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

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the March 7, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to approve the March 7, 2012 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the March 21, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to approve the March 22, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence:

Essex Meadows

Mr. Needleman reported that the March 21, 2012 Regular Meeting was held at Essex Meadows and he would like to continue to meet there periodically.

Email Regarding Bifurcated Budget

Mr. Bruce MacMillian sent an email requesting the Board of Selectmen to bifurcate the budget into two parts when presenting them for town approval. The email was read into the record.

Public Announcements:

Bifurcated Budget

Mr. MacMillan stated the current Board of Selectmen have done a terrific job on the budget, also in creating a great way for public comment during the workshops. The Town Budget is 1/3 of the whole budget, he strongly recommends that we split the budget. He would also like the approval process done in a referendum. He stated that he does not believe it costs \$4,000 for a referendum. Mrs. Frances D. Nolin stated that everyone working at a referendum gets paid, there are ballot printing costs. Mr. Marzi suggested using paper ballots instead of raising hands. Mr. Marzi wanted to know, of the 39 towns, how many are governed by charter or statute and asked if Mr. MacMillian could forward those findings to him. Mr. Marzi stated that he believed the Board of Finance has entire authority over

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the budget. Mr. Needleman reported on the Citizen's Guide that presents information on the budget process. Mr. Needleman also stated that he is looking for ways to economize.

Mr. Needleman stated that he is not in favor of splitting the budget and is not sure if the Selectmen have any say in whether the budget can be split. It may be a Board of Finance decision and the Town Attorney will advise. Mr. Needleman stated that Attorney Royston had mentioned separation of a vote in his letter of March 12, 2009, Norman read into the record the following:

2. Separation of a vote on the General Government Budget and the Essex Elementary School Budget.

Connecticut General Statutes §7-7 only provides for a "Yes" or "No" vote on the item or items on the referendum Call. I am unaware of any provision which would prohibit the separation of the two items on the call of the Town Meeting. However, since the vote is for only a single budget, both questions would need to have an affirmative "Yes" vote in order for the budget to pass. In other words, a "No" vote on either question would require another Town Meeting on the entire budget. The budget which receives a "Yes" vote would not be deemed to have passed, and would be subject to a revote at a subsequent Town Meeting. Any subsequent Town Meeting would go through the same procedures in order for a referendum to be held.

Tree Shredding on Route 9

There was discussion regarding the shredding of trees along Route 9 and the debris left along the side of the road. Mr. MacMillan suggested writing a letter to the State. Susan Malan stated she wrote a letter to Phil Miller, State Representative, and his response was that it was a Federal Mandate to trim back the evacuation route, which is Route 9. The tree removal was the first pass and a further clean-up will be the second pass.

Mr. Needleman stated that the Town of Essex had several unsightly trees down in people's yards. The Public Works Department can only remove Town owned trees. They cannot clear trees or debris from private property. Mr. Needleman stated that he would write a letter to inquire as to the schedule for clean-up along Route 9.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency ("CRERPA") Representative

Mr. Needleman reported he has appointed Frank Hall as a CRERPA representative for a 2 year term.

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Clerk

Frances D. Nolin, reported on intern, Glenn Holmes, his internship ends on April 8th. Mrs. Nolin stated that Glenn has done a great job, and recommended the town continue to participate in the intern program. Mrs. Nolin stated that the Secretary of State is offering a first time scholarship, she has nominated Glenn.

Glenn Holmes stated that he has learned a lot about the Town and this Town Hall is full of people who love the Town of Essex. He thanked Mary Hambor who runs the internship program. Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent, and Ian Neviasser, Assistant Superintendent as well as his parents, Also, all the Boards and Commissions, and Department Heads who participated.

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Mr. Needleman stated that the internship is terrific and thanked Mrs. Nolin and stated that this was a terrific idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subdivision Rosewood Lane

Attorney Stephen R. Cline presented on behalf of Greg and Anne Peterson, who have an application pending with the Planning Commission for the subdivision of their property off Rosewood Lane, Ivoryton. Attorney Cline is looking for possible solutions including an access easement over Town property for both Mr. Peterson and the owner of Lot 25.

There was discussion on the parcel of land that is owned by the Town of Essex. The Selectmen need to decide on whether to make a conveyance of this property, grant easements, or say no to the request, or lease it.

Mr. Neil Nichols stated the town never accepted this parcel as a road. The parcel is approximately 20 feet wide and 100 feet long. The assessors map shows it as Peterson's land. Mr. Marzi asked if Mr. Peterson could look at his deed and determine if he owns it. Attorney Cline stated that both Bob Doane and Attorney Royston show the parcel owned by the town. Mr. Marzi stated that the Planning & Zoning minutes may reflect what happened here. Mr. Needleman stated to table this item to the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Central Corridor Rail Passenger Service

Mr. Blake Lamothe is looking for support to reinstate passenger service from Brattleboro, Vermont to New London, Connecticut along the New England Rail line. The approval of a resolution is about the ability to take the train from Palmer, Massachusetts to Vermont and New London, Connecticut. The Selectmen decided to table this item for further discussion at their next meeting.

Park & Recreation Sinking Fund Request

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to recommend to the Board of Finance to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$1,000 for the purpose of new surfacing to the Hubbard Park batting cage. Said sum to be taken from the Park and Recreation Sinking Fund. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

Mr. Needleman stated this will be discussed at the Public Hearing tonight at 6:30 p.m.

Tree Committee Sinking Fund Ordinance

Mr. Needleman discussed with the Selectmen the Tree Committee Sinking Fund Ordinance. There are two choices, to amend the current ordinance, or to repeal the ordinance and create a new one.

Mr. Needleman stated that under the current Sinking Fund process, donated funds are made accessible for projects at the recommendation of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to the Board of Finance (BOF), which then must go back to the BOS for a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Needleman stated setting a Town Meeting doesn't make a lot of sense, this should be researched and tabled for future discussion.

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Set Town Meeting:

The Board of Finance at their March 22nd, 2012 meeting recommended to a Town Meeting an appropriation not to exceed \$109,711.81 from the Elementary School Capital Improvements Sinking Fund.

Mr. Needleman stated the Towns need to vote to form the Connecticut Council of Government. Mr. Needleman recommended a Town Meeting to approve this resolution.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, April 18th 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Stacia seconded the motion. Joel Marzi opposed. Motion carried.

Traffic Authority

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to enter Traffic Authority. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Main Street Speed Limit Sign

Mr. Needleman discussed the possibility of posting and placing a 15 mph speed limit sign at the top of Main Street, Essex. It is currently down by the post office. Mr. Nichols suggested placement of the sign between Village Provisions and the art gallery. Mr. MacMillian also suggested painting the speed limit onto the road right at the circle.

Mr. Needleman would like Dave Caroline and Kerry Taylor to look at the sign placement as well as west are in front of Town Hall. They would like their recommendation by the next BOS meeting.

Mrs. Nolin requested that Traffic Authority take a look at the corner of Grove Street & West Avenue where the stop sign is on the wrong side of the road. Susan Malan asked if the Cross Walks could be painted. Mr. Needleman stated these two requests should also go to the Director of Public Works for his review and recommendations for the next Selectmen's meeting.

Traffic Calming Program – Traffic Options Promoting Public Safety (T.O.P.P.S.)

Mr. Needleman reported that a new sub-committee was being formed and there was a request to appoint someone from Traffic Authority to be on the Committee as well as the Director of Public Works. Mr. Needleman tabled this appointment until the next meeting.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to exit Traffic Authority. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Needleman reported that the Emergency Management Operations Center is just about complete.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli