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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
August 6, 2014**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Agenda. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the July 16th Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Official Appreciation for Marianne Sullivan

An Official Appreciation was presented to Marianne Sullivan for her significant contributions and devotion to all the residents of Essex, Deep River, and Chester.

Official Citation for Marianne Sullivan

State Representative Philip Miller presented an Official Citation to Marianne Sullivan from the State of Connecticut General Assembly in recognition for her lifetime of public service and journalism in Connecticut.

Household Hazardous Waste

Mr. Needleman reported on the collection totals of July 26th. Essex had 21 households participate. Electronics are collected at all times in the bins stationed at the land fill.

Transfer Station Revenue Expense Comparison

The Finance Director presented documentation of the breakdown of revenue and expenditures for the transfer station for FY 12/13 and FY 13/14. As a result of some of the changes made over the last year, expenditures are down and revenues are up. Cash will be eliminated from the transfer station effective October 1, 2014 and you must be an Essex resident to use the transfer station.

The Betty Pierson Dream House Shed

The shed is used for items that could be reused like books, small appliances, and furniture.

CCM Prescription Discount Card Program

316 prescription claims have been processed since April 2013. Essex residents have saved \$12,400.

Update on the Front of the Town Hall Building

The front walkway will be roped off next week so the new sidewalks can be completed.

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Essex Civic Campus – Wednesday, September 10th at 5:00 pm

Everyone is invited to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, public is welcome. Essex was awarded a STEAP grant for \$471,500 for the Essex Civic Campus Enhancement Project. The Town Hall Parking Lot was renovated and expanded, Grove Street Playscape and Tennis Courts were upgraded, and pedestrian safety was improved.

Stormwise Initiative

Stormwise is an education initiative with the goal of reducing the risk of power outages and other damage caused by wind-related tree failure at the forest and power-infrastructure interface. This initiative will examine how to reduce tree related power outages and how to manage individual trees.

Thank you Letter for Grandview – No Parking Sign Request

A Thank you letter was received for the Town's placement of a no parking sign on Grandview.

Solarize Essex Update

An update was given by Stacy Abbott, Frank Hall and Rick Stebbins on the Solarize Essex initiative. The Town of Essex is the second highest in leads per capita. Eight contracts are signed as of today. Another workshop is scheduled for August 14th.

Town Hall Kitchen

The Town Hall Kitchen has been gutted and renovated and is ready for use.

Budget Results FYE 13/14

The Director of Finance, Kelly Sterner reported that revenue was satisfactory and the Town should end up about \$400,000 above budget because funds were not spent what was budgeted in many different accounts.

Public Announcements / Comment:

Philip Miller mentioned that he was thankful that the Essex Town Budget is realistic and takes into account any unforeseen emergencies such as storms that may happen in the winter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Building Committee

Mr. Glowac had nothing new to report at this time, but the committee will present at the August 20th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mr. Glowac reported that a meeting was held today regarding Walnut Street Bridge and he was told the process for bridge replacement usually takes 35 months...

Ivoryton Village – Main Street Investment Fund Grant

Ms. Libby reported that the committee is moving forward and working with Anchor Engineering. The next meeting is scheduled for the 18th.

STEAP Grant

Mr. Needleman reported that the application for improvements for public works garage was not awarded funds for this round.

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Essex Island Marina Auction

The winning bid for the 125-slip marina complex was \$3.15 million and it came from local marina magnate Jack Brewer of Brewer Yacht Yards.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consolidation of the Sanitary Waste Commission and Water Pollution Control Authority Legal Budget

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to recommend to the Board of Finance the budget transfer of \$4,000.00 from Legal Services budget line 10406-503100-352 (Sanitary Waste Commission) to Legal Services budget line 10406-503100-355 (Water Pollution Control Authority) for the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

There was also discussion on current vacancies which include:

Connecticut River Gateway Commission

The Town is still looking for a volunteer for the Gateway Commission. It is a two (2) year term.

River Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission

The Board of Selectmen must appoint an alternate member.

Harbor Management Commission

The Board of Selectmen must appoint an alternate member. It is a three (3) year term.

Conservation Commission

The First Selectman must appoint two alternate members. They are three (3) year terms.

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

New Dugouts at Valley Regional High School

Mr. Glowac reported on the new dugouts which are being done at no cost to taxpayers. Project is 100% funded by volunteers and contributions. Special thanks to Grace Petroka and Greg Peterson.

Demolition – Original Grammar School

It was reported that the Original Grammar School (aka Highland Hall) was torn down yesterday.

Town Hall History Discussion

There was discussion on the additions that have been done to the Town Hall. There was an addition in 1922 of the auditorium area and upstairs area was added.

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Conversion of Route 621 to One-Way Determination

The State of Connecticut did studies and they have determined that improvements to this area would be costly and may be something to consider, but there is no money in the budget at this time.

Solarize Essex Permit Fee Waiver

At this time there will be no changes to the fees for any solar installations.

Pension RFP Results

Ellen Whaley reported that the Retirement Board Committee has selected Hooker and Holcomb as the new vendor to provide the Investment Advisory, Custodial Banking and Actuarial Services for the Town's Pension Plans.

Recognition of Efforts by Members of the Essex Retirement Board on the RFP Pension Plan

The Retirement Board Chair recognized the following members of the Essex Retirement Board Working Group for all the help on the RFP for the Town Pension Plan. Thanks to Ethan Goller, Stacia Libby, Kelly Sterner, and Peter Decker for all their hard work on the pension RFP process.

Recognition and Thanks for Administrative Support on the RFP Pension Plan

The Retirement Board Chair recognized and thanked both Nancy Berryman and Maria Lucarelli for their outstanding administrative support during the pension RFP process.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli