

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
January 3, 2018**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. 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 Norman Needleman to approve the Agenda. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the December 20 Meeting Minutes. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence: None

Public Announcements / Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Capital Committee: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the resignation of David Gephard from the Essex Housing Authority with gratitude for his service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

The position is to be filled by an Essex Court resident and is a First Selectman appointment. An appointment will be made once Essex Housing Authority approves and recommends someone.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to appoint Daniel Needleman as an alternate to the Park and Recreation Commission. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried. This appointment requires a Town Meeting.

Proposed Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve and add the Proposed Ordinance Providing Tax Relief for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses 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. (Copy of proposed Ordinance is on file with the Town Clerk's Office).

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Harbor Patrol Police Boat

During a recent storm, the Harbor Patrol Police Boat was damaged and sank. The boat sustained excessive damage and the hull was determined to be damp and irreparable and the boat was determined to be a total loss. The Town is working with our insurance carrier on the claim.

The Town received a proposal on a new police boat and the Town would like to purchase the boat to replace the damaged boat.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$125,000.00 for the replacement police boat. Said sum to be taken from the Patrol Boat Sinking Fund. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Hearing

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 6:45 pm in Conference Room A to hear any and all persons who wish to be heard in regard to the Ordinance Providing Tax Relief For Elderly or Disabled Homeowners and Gold Star Parents and Spouses (Copy of said Ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's office). Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 6:50 pm in Conference Room A. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Job Descriptions

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to table job descriptions. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Public Comment:

Finance Director Kelly Sterner reported the Town's audit was completed and filed with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Electronic copies of the audit are available on the Town website under the Finance Department.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Limited Ice and Snow Removal Ordinance

There was discussion on snow removal from sidewalks. There are approximately nine (9) miles of sidewalks in Town and many sidewalks are not being cleared of snow after a storm. Historically clearing of sidewalks has been the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Needleman stated that snow left on the sidewalks is a safety concern. Tonight there was further discussion and a comparison was done to other Towns on how they handle sidewalk snow removal. There was discussion that there is a noticeable increase of Essex residents walking along these new sidewalks. The selectmen unanimously agreed that safety on the sidewalks is priority and there was discussion on the possibility of the Town purchasing a piece of equipment to help clear snow from sidewalks.

Bobcat Quote

There was discussion on the purchase of a small general purpose snow blower that has a cab enclosure that could do sidewalks.

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Election vs. Appointment Town Employees

There was discussion on the pros and cons of converting some of the Town's elected positions into appointed positions. Some of the Town elected positions requires training and certifications and these positions should be treated as professional positions, like the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector. The Town cannot afford the risk of not having a qualified professional filling a position.

Combining Planning and Zoning Commission

There was discussion on the pros and cons of combining the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Terms of First Selectmen and Board of Selection from 2 years to 4 years in 2021

There was discussion of setting and holding a public discussion for the consideration of changing Board of Selectmen terms of office. This discussion would be an opportunity to obtain the opinion of the public. There was discussion that as a Selectman, it feels like you spend a year doing the job, then the second year campaigning.

Assessor, Full Time Amendment Ordinance

In 1969 The Town voted and adopted an ordinance that the Assessor is under the supervision of the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen for a period of time as may be deemed proper by said boards. There was discussion that the Assessor reports to the First Selectman, not the Board of Selectmen nor the Board of Finance. The Selectmen requested the Town Attorney draft up an Amendment to repeal or change this Ordinance.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli