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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 2012**

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

Norman Needleman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Agenda adding item 8J and 8K. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the June 6, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes with one correction on page 2 under Boards and Commissions that the Motion was made by Norman Needleman. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence:

Mr. Needleman reported the Essex Fire Engine Company will be using the \$5,000 Emergency Contingency Fund for replacement of a radiator on the 1994 Sutphen Ladder Truck.

Public Announcements: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Needleman reported negotiations on the agreement with Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRRA) will include compensation for past money owed and will include a new lease on the transfer station.

Mr. Walter Schieferdecker inquired as to what the financial compensation will be for the Town. Mr. Needleman stated there is going to be compensation of 20% of what the property tax would have been going back to 1982. In addition, the Town host agreement will be .54 cents per ton for all tonnage that passes through the transfer station.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resubdivision Rosewood Lane

Mr. Needleman tabled this until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revaluation Contract

Mr. Needleman reported the town recently went out to bid because the Town is due for a revaluation in 2013, there were 3 bids. The Assessor, Jessica Sypher, made the recommendation to stay with Vision Government Solutions for \$139,800. The proposal comes out to be an average of \$42 per property.

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Motion was made by Norman Needleman to award the contract to Vision Government Solutions. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to recommend to the Board of Finance to appropriate a sum not to exceed \$140,000 for the purpose of revaluation. Said sum to be taken from the Revaluation Sinking Fund. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Essex Fire Department

Fire Chief, Steven Olsen is requesting funding for up to \$10,000 for a hose winder attachment for the fire trucks. The system will use less fire-fighters to load the hose, and this system would also prevent injury and could work on multiple trucks. The system costs about \$7,000 plus the brackets and electrical equipment.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to recommend to the Board of Finance a Special Appropriation of \$10,000 for a winder attachment system. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Merit Service Pension Multiplier

Members of the Essex Volunteer Fire Engine Company No. 1 are requesting an increase in the dollar multiplier for the Merit Service Retirement Plan. The amount approved is currently \$15 a month for a maximum of \$450. This amount has not been adjusted since 1992.

Mr. Ethan Goller, representative of the Fire Department, did a brief analysis. Mr. Goller stated the plan was instituted in 1992 and they are thankful for the benefit. Currently the plan has a benefit of a \$15 multiplier after 10 years when you become vested. He compared the plan to Westbrook and Killingworth. His comparison shows vesture is immediate in other towns. His request is to move to \$16.50 multiplier. The request would not be retroactive but going forward from the time it was approved. The change would be an additional \$50 per month for a retiree.

Mr. Needleman inquired if any actuarial findings were done on this. Finance Director, Ms. Sterner stated not at this time. Mr. Needleman requested this to be tabled and to have the Retirement Committee give us a financial impact report. Mr. Needleman stated that he wanted the actuary numbers based on the increase being recommended based on current census and only going forward. There are approximately 10 people that are close to retirement. There was discussion that this benefit is a good incentive. Mr. Needleman tabled this item until the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Land Use Issues

Mr. Needleman reported on land use issues on Mack Lane and Hemlock Drive. The issues are not currently presenting an immediate problem, but are under negotiations with all parties involved. The legal agreements will be filed on the land records, there are 4 separate agreements.

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to proceed with these modifications. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

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Appointments and Resignations Boards and Commissions

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to appoint Jim Leo as an alternate member to the Inland Wetland Commission.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to appoint Fred Hitchcock as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Set Public Hearing

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to set a Public Hearing for Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of the Retirement Plan. Norman Needleman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Joel Marzi to set a Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, June 18th, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. for the purpose of the Retirement Plan and appointments. Norman Needleman seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Resolution – Flexible Spending Account

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Resolution to accompany the Flexible Spending Account (FSA) & Dependent Care (DCA) Plan document. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

July 5 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to cancel the July 5th Board of Selectmen meeting. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Amendment to the Town of Essex Retirement Plan

Mr. Needleman reported that under the current Town pension plan part time employees could earn a pension plan. The Amendment would change that and only full time permanent employee could earn a pension. This change would require a public hearing which has been set for Wednesday July 18th at 6:30 pm and a Town meeting which has been set for Wednesday July 18th at 6:45 pm.

Neighborhood Assistance Act – Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock

Norman Needleman reported that the Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock has submitted an application under the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The Neighborhood Assistance Act is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to these entities. The application process requires a public hearing, which was conducted earlier this evening and approval by the governing body of the municipality.

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act application for the Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

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SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Needleman submitted the list of motions that were made at the last month's Boards and Commission meetings for review.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to go into Executive Session at 7:55 pm for the purpose of discussion on the credited service. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Present: Board of Selectmen Members: Norman M. Needleman, Stacia R. Libby, Joel B. Marzi
Invited Guests: Keith Nolin, Frances Nolin, and Finance Director, Kelly Sterner

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit the Executive Session at 7:58 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to go into Executive Session at 8:03 pm for the purpose of discussion on a Personnel Matter. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Present: Board of Selectmen Members: Norman M. Needleman, Stacia R. Libby, Joel B. Marzi
Invited Guests: Salvatore Bevilacqua and Attorney Doug Hall.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit the Executive Session at 8:31 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Re-open the Regular Meeting:

The regular meeting resumed at 8:32 pm.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to recommend to the Retirement Committee to accept the information as presented and authorize update of credited service with actuary. Joel Marzi seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to deny the Step 3 Grievance. Stacia Libby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Joel Marzi seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Norman M. Needleman