

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
Multi-Media Room/Hybrid/ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance included First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, Selectman Fuchs, Trooper Moran, Chief Cusson, Kit Bishop, Library Board of Directors, Dave Russell, Marine Patrol, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance, Tony Cozza, BOF member, John Palermo, Fire Dept., Marie Palma, Don Izzo, Emergency Management Director, Chet Bialicki, Joe Campbell, Bob Hagemeister, Chairman Board of Fire Commissions, Lyn Spencer, Fire Commissioner, Pat Marcarelli, COB, and several other audience members.

2020-23 OPTION FOR GRAND LIST “freeze” – item tabled.

ACCEPTANCE OF LIBRARY GRANT – Fiber Optics

A copy of the grant contract between the Westbrook Library and the Connecticut State Library for the installation of new high-speed internet connection (fiber optics) in the amount of \$47,280.00 was included in the BOS packet.

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the grant contract as presented and forward same to the BOF and a Town Meeting for further action. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY APPROPRIATION

The BOS packet included a letter from Mr. Kellogg, Library Director, relative to a request for an appropriation for the use of the Library Gift and Special Fund.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve and forward to the BOF for further action, an expenditure not to exceed \$15,867 from the Library Gift and Special Funds for the anticipated purchase of specified items for the ARPA Grants to Connecticut Public Libraries approved at the 7/20/21 Special Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees for use July 20, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This appropriation request is for specific items and is a supplemental appropriation to the Library’s annual appropriation from these funds. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4<sup>th</sup> of JULY “DEBRIEFING”

Trooper Moran, Chief Cusson and Mr. Russell, Marine Patrol, provided a “debriefing” of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend including:

- The Fire Department boat assisted individuals, including a toddler and a baby, as they were stranded on Duck Island at high tide (they were able to walk to the island a low tide).
- The Marine Patrol was on duty the entire day until 11 p.m. Routine calls; i.e. no lifejackets, etc. Assisted Fire Dept. with “rescue” of individuals on Duck Island.
- The ban on fireworks was enforced with the manpower available. No citations were issued for same. Some fireworks were set off; however, it would be impossible with the resources available, to curtail fireworks completely.
  - Selectman Fuchs expressed concern that the Town may have liability in the event of an injury due to fireworks.
- Overall, the weekend was “quiet” as compared to prior years and the beach area was cleared by 9:30 p.m.
- The Public Works Director reported to the First Selectman that clean up/garbage pick-up after the 4<sup>th</sup> was less than in previous years.
- It was suggested that a police officer be posted at Rte. 1 and Seaside Ave. to address traffic concerns during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

A resident expressed support for Trooper Moran and the police officers on duty over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend for their due diligence during fireworks, etc.

Mr. Bishop thanked individuals for participating in the BOS meeting.

REQUEST FROM YMCA – waive Building Permit Fees

The YMCA has requested that the Town waive building permit fees, in the amount of \$16,159.18, for the construction of the Wellness Center (total cost of construction \$693,000). If approved, the Town will have waived approximately \$22,000 in YMCA Building permit fees.

Mr. Hall made a motion to waive the Building Permit fee in the amount of \$16,159.18 as requested. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Bishop made a motion to re-appoint Lee McNamar to a 3 year term on the Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the minutes from the 6/29/21 BOS meeting. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/13/21 BOS meeting. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/22/21 BOS meeting, as amended. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amendment: Mr. Izzo identified several municipal departments that should be considered for premium pay.

Clarification – As previously stated during the introductory comments at the 7/22/21 BOS meeting, the purpose of the meeting was to gather ideas for the use of ARPA funds. One suggestion was to pick 1 to 3 projects as priority; however, the BOS is still gathering information and no final commitment as to the use of ARPA funds will be made until a later date.

BOARD, COMMITTEE, COMMISSION UPDATES – None.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Bishop will follow-up with Ms. Rose, Daisy Principal, regarding poison ivy located at the elementary school and Library and the status of outside lights at Daisy.

Mr. Bishop reported:

- The date for the Public Hearing on ARPA funds has been changed from August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 28, 2021 @ 6 p.m. (hybrid, in-person/ZOOM meeting). The in-person meeting will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room.

The meeting recessed at 2:43 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 3:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Discussion of documents containing attorney/client privileged communications provided in confidence and exempt from disclosure pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6) and 1-210 (b)(10) as pertains to Chapter 7 of the Town Code of Ordinances

Mr. Bishop made a motion to go into Executive Session at 3:31 p.m. to discuss documents containing attorney/client privileged communications provided in confidence and exempt from disclosure pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6) and 1-210 (b)(10) as pertains to Chapter 7 of the Town Code of Ordinances Invited into the Executive Session: Attorney Forsyth, Suzanne Helchowski. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Session resumed at: 4:45 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Executive Assistant

Attest,

Noel Bishop  
First Selectman