

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
June 16, 2021**

Present: Norman M. Needleman, First Selectman
Stacia R. Libby, Selectman
Bruce M. Glowac, Selectman

Bruce Glowac called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

First Selectman Needleman welcomed everyone to the Board of Selectmen in person and remote public access meeting. This meeting was made available to the public via Zoom Meeting.

In attendance: First Selectman Norman M. Needleman, Selectman Stacia R. Libby, Selectman Bruce R. Glowac

Others in attendance: Kelly Sterner, Tracey Celentano, and Terrance Lomme.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to approve the agenda with three additions under New Business: American Rescue Act, Executive Session – Pending Litigation, Board of Selectmen Meetings. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the May 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

Informational Items, Communications and Correspondence

Public Announcements / Comment:

Terrance Lomme requested to speak to the Board of Selectmen regarding the installation of a sidewalk near Essex Glen located on Bokum Road. There was discussion of whether a sidewalk is required, or not. The installation of a sidewalk would pose some problems, such as the removal of larger trees, the sidewalk would need to cross the road, which is dangerous, then crossing railroad tracks, then another crosswalk would be needed at the end to come back. Then length of the sidewalk is estimated to be a little over a quarter of a mile.

Attorney Lomme also mentioned the hopes that the road leading into Essex Glenn would become a Town road. Mr. Needleman stated that he is aware the road currently is very steep, and the Town is not interested in taking over the road.

Mr. Needleman stated that the confusion is the Planning Commission approved a sidewalk and the Zoning Commission waived it without talking to the Planning Commission. Mr. Needleman reported the Board of Selectmen is not for or against the sidewalks. Mr. Needleman suggested polling the residents that live there as to whether they want the sidewalks, or not. The decision about the sidewalks should really come from the residents that live there and there would need to be a written agreement with the residents as to whether they want or do not want a sidewalk.

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Attorney Lomme reported there are 26 units, 17 have been sold and 4 are under contract.

Mr. Needleman stated that he would also need to review the condominium declaration that is on file.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments and Resignations Board and Commissions

The First Selectman appointed Augie Pampel as the Essex Tree Warden for a one-year term to become effective July 16, 2021, through July 16, 2022.

The following are current board and commission openings:

- Conservation Commission – Alternate Member
- Economic Development Commission – Regular Member
- Park and Recreation Commission – 2 Alternate Members
- Tree Committee – Regular Member

2021 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) None

Indemnify Resolution

In the matter of Evan Blum v. Town of Essex, et al, the Town agrees to indemnify Norman Needleman, John Planas and Dave DeLeeuw as municipal employees pursuant to the General Statutes.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Resolution (copy attached). Stacia Libby seconded the motion, with one abstention. Motion passed.

Schedule Public Hearing None

Set Town Meeting

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to set a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 4:30 pm in Conference Room A. Stacia Libby seconded the motion. All in favor.

July 7, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting Cancellation

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to cancel the July 7, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. All in favor.

July 21, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting Time Change

Motion was made by Stacia Libby to change the July 21, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting from 7:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. All in favor.

Neighborhood Assistance Act

Bruce Glowac reported that they received an application under the State of Connecticut, Department of Revenue Services Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. The Neighborhood

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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 and approval by the governing body of the municipality.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to approve the Neighborhood Assistance Act applications. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Bruce Glowac reported that all Neighborhood Assistance Act applications that are submitted require that the Town hold a Public Hearing.

American Rescue Plan Act

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to accept the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Said funds will be administered by the Town through the Essex Grant Fund (Fund #026). Stacia Libby seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Fire Department Training and Counseling

To consent and approve an appropriation in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to be allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds for the Fire Department for the coaching, training, team building and counseling due to the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Police Cruiser Sinking Fund Request

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$10,000.00 to be allocated from the Police Vehicle Sinking Fund contingent upon eligibility of ARPA Funds, for the purchase of a 2021 Ford Utility Interceptor vehicle and all necessary computer, radio, and lighting equipment. If ARPA Funds are deemed ineligible, an appropriation from the Police Vehicle Sinking funds will be utilized. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Antenna Sinking Fund Request

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to approve and recommend to the Board of Finance the appropriation of a sum not to exceed \$25,000.00 to be allocated from the Municipal Property Sinking Fund contingent upon eligibility of ARPA Funds. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

SELECTMEN GENERAL DISCUSSION:

American Rescue Plan Act

There was discussion of the possibilities and ways to use the funds when they are made available. The guidelines for the funds are still being determined. There was discussion of the possibility of using funds for a new ambulance, air packs for the fire department, a new safety rescue vehicle, soup kitchen, Knox box emergency key box project, Cyber Insurance, helping businesses and non-profits such as the Valley Railroad, RiverCOG, Park and Recreation Summer Camp, etc.

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Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW)

The pollution insurance for the HHW facility is getting a new carrier and the new carrier is not offering exactly what was covered before. The original carrier covered retroactive insurance back to 2005. The new carrier will include retroactive insurance, but it will cost \$17,500 annually.

There was discussion of upcoming HHW contract negotiations. The Town of Essex is the host town and there is a host town benefit, but the current benefit is minimal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to go into Executive Session at 8:10 pm for the purpose of discussion of Evans Lane. Bruce Glowac seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Present: Selectmen Members: Norman M. Needleman, Bruce M. Glowac, Stacia R. Libby, and invited guest Selectmen's Assistant Maria P. Lucarelli

Motion was made by Norman Needleman to exit the Executive Session at 8:24 pm. Stacia Libby seconded the motion, it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Re-open the Regular Meeting:

The regular meeting resumed at 8:28 pm.

Motion was made by Bruce Glowac to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Norman Needleman seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria P. Lucarelli



Selectmen's Office

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Board of Selectmen:

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Stacia R. Libby

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Resolution

I, Joel Marzi, the duly qualified and Town Clerk of the Town of Essex, a municipality organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut, do hereby certify that the following is a full and true copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Essex, duly held on the 16th of June, 2021, and is on file and of record, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

Resolved, that in the matter of Blum v. Town of Essex, et al, State Court docket number MX1-MMX-CV-20-6029917-S, the Town of Essex hereby agrees to fully indemnify Norman Needleman, John Planas and David DeLeeuw for any and all damages that may be awarded by way of a plaintiff's verdict should the matter go to trial, including but not limited to, compensatory damages, punitive damages and attorney's fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of the Town of Essex this 17th day of June, A.D. 2021.



Joel Marzi, Town Clerk

