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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
July 15, 2015**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

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 Stacia Libby to approve the July 1st Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence:

Gas Main Installation

Mr. Needleman reported on the proposed plans to expand and install a Southern Connecticut Gas main on Main Street, Westbrook Road, and Deep River Road in Essex.

Eversource / Northeast Utilities – Price Decrease

Electricity prices are dropping and may decrease from the current 12.42 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 8.25 cents, a 20% savings. These new rates would be in effect from July 1 to December 31

Building Department Revenue for June and the Fiscal Year Totals

In June the building department took in 50 permits, including tent permits. There has been a lot of rehabilitation work and new homes. Revenue is significantly higher than it has been in years.

Property at 124 Westbrook Road, formerly Oliver's Restaurant

The property was sold and transferred today to Cogent Holdings LLC, which is good news. But still no word on what the property will be used for, but hopes are for a new restaurant.

Public Announcements / Comment:

Sister Cities Essex Haiti

Jennifer Grant presented to the Selectmen update on Sister Cities. Since the earthquake, Haiti is doing quite well. The library is near completion and just about to open. There is a tennis project going on and if children do well with this sport, there is more possibility for them. There is also an English class and music programs. They are going to do five workshops to talk about the history of Haiti, literature, art, and birds of Essex and Haiti.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Building Committee Report:

Bruce Glowac reported that the Essex Elementary school project is on schedule. More crews may need to be brought in to make sure the project gets done by the start of school. CREC is doing a terrific job and the project is going very well. The building committee is coordinating the Town Hall roof and the Public Works building. Bids went out and are due Monday July 20th. It is anticipated that both roofs will be done in the fall. The committee is looking at a fire alarm system installation at Town Hall and replacing the heating system at the public works garage before winter.

Main Street Investment Fund - Ivoryton Grant

Norman Needleman reported that Ivoryton is still under construction but almost completed. The landscaping was started today and the area looks really nice. Everything is positive, except for the amount of time it has taken. There was additional drainage needed on the project. There was discussion on holding a ribbon cutting ceremony when completed in September or October.

Amended and Restated Ordinance Creating a Park and Recreation Commission- tabled until September. There was discussion on the Park & Recreation Commission and their responsibilities. The Selectmen decided to invite the Chairman to the September Board of Selectmen Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Department Sinking Fund Request

Mr. Needleman reported the fire department was required to update and replace their SCBA air bottles. Fire Chief Paul Fazzino worked with the Town of Guilford in combining the purchase of the air tanks in order to have a significant cost savings.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00 for the purchase of new SCBA air bottles. Said sum to be taken from the Fire Department Sinking Fund. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Ethics Board – Appointment of an Ethics Review Committee

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to enter Ethics Board. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

The Board of Selectmen, acting as the Ethics Board under the Ordinance, appointed Attorney David Royston as the Ethic Review Committee effective August 15th, 2015.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit Ethics Board. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Resolution – State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Signatory Authorization Resolution (attached) to accompany the Resident Trooper Contract. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The First Selectman appointed Augie Pampel as the Essex Tree Warden for a one-year term to become effective July 16, 2015 through July 16, 2016.

The First Selectman appointed Mary Ellen Barnes as the Municipal Agent for a two-year term to become effective August 1, 2015 through August 1, 2017.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 4:55 pm in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Essex Elementary School Fuel Conversion and Town Hall Window Replacement – Funding Method

These two items were completed during fiscal year 2014 – 2015. Kelly Sterner reported that each of the projects had funding appropriations and had been included for funding through the General Obligation bond that had been approved last December at referendum. With the work complete, it is necessary to determine which of the funding methods would be used. The Essex Elementary School Fuel Conversion cost was \$110,000 and the Town Hall Window Replacement estimated cost was \$115,000

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to use the appropriated bond financing as the funding source for the Essex Elementary School Fuel Conversion and the Town Hall Windows projects. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Ivory Street Bridge Design

Norman tabled this item until the next meeting.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes – Essex Land Trust

The Essex Land Trust requested approval from the Selectmen for abatement for the real estate taxes currently due on the following properties.

Great Meadow Road	293.02
63 North Main Street	1,340.7
Park Road	265.4
Park Road	43.21
Baldwin Lane	31.83
16 Read Hill Road	512.68
18 Read Hill Road	512.68
Ingham Hill Road	1,508.48
Ingham Hill Road	1311.6
Windsor Lane	333.06
Windsor Lane	575.48
Ingham Hill Road	682.78
	\$7,410.92

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to abate the Essex Land Trust taxes in the amount of \$7,410.92 for the above parcels of land. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

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Summer Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to cancel the August 19, 2015 Board of Selectmen meeting. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment / Announcements: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Blight Ordinance

Norman Needleman discussed uninhabited and abandoned homes in Essex that are getting progressively worse and the need to possibly revisit a blight ordinance for the Town.

There was discussion on a mitigation grant possibility. There was discussion on the recurring problem on Pratt & Ferry and the flooding issues and the possibility of raising the whole road.

There was discussion on the article in the newspaper regarding Essex being dubbed the new Hamptons. Link is:

<http://www.essexct.gov/home/news/essex-hailed-as-part-of-the-new-hamptons-by-the-new-york-post>

Valley Shore Emergency Communications (VSECI) is submitting a grant for a UHF Simulcast System which would provide a master system for dispatch and coordination of emergencies and integrate the local efforts together under one synchronized system.

Emergency Management

There was discussion on Emergency Management and the bandwidth used in the Emergency Operations Office. There was also a discussion on the communication drills that happen every Monday night in the EOC office with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) regionally.

Safe Routes to School

There was discussion on the Safe Routes to School project which was applied for back in July 2009 was finally approved. This project was to improve both the physical travel and environment and the community and institutional view of the pedestrian and bicycle travel to Essex Elementary School. The Town will have to pay for the engineering. The construction cost will be approximately \$450,000.

There was discussion on the failed acquisition of the Pratt property adjacent to the Town Hall and what could have been a great addition to the Essex Town Hall, both for space and for the open space. It was a missed opportunity.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli



Selectmens' Office

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Board of Selectmen:

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Stacia R. Libby

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Signatory Authorizing Resolution

I, Joel Marzi, the duly qualified and Town Clerk of the Town of Essex, a municipality organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby certify that the following is a full and true copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Essex, duly held on the 15th of July, 2015, and is on file and of record, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

Resolved that Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman is authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Essex with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of the State Police for the services of (1) Resident State Trooper for the period of July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Town of Essex this 16th day of July, A.D. 2015.


Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

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