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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2022**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting via Zoom.

In attendance: First Selectman Norman M. Needleman, Selectman Stacia R. Libby, and Selectman Bruce M. Glowac.

Others in attendance: Jeff Going, Finance Director Tracey Celentano, Kelly Sterner, and Aaron Rubin.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Essex Veterans Memorial Hall sent a thank you letter to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for the financial support from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Essex Ambulance Association sent a thank you letter to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for the financial support from the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

Selectman Needleman reported that the Town has received a lot of positive phone calls regarding public works and the great work they are doing and today Public Works Director Ryan Welch attended a pre-construction meeting in the DOT District II Construction conference room in Norwich to review the details of the VIP pavement milling and resurfacing on Service Route 602 (Main Street/Warsaw Street) in Essex.

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Committee:

The Committee is Bruce Glowac, Kelly Sterner, and Tracey Celentano. The focus will be the bridge and sidewalks on River Road. There was discussion of another project would be to build a second

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floor on top of the Police Department at the Essex Town Hall. The first meeting would include the Town Engineer Bob Doane and will be scheduled on August 30th at 10:30 am.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Open Town Board and Commission positions can be found at https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/uploads/boards_and_commissions_website_30.pdf

The application to join a Board or Commission can be found at: https://www.essexct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3116/f/file/application_to_volunteer_for_board_or_commission_fillable_4_13_18.pdf

The following are Board and Commission openings:

- Conservation Commission – Regular Member
- Conservation Commission – Alternate Member
- Park and Recreation Commission –2 Alternate Members

Norman Needleman reported the following First Selectman appointment of Caroline Fountain as the Assistant Animal Control Officer effective August 15, 2022.

Sinking Fund Request – Revaluation

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$100,000.00 for the 2023 Revaluation Project. Said sum to be taken from the Revaluation Sinking Fund. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

American Rescue Plan Funds:

The Finance Director presented to the Board of Selectmen the summary list of projects to date along with the remaining balance \$415,579.

There was discussion of improving the sound quality in the Town Hall Auditorium and doing some minor technology upgrades to the auditorium with cameras that would be mounted at the back of the room to catch the presenters as well as cameras at the front of the room to capture the audience. The Town is also investigating ways to improve the acoustics in this large room. The Selectmen decided to table this until the next Selectmen's meeting.

There was discussion regarding the \$30,000 in ARPA funds that were approved for Thatchbed Island. There were concerns the costs may exceed these funds. But Jeff Going was present and assured everyone that if DEEP makes their decision without imposing any additional expenses, we could wrap up the permit and remove the rocks within budget.

Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting None

Public Comment / Announcements: None

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SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Outdoor Entertainment – Scotch Plains

The Selectmen discussed the continued complaints regarding the loud noises emanating from Scotch Plains, and in some instances the complaints are coming in extremely late in the evening, especially on the weekends. The calls are coming in from multiple people. The Selectmen are aware that a letter was sent from the Enforcement Officer stating the live Outdoor Entertainment is not a permitted use. The Selectmen requested that another letter be sent reminding Scotch Plains that no outdoor entertainment is allowed. The Selectmen also discussed that if there are no improvements, then a third letter would be sent stating that future violations would result in a cease and desist.

Request for Additional Sidewalks

There was discussion regarding a request from a resident to add sidewalk from Gates Road down to South Cove Lane.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli