

Disclaimer. Please note, these Minutes have yet to be approved. Check with the department or Town Clerk for updated versions.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2013**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Agenda. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the February 20, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the February 20, 2013 Budget Workshop Minutes. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

Traffic Authority

Earl Street / Earl Street Extension

Mr. Needleman reported that he had received a recommendation from the Planning Commission and had passed on the information to the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Capital Committee

Joel Marzi had nothing to report at this time.

Traffic Calming Program – Traffic Options Promoting Public Safety (T.O.P.P.S.)

Stacia Libby stated that TOPPS did meet this week and only two members attended. Stacia had nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sanitary Waste Commission Fee Collection

Mr. Needleman tabled this for the next Selectmen's meeting.

2013 – 2014 Budget Review and Vote

Mr. Needleman went through the budget and discussed additional changes..

Fringe Benefits - Page 11. The medical & dental insurance numbers came in lower than estimated.

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Legal Services - Page 13. Tax Appeals was decreased by \$10,000.

Public Restroom Facilities - Page B14. The Building Maintenance & Repair line was increased back to the original request of \$6000 for the purchase of automatic locks on the Main Street Restroom. Currently the Town pays for opening and closing of the restrooms.

Emergency Management - Page 31 – Telephone was increased to \$4,000 for additional equipment.

Public Safety – Emergency 9-1-1 - Page B32. The Dispatch number came in lower than estimated.

Social Services – Page 45. The Selectmen reduced a total of \$3,000 from Community Payments.

Capital and Sinking Funds - Page 54 – The Selectmen placed the Cruiser Sinking Fund at \$15,000 and the Waste Water Management Plan to \$15,000.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to recommend to the Board of Finance a Board of Selectmen's Budget for 2013 – 2014 in the amount of \$6,978,105 at an increase of 1.816%. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Boards and Commissions

First Selectman Norman Needleman re-appointed August Pampel as Tree Warden.

First Selectman Norman Needleman appointed John Guskowski as the Town of Essex designee on the Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Program Committee.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to accept the resignation of Alix Walmsley from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried

Public Comment:

The Selectmen addressed questions regarding details on several budget line items.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Abstract Recycling Art Program

There was discussion on implementing an Abstract Recycling Art Program. The recommended program proposal is for approximately 10 – 15 sculptures to be installed along Dump Road from just inside the train tracks up to entrance to Calamari's Recycling facility. The artwork will be constructed offsite. The exhibit is anticipated to remain standing for two months from August to September. The Selectmen requested the Town's insurance company be notified to foresee any liability on the Town for such a program. The Selectmen tabled this until the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss further.

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Ice and Snow Ordinance

Mr. Needleman reported that he would like to set up a public hearing this summer to hear from the public on the subject of clearing the sidewalks. Some towns put the responsibility onto the homeowner. Other towns make it part of Public Works costs.

Regional Agriculture Council

Mr. Needleman reported that at the Council of Governments meeting they voted unanimously to be part of this regional organization to establish a local agricultural council. The organization is to provide information to local farmers and municipal boards and commissions.

Proclamation – Tri Town Youth Substance Abuse Awareness Week

Mr. Needleman reported that the week of April 28 – May 4th will be Substance Abuse Awareness Week. Proclamation attached.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli

PROCLAMATION


The ongoing efforts to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse by public and private agencies, citizen groups, and individuals need our support. Alcohol use by young people is not a harmless rite of passage. Alcohol kills. Drinking and driving is the leading cause of death among young people. Alcohol is a key factor in over 50% of all youth suicides and 40% of youth homicides. An estimated 50% of all teen pregnancies result from one or both parties being under the influence. Connecticut's young people have a drinking problem. Many of our children start drinking as early as 11 years old. By the time our kids reach high school, they are drinking at rates that are 12% higher than their national peers. Forty-one percent of our college youth are binge drinkers before they reach the age of 21.

We cannot retreat from any opportunity to enlighten, to inform, and to gain the support of our townspeople as we work together to ensure that our young people and future generations escape the consequences of lives ruled by substance abuse.

The week of April 28-May 4 will be such an opportunity. Tri-Town Youth Services will sponsor the twenty-fourth annual substance abuse awareness week to educate our communities about drug and alcohol use and abuse and to help people see that life can be enjoyed to its fullest without drugs.

Our unifying theme this year is: Imagination! The week's events will include community activities such as window painting and coordinated school assemblies and elementary school classroom discussions. The events are planned to deliver the encouraging message to get "High on Life" rather than drugs.

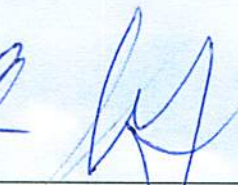
Therefore, in recognition of this vital cooperative effort, we, the first selectmen of Chester, Deep River, and Essex, designate April 28-May 4, 2013 as our tri-town prevention and awareness week and as a celebration of our lives free of substance abuse. We sincerely urge all members of our communities to participate in this week's important activities.



First Selectman
Chester



First Selectman
Deep River



First Selectman
Essex