could change the Referendum to a Special Town Meeting. There was further discussion on what rules or statutes mandate holding a Referendum.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

Traffic Authority

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to enter Traffic Authority. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Industrial Park Road Sign Installation Request

There was discussion on signage at the Industrial Park Road and Valley Industrial Park. The existing sign was damaged. There was discussion on installing a new sign that reads Industrial Park Road.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve a new blue sign to be placed at the entrance of Industrial Park Road. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to exit Traffic Authority. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Capital Committee - Nothing new to report. Mr. Marzi suggested inviting the Capital Committee Members to the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Some of the suggested projects are a new roof on the elementary school and possibly installing air conditioning; three bridges, and reconfiguring the Essex Town Hall. Mr. Marzi suggested having a building committee for the Town Hall project.

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Traffic Calming Program–Traffic Options Promoting Public Safety (T.O.P.P.S.) – There was discussion on the recommendations for Grove Street. The traffic issues fall under Traffic Authority at the Board of Selectmen meetings. There was discussion on the possibility of disbanding the committee. There was discussion on speeding issues in Essex which has improved now there is a full police force.

Ivoryton Grant – The grant award status is still unknown.

Household Hazardous Waste – Nothing new to report.

Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing

Mr. Needleman reported that the Housing Authority was given a \$250,000 grant for some design work so they can build several extra units at Essex Court. Janice Atkeson and the Board worked hard on this grant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sanitary Waste Commission Fee Collection

Mr. Needleman stated that there is a proposal being worked on. The proposal is to eliminate cash at the landfill and to offset the cost of bulky waste.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to accept the resignation of Joseph Heller as the Animal Control Officer. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried
Mr. Needleman read into the record the Proclamation for Mr. Joseph Heller. (see attached).

Mr. Needleman reported that he appointed Belden Stocking Libby as the Animal Control Officer. The hiring committee consisted of a State of Connecticut representative, Town Clerk, First Selectman, and an Administrative Staff. Congratulations to Mr. Libby.

Sister Cities - Haiti

Jenifer Grant reported on the status of Sister Cities. The library is under construction. There is a music school and a tennis court. They now have a tennis program for the children and they are doing tournaments. Ms. Grant gave updated and thanked the Selectmen for their encouragement.

Sinking Fund Request – Park & Recreation Sinking Fund

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to recommend to the Board of Finance to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$30,000 for the purpose of the project at Grove Street Playground. Said sum to be taken from the Park and Recreation Capital and Sinking Fund. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Open Space Land Acquisition

Robert Nussbaum and Jeff Denham presented to the Selectmen. The open space sinking fund currently has \$220,000. The land trust has an acquisition committee. Their priorities are driven by adding to existing or connecting parcels of land to existing open space. There was discussion on the Preserve. Mr. Nussbaum stated that as a community he felt that we should be ready and have

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enough funds to keep an opportunity from disappearing. Mr. Denham reported that Essex has approximately 850 acres of land or approximately 12% of open space. The State has set a goal of 22% which is unrealistic for the Town of Essex, but a goal. In order to comply, the Town would need another 700 acres of land. The preserve is 63 acres which is about 10% of the goal. Grants, Town funding, and private donations have helped with funding for open space purchases. There was discussion on the Ordinance Creating an Open Space Sinking Fund 93-01 5(a).

Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

There was discussion on holding only one Board of Selectmen meeting per month. It was decided to keep the third Wednesday Board of Selectmen meeting at 7 pm starting in September.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to cancel the first Board of Selectmen meeting each month starting in September. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Speed Sign

There was discussion on obtaining a speed sign that is most durable and easiest to move or a pole mounted speed indicator that would have the ability to take photographs of speeding cars.

Security Cameras

As recommended by our insurance company the Town Hall parking lot and the landfill will have security cameras installed by the end of the month.

STEAP Grant – Essex Civic Campus

The preliminary plans for Essex Civic Campus were presented. The plans show two cross walks to allow for safe crossing between the Town Hall and the library. Plans are available for viewing in the Selectman's office. The plans include four handicap parking spots in front of the Town Hall and one by the Playscape. The goal is to have the project completed by November 15th and the landscaping done in the spring.

Memorial Day Volunteer Needed

Philip Beckman has resigned as the Memorial Day Parade Coordinator. Mr. Needleman thanked Mr. Beckman for his service.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to go into Executive Session at 7:32 pm for the purpose of discussion of a personnel issue. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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Present: Norman M. Needleman, Stacia R. Libby, Joel B. Marzi, and Keith Nolin. Invited Guest Frances Nolin.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit the Executive Session at 8:18 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Re-open the Regular Meeting:

The regular meeting resumed at 8:19 pm

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman M. Needleman



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is with profound, everlasting and deep gratitude the residents of Essex, Ivoryton, and Centerbrook recognize the significant contributions of Joseph Heller, during his many years of service to the Town of Essex, and

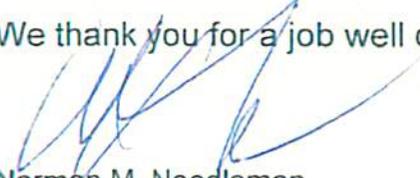
WHEREAS, under Joe's leadership the Animal Control Office has managed to run in a very efficient and orderly manner,

WHEREAS, Joe has always conducted himself with the absolute utmost professionalism through his tenure in the Town Hall, and

WHEREAS, the rest of the Town Hall crew will attempt to bear up under the grievous loss of Joe Heller to a well-deserved retirement, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman of the Town of Essex, on behalf of the citizens of Essex, wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many years of quality service, thereby contributing to making Essex the "Best Small Town in America", do hereby declare and designate this day, June 5, 2013 shall be forever known as "Joseph Heller Day".

We thank you for a job well done!


Norman M. Needleman
First Selectman