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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
January 4, 2012**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Agenda. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to approve the December 21, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: None

Public Announcements: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

The Town Clerk, Fran Nolin, introduced Glen Holmes a student from Valley Regional High School student who will be working as an intern at the Town Hall. Mr. Holmes will be attending the January 18th budget workshop starting at 5 p.m. and he will be at the town hall starting at 1 p.m. when his school schedule allows. He will be spending time in the assessor's office, the land use office, and the tax collector's office. He will also attend various other boards and commission meetings. Mr. Holmes will be getting credit for this. Mr. Needleman welcomed Glenn Holmes and stated that we appreciate it when young people get involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Emergency Management Improvements Phase 3

Mr. Needleman reported on the Emergency Management Phase 3 List. The updated total cost for Emergency Management Operations Improvement is \$132,857.58 which is down from the original number of \$234,461.17 which was originally estimated. Mr. Needleman reported that the drop in cost is due to the reduction in cost of the generator at dump. The current estimate is \$15,000. Phase 3 contains a request for more signage, upgrades in the kitchen in the town hall in case we need to function out of this building for a certain amount of time, deluxe swing signs, additional sandwich boards.

Other items include First Responder UHF radios for ambulance, the fire department, and the police and 25 additional portables, a white board which would be used to project items

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on the screen to keep information going back and forth to CL&P and in order to keep all information current.

The ham radios are very old and outdated and need to be upgraded. Additional road blockage signs were requested to use throughout town alerting residents of downed trees. We also need cots, blankets, and hygiene kits. There was discussion regarding security cameras because during Tropical Storm Irene, the town hall doors were locked and there was no way to know who was coming in or when someone was at the door. There was discussion about possibly installing a buzzer system. Mr. Needleman stated that in many public buildings there are cameras being installed as preventative measures and for liability issues and vandalism.

There was discussion regarding the power required in a generator in order to operate the pusher equipment at the dump. Mr. Needleman stated that he would like to talk to his engineer regarding the surge of power needed to getting the pusher at the dump to work to push the garbage. It is believed that a powerful generator is needed for this purpose. Mr. Buckridge believed the cost is over \$25,000 for this type of generator. Mr. Needleman stated that when garbage bags are thrown into the compactor, every 4 or 5 hours or so, the compactor pushes the garbage. But when there is no power, there is no way to compact the garbage. This was a huge problem during Tropical Storm Irene when the rotted food started to come in, there was no way to keep up it and there was a necessity for the compactor to work.

Mr. Marzi inquired if it was a hydraulic system and if another town had a generator system that backs up a dump. No one knew at this time of a town that did.

Mr. Marzi suggested presenting the Phase 3 list to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Needleman reported that Phase 2 will be presented at a public hearing at 6:30 this evening and then it will go to a Town Meeting at 7:30.

Mr. Needleman stated that the Selectmen would table this agenda item to the next meeting. Mr. Needleman stated he would present the list to the Board of Finance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set Town Meeting:

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. for the purpose of consenting and approving appointments. Norman Needleman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

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SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

CRRA - Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority

There was discussion regarding a rather heated negotiation at the moment with CRRA. Ms. Susan Malan is working on this and she is doing a terrific job.

CRRA has their trash recycle center at Dump Road in Essex. They are collecting for 10 towns and we have an agreement with them that is coming up for renewal. Our obligation to participate with CRRA is over. CRRA representatives came to a Selectmen's meeting a few months ago to talk about the benefits of signing back up with them. We also have a lease until 2015 for their collection site. We need to decide whether we want them to be the carrier for our waste. We can contract with other haulers, if we so decide. CRRA is working hard at getting towns to sign back up with them. Ms. Malan has been digging through the old files. We are in the negotiation phase.

Mr. Marzi inquired if the signing of a new contract would be required to go to town meeting. Mr. Needleman responded that he didn't believe so. Mr. Marzi requested that the Board of Selectmen thoroughly review the contract before signing.

Budget Process

There was discussion on this year's new budget process and the steps can be found online on the Essex web site.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:46 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli