

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

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MINUTES – APPROVED 10-5-2021

In Person

Board of Selectmen Attendance: First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, Selectman Donald Shea, and Selectman Elizabeth Appel.

Also, in attendance: Finance Director Tom Ellis, and Town Counsel Vincent Marino.

Visitors: Sharon Huxley, Michael Sullivan, and Matt Hubbard.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

First Selectman Cofrancesco called for a motion to approve the August 17, 2021. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

First Selectman Cofrancesco called for a motion to approve the September 7, 2021. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – TAX REFUNDS.

First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to approve the Tax Refunds for a total of \$2,388.00. Refunds were made to Acar Leasing, LTD \$516.19, Timothy and Zbigniew Drozd \$39.20, Honda Leasing \$200.97, Toyota Leasing \$1,530.48, Kevin Walsh \$102.16. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION.

First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to add to the agenda: the BETA Group, Inc. – Pavement Management Support Services; and Quinipiack Valley Health District request for donation under the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) Plan. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – BVFD – AMBULANCE/ARPA FUNDS-ACCEPTABLE USE

To speak on behalf of the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department were Michael Sullivan, and Matt Hubbard. The Bethany Volunteer Fire Department in previous meetings have been proposing the replacement of the Emergency Fire Department Ambulance that assists the Town residents and nearby communities during regular and COVID-19 calls for service due to the wear and tear. The Board suggested to bring the proposed request to the Board of Finance's next meeting for discussion. They did present their proposal to the Board of Finance, and at that meeting Mr. Sullivan provided financial sheets providing pricing estimations on a potential increase if the estimated costs are not locked in. Four different vendors' quotes analysis have been provided to give the Board of Selectman a possible range for coverage of the cost under the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) Plan. Mr. Sullivan also presented a list of Equipment needs and costs related to parts that are in dire need for replacement.

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MOTION: First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to move the Bethany Volunteer Fire Department proposed request to replace the ambulance and the equipment under the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) Plan to a Special Town Meeting potentially on October 14th. The Board proposed to cap the cost to be covered under ARPA to not exceed \$350,000.00 for the ambulance, and not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the equipment. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – MEMORIAL BENCH

No action to be taken at this time.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – LEGAL COUNSEL FOR HOPP BROOK/ BEACON FALLS DEVELOPMENT

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board that Attorney Patricia Sullivan would be representing as Town Counsel during the matter between the Town of Beacon Falls and Town of Bethany at their next public hearing next Wednesday.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE UPDATE

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board that the Final Draft of the Affordable Housing Plan has been provided and after further discussion, the Board will be further discussing it with the Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Planner Hiram Peck, and Town Counsel to determine the best course of action for final approval or adoption of the Affordable Housing Plan. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – STATUS OF AIRPORT HANGAR UPDATE (TABLED).

First Selectman Cofrancesco mentioned that the Town is still waiting on having the electricity connected at the hangar. First Selectman Cofrancesco also noted that the Town has been working diligently on organizing the amounts for claims by the donors. A notice will be placed in the Town Bulletin that a letter will be sent out to each donor which will give a 90-day period to submit the claim for the refund of their donations. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – SIMPSON PROPERTY – ON HOLD (IN PROBATE)

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated that John Paul Garcia is to provide a A-2 Survey needed for the grant money approval for Land Acquisition by the Town. Currently the case is still in probate and will take a couple months for the opposing counsel to acquire court approvals, and it is in its final stages.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – TEXTILES RECYCLABLES COLLECTION ON HOLD/NO ACTION NEEDED.

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ITEMS ADDED TO THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – BETA GROUP, INC., & QVHD.

1. First Selectman Cofrancesco mentioned BETA Group, Inc. – Pavement Management Support Services and Selectman Shea discussed that they will be providing a new software not to exceed a specific cost. The software will provide the conditions of the roads and reads the degradation of the roads over time. The fee will also include any necessary training to run the software.

MOTION: First Selectman Cofrancesco asked a motion to authorize her signature for the contracted support services agreement with BETA Group, Inc.; to be paid under the Department of Public Works line. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel.

Unanimous Approval.

2. Quinnipiack Valley Health District has request a donation under the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) Plan. First Selectman Cofrancesco noted that she will be meeting with representatives from QVHD in the next couple of days to get more information regarding this request. The Board discussed the ARPA requirements and decided to bring it back at the next scheduled meeting of October 5, 2021. **NO ACTION TAKEN**

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m. First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Appel moved, seconded by Selectman Shea to adjourn the regular meeting. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel.

Unanimous Approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Lina V. Frazer

Board of Selectmen Meeting Clerk