

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

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## MINUTES – APPROVED 9-21-2021

### 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, Susan Bradford, Michael Sullivan, Steven Kirschbaum, 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 7:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

First Selectman Cofrancesco called for a motion to approve the August 17, 2021. Selectman Shea moved to postponed approval of the minutes to the next scheduled regular meeting of September 21, 2021. Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval. TABLED.**

### DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – TAX REFUNDS.

First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to approve the Tax Refunds for a total of \$314.23: 315 Fairwood LLC \$3.12; Bierzowiec, Christopher P. \$14.53; Fantarella, Dean and Denise \$17.25; Johnson, Grant J. \$42.22; Lubrano, Stephen \$146.70; Randal, Melissa and Mickolyzck, Kevin \$89.81. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – CERTIFICATE REGARDING BEAR HILL ROAD PARTIAL AND LIMITED DISCONTINUANCE.

First Selectman Cofrancesco requested a motion to be authorized to sign on behalf of the Town, the Certificate of Partial and Limited Discontinuance and Reservation of Municipal and Public Rights, Conn. Gen. Stat. §§13a-49 (a)(1) and 13a-141 (b) “confirming that a portion of the public highway known as Bear Hill Road, or parts thereof which are located in the Town of Bethany, beginning at the northerly terminus of the existing cul-de-sac which lies at the end of the paved portion of Bear Hill Road (approximately 130 feet northerly of the center line of Hinman Road)... was discontinued by the Town of Bethany for general motorized vehicular traffic..., excepting, reserving, and protecting the following municipal and public rights and powers from this partial limited discontinuance...by and with approbation of the Town Meeting held on August 18, 2021, and by this writing of the Board of Selectmen.” 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, Steven Kirschbaum, and Matt Hubbard. The Bethany Volunteer Fire Department are 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

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proposed project to the Board of Finance next meeting for discussion. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **TABLED.**

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

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board that there would be a conflict of interest in representing the Town for Town Counsel Vincent Marino, since he also represents the Land Commission for the Town of Beacon Falls. Due to this circumstance, Attorney Marino had advised and recommended Attorney Patricia Sullivan (from Cohen & Wolf) to represent the Town as Legal Counsel during this matter between the Town of Beacon Falls and Town of Bethany.

First Selectman Cofrancesco motioned the Board for approval to sign the retainer for the services of Attorney Sullivan to represent the Town. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – RWS PROPOSAL – CARTS; REVISED COST**

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated to the Board a new proposal that is being brought to the Town from RWS. They want to provide 95gal. rolling carts to each Resident of the Town, which would change the agreement. Town Counsel suggested to table this discussion to review the agreement in place. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval. TABLED.**

## **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 its ready for approvals at a Town Meeting as being advised by Town Counsel. After further discussion, the Board will be further discussing it with the Planning and Zoning Commission and 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 Needed at this time)**

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – STATUS OF AIRPORT HANGAR UPDATE**

First Selectman Cofrancesco mentioned that we are still waiting for Eversource to hook up the connection to the pole. The interior work is being finalized as well. The Board also discussed the course of action on how donations that were received by its committee are to be distributed back to the donors.

**(No Action Needed at this time)**

## **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.

**(No Action Needed at this time)**

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## **DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION – SIMPLE RECYCLING (SOFT RECYCLABLES) ON HOLD.**

First Selectman Cofrancesco communicated that there is another program or company that would like to run a pilot program with the Town and customize the services accordingly. Further discussion is to be presented on this program and possible proposal. The Board suggested to table this item to the next scheduled meeting. Selectman Shea moved and Selectman Appel seconded. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval. TABLED.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:26 p.m. First Selectman Cofrancesco asked for a motion to adjourn. Selectman Appel moved and it was seconded by Selectman Shea to adjourn the regular meeting. Voting: Cofrancesco, Shea, Appel. **Unanimous Approval.**

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Lina V. Frazer  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Clerk*