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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2020**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman (via Conference Call)

Stacia Libby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the Agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Sustainable Essex Environmental Discussion (SEED) Series Update

There was discussion regarding upcoming informational sessions with common themes (waste reduction, sustainable management of water resources, etc.). All sessions are open to the public. There was discussion that the Town of Essex is also interested in installing an electric vehicle charging station.

Earth Day – Wednesday, April 22, 2020 – 50th Anniversary

Ken Peterkin sent an email to Norman inquiring if the Town would be participating in a Town Wide Clean Up Day. The Selectmen discussed participating in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day this year with a cleanup initiative. Plans are underway and dates and times will be posted on the Town Web Site and Facebook page. This event will include everyone so all organizations can be involved.

Public Announcements / Comment:

Finance Director Kelly Sterner reported that the first budget meeting is scheduled for 5 pm on February 19, 2020.

Mr. Needleman reported that the Town held their first union negotiation meeting with the administrative staff. The biggest concern for everyone is the significant increase in health care costs.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions None

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Amendment to the Water Pollution Control Authority Ordinance

There was discussion on An Ordinance Repealing all Provisions of Prior Ordinances Establishing the Water Pollution Control Authority as a Separate Commission and Hereby Designating the Board of Selectmen as the Water Pollution Control Authority. A copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve and add the Amendment to the Water Pollution Control Authority Ordinance to a Public Hearing and a Special Town Meeting for the Legislative Body's approval. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Schedule Public Hearing

Norman Needleman will hold a public hearing to answer any questions on the Ordinance.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to set a Public hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 immediately following the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

EDC – Essex Village Downtown Quick Build

The Selectmen decided to discuss this further at the February 19 meeting.

Centerbrook Streetlights

There was discussion that during the installation of the new sidewalks in Centerbrook new lighting was also installed and the lights have not been turned back on. Mr. Needleman reported that the streetlights in Centerbrook will be turned back on within the next two weeks.

OPM Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant Options 2020

The Selectmen reported the State Bond Commission approved \$15 million in STEAP funds. The application is anticipated to open during the month of January. The project that is being seriously considered is the installation of a new sidewalk along River Road.

Bridge Quote – River Road Cost Estimates

The Selectmen discussed costs associated with rehabilitation of Bridge No. 04663 on River Road over Falls River in Essex. There was discussion on the different options of repair. One was closing one lane and having a traffic light or closing the bridge down completely for approximately 6 months or buying an Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) which can replace a bridge within 48 to 72 hours once constructed.

MIRA – Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority – South Meadows Redevelopment Survey

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MIRA is seeking to gauge the Town's interest in participating in the project to redevelop the South Meadows waste-to-energy and recycling facilities, which are in-state. The project is to update and overhaul the facility which would make it more advanced and efficient. To refurbish is less costly than construction of a new facility.

MIRA would like an answer to some questions on redevelopment of their South Meadows waste-to-energy and recycling facilities. The Selectmen discussed the concept of Waste Reduction and Aerobic digestion, which is a process in a sewage treatment designed to reduce the volume of sewage sludge and make it suitable for subsequent use. The Selectmen agree that trash to energy is the most efficient way to dispose of garbage. MIRA is asking if the Town would support the redevelopment and if the Town is interested in participating in this project. Bruce Glowac and Stacia Libby will work on the response to MIRA's questions on the Non-Binding Information Statement of Interest.

Equalized Mill Rate FY 2018

Finance Director Kelly Sterner presented to the Selectmen the latest version of the Municipal Fiscal Indicator. The Town of Essex ranked 152 out of 169 Towns, which is an improvement from 147 to 152. Hartford is ranked 1 and Greenwich is ranked at 169.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli