

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING
TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Mulvey Municipal Center
Multi-Media Room and via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Hall, Selectman Campbell, Selectman Bialicki, Paul Winch, BOF Chairman, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance, Jill Brainerd, Facilities, Pat Marcarelli, COB President, John Palermo, Emergency Management Director, Brain Thomas, Stan Mingione, Old Saybrook Estuary, MS Hospital representatives, Courtney Burks, Senior Center Director, and Heidi Wallace, Environmental Planner and Randy Bell, Conservation Commission.

Mr. Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hall made a motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on funding for repairs to the stone jetty, Conservation Commission intern rate of pay and a Senior Center grant opportunity. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AWARD RTU CONTRACT

Seven bids were received in response to the RFQ for the RTU for the Mulvey Municipal Center. Bids received include controls. The Architect is in the process of reviewing the bids and checking references. There is a 7-month lead-time to order the equipment. The BOS will discuss further discussed at the next BOS meeting.

USE OF ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT) FUNDS – Grant Agencies
ARPA Grant applications, received from Middlesex Hospital (\$14,280), Gilead Community Services (\$16,100), The Connection (\$2,000), The Estuary (\$3,000) and Westbrook Youth and Family Services (\$23,902) were included in the BOS packet. The Westbrook Youth and Family Services request will be discussed further at the 5/25/23 BOS meeting.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, a Middlesex Hospital request for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$14,280 to provide funding for outpatient mental health clinics. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, a Gilead Community Services request for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$16,100 to provide funding to support the Shoreline Community Apartment Program. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, a Connection request for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$2,000 to provide funding for the Eddy Shelter. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, an Estuary request for the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$3,000 to provide funding for additional Social Worker hours. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF OPIOID FUNDS

The Town received, to date, a total of \$24,917.36 from the Opioid Settlement. The BOS appropriated funds for an Awareness Day Speaker (approximately \$1,200) and purchased Narcan (\$2,900). Approximately \$20,000 remains in the Grand Fund. BOS members expressed interest in allocating funds to agencies “on the front line” of the drug epidemic. Ms. Castracane will amend the ARPA Grant application paperwork and forward to appropriate agencies. Mr.

Bialicki will reach out to the presenters on Awareness Day (5/19) relative to these available funds. In addition, a suggestion was made to reach out to the Congregational Church as they host NA and AA meetings.

SALT ISLAND - Low Tide Staffing

Conservation Commission members expressed concern about the Salt Island/high tide issues from last Summer (individuals being stranded on the island at high tide and requiring emergency services). Conservation Commission interns to staff the island during the week in an educational capacity. The Board discussed the possibility of hiring an additional part-time intern and having the interns, on a rotating weekend schedule, staff Salt Island.

The BOS agreed to increase the rate of pay from \$16.00 per hour to \$17.00 per hour for one of the interns (this is his 3rd Summer interning for the Town). This is consistent with the Union contract (note that this individual is not a Union member).

The BOS will discuss Salt Island intern/staffing further at the next BOS meeting.

APPROPRIATION - Police Cameras

The process for purchasing the Police dash and body cameras began in 2021 and the project is now complete. The deficit in the line is due to the timing of the receipt of the funding for the purchase as the money reverted to the Fund Balance prior to being spent.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, an appropriation from Contingency in an amount to exceed \$10,810 to facilitate the total cost of Police body worn and dashboard cameras. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORT - Library Energy Controls

Ms. Brainerd reported that Tucker Mechanical will be upgrading the energy controls at the Library beginning July 1, 2023 (prior contractor was New England Energy). This project was funded via the last fiscal year's Capital.

STONE JETTY TOWN BEACH

Public Works is repairing the seawall at the beach. The \$20,000 needed for this project is available in the Public Works Operating budget due to the mild Winter (minimal snow removal, equipment repairs etc.).

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to transfer and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, \$20,000 from the Public Works Operating Budget to the Public Works Capital Seawall Project.

SENIOR CENTER GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Ms. Burks reported that the Department of Aging and Disability Services was awarded \$10 million in ARPA funds for Senior Centers in Connecticut. The Westbrook Senior Center will be granted \$27,698.00. Ms. Burks proposes to use these funds for a Restorative Therapy Program, VNA Wellness visits and additional Strength and Balance Training classes. A copy of the proposal was included in the BOS packet. When awarded, these monies will fund the programs for 2 years.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to apply for the Department of Aging and Disability Services grant as presented. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Campbell made a motion to re-appoint Gary Nolf to a 3-year term on the Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to appoint Mark O'Neill to a 1-year term on the Marine Patrol. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/28/23 and 4/18/23 BOS meetings as presented. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/27/28 BOS meeting as presented. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Campbell abstaining from the vote.

FIRST SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Mr. Hall reported:

- * The Radio Contract with the State has been fully signed and executed.
- * The Town is soliciting bids for duct cleaning at the Town Hall. The issues with the fire alarms has necessitated duct cleaning. To date, quotes in the amounts of \$30,000 and \$59,000 have been received.
- * Engineered drawings received relative to the installation of a carport at the Mulvey Center have been reviewed by the First Selectman, Mr. Riggio and Mr. Maiden. Mr. Maiden, Building Official, is relaying comments/concerns to the contractor.
- * Public Works is installing/repairing sidewalks on S. Main Street.
- * The water line to facilitate the dog water fountain at the Dog Park is being installed.
- * The appraisal for the 12.7-acre Ross property totaled \$190,000.00.
- * There is a potential for budgetary implications due to the proposed "early voting".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Security at the Riggio Building will be discussed at the 5/25/23 BOS meeting.

Mr. Hall made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:13 p.m. for a Personnel matter (6-month review of Public Works employee). Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session resumed at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to establish Robert Marquis as a permanent employee of the Town of Westbrook. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski
Executive Assistant

John Hall, III
First Selectman