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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
April 6, 2011
Meeting Room A**

Present: Philip J. Miller, First Selectman
Joel B. Marzi, Selectman
Norman M. Needleman, Selectman

Mr. Miller stated that Board of Selectmen meetings are not meetings of the public, but a meeting of the selectmen. Mr. Miller stated that he would not like tonight's meeting to be a disruptive meeting. Mr. Miller reported that the Viney Brook beaver issue is not on the agenda tonight and that he has received several informative emails and suggestions and he has passed them onto the conservation commission. Mr. Miller stated that we are not the only town with beaver management issues.

Philip Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the Agenda. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Philip Miller to approve the March 16, 2011 Meeting Minutes with the changes below. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Communications and Correspondence:

1st paragraph, last sentence should read *Mr. Miller stated that Grove Street is a neighborhood that people are using as a cut-through, the posted speed limit is 25 mph.*

1st paragraph – first sentence should read *...reported receiving five pieces of correspondence from residents, four were Grove Street residents and one other Essex resident who are very....*

2nd paragraph: added to the last sentence - *Mr. Miller stated he would be issuing a press release about heightened enforcement in Essex and in and around Grove, North Main and West Avenue.*

3rd paragraph: last sentence: take out *..."and it was determined that speed bumps were not feasible"*

First Public Comment:

1st sentence – should read: *A member of the audience asked about installing speed bumps on Grove Street, Susan Malan stated that she had information that not only were speed bumps found to be ineffective but more importantly that they could potentially cause damage to the historic homes on Grove Street.*

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Communications and Correspondence: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Carol Richmond discussed with the Selectmen the beaver trapping situation at Viney Brook Park and the status. Discussion followed.

Mr. Needleman stated that the Conservation Commission has two (2) vacancies on their commission and if anyone who has had an interest in this situation or working on the Conservation Commission should contact the registrar's office for more information.

Mr. Paul Goodwin read his version of the March 16, 2011 Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. John Orr presented a letter of complaint received by Department of Public Safety Division of the State Police.

Mr. Jim Rawn presented each Selectman a donor package to obtain their support in raising funds for the basketball court. They are asking for everyone's support.

Mr. Philip Beckman reported that he was planning for the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Gateway and URL suggestion. Mr. Anthony Chirico presented to the Selectmen information on the Standards of the Connecticut River Gateway Commission.

Mr. Miller reported that Essex was selected for U.S. EPA Assistance with Zoning Code Reviews.

Mr. Neil Nichols' stated that there is a sustainability supplement, a long version in the zoning office.

Mr. Miller reported that tomorrow night the Connecticut River Museum is having a forum, and the museum grounds are being commemorated as battlefield grounds. Mr. Nichol's stated that Mr. Roberts and his organization are looking at an area up to and including the Griswold Inn. It will add to the historic areas of the town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Set Special Town Meeting

Motion was made by Philip Miller to set a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, April 20, 2010 at 6:45 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

To act and consider the following:

The Septic Lagoon Sinking Fund be closed and the balance of \$38,408.88 be transferred into the General Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

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The Landfill Sinking Fund be closed and the balance of \$12,488.43 be transferred into the General Fund as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

To transfer a sum not to exceed \$41,911.30 to fund the public works contracted / seasonal payroll overage. Said sum to be taken from the Board of Finance Contingency budget line as recommended and approved by the Board of Finance.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Sinking Fund Request – Essex Tree Committee

Motion was made by Philip Miller to recommend to the Board of Finance to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$2,627.03 for the purpose of additional plantings. Said sum to be taken from the Essex Tree Committee Sinking Fund. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Review of Town of Essex Retirement Plan

Mrs. Kelly Sterner reported that the Town of Essex Retirement Plan document is red lined throughout and the biggest changes are in the compensation areas. She would like to meet and discuss the changes with the selectmen. There are a lot of gray areas in the plan. Mrs. Sterner requested that the Selectmen review the plans and that this item be placed on the April 20th agenda.

Department of Public Safety Town Resolution - Connecticut State Police Contract - Resolution for Contract Execution:

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve the following resolution. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

RESOLVED: That Philip J. Miller, the First Selectman of the Town of Essex, be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Essex with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of one Resident State Trooper for the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

Building Fee Permit Waiver Request – Bushnell Park

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to waive the Bushnell Park deck and drainage work building permit fees. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Chevy Surplus Truck

Mr. Miller reported that the public works 1985 Chevy K-350 truck is not working.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to authorize the Department of Public Works to sell the 1985 four wheel drive Chevrolet Truck. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

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Neighborhood Assistance Act - Schedule Public Hearing

Philip Miller reported that the Company of Fifers and Drummers is submitting an application under the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services, Neighborhood Assistance Act. The process requires that the Town hold a Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to schedule a Public Hearing for Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A for the Company of Fifers and Drummers Neighborhood Assistance Act Application. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

Motion was made by Philip Miller to accept the resignation of Hope Proctor from the Zoning Commission with regret. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to reappoint Wini Olson to the Regional Mental Health Board for a two-year term beginning June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2013. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to enter Traffic Authority. Philip Miller seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Miller presented a proposal from Mr. Scott Johnson regarding a parking issue on Book Hill Road / Canfield Road. Mr. Johnson stated he has a difficult parking situation. He is looking for additional parking spaces. He wanted to purchase the town owned property. Mr. Miller stated that he and Mr. Budrow are working together and will research this.

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to exit Traffic Authority. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

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Public Comment:

Mrs. Phoenix inquired about the library budget. She would like a break out of how they use their money and how it is allocated. Mr. Miller said to contact his office for a copy.

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Miller reported that we work under the rules of Freedom of Information Act ("FOI"). Under the FOIA, minutes are not transcripts nor are they to be verbatim. Minutes are basically a brief snap shot of what took place and should include items that are voted on.

Mr. Needleman stated that the town clerk's minutes are just the motion and the vote. Minutes should include who spoke, the topic, and the vote. The meeting recordings are available upon written request and for a fee of \$1 for the CD. Recordings are held onto for 6 months from the date they are approved.

Mr. Needleman stated that he feels strongly that he would not want to record the meetings any more. Mr. Marzi stated that he would vote to keep recording the minutes, it protects the town and he likes the insurance.

Motion was made by Philip Miller to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:55 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Lucarelli