

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

MINUTES
TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 13 2021 – 2:00 p.m.
MULVEY MUNICIPAL CENTER
Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Bishop, Selectman Hall, Selectman Fuchs, Suzie Connelly, Westbrook Housing Authority Chairman, Cheryl Daniw, Merit Properties, Peter Testa, A&E Services Group, Dick Dilorenzo, Wendy Leone, Assessor, and Kimberly Bratz, Tax Collector.

REQUEST FROM RESIDENT – Property Taxes – residents over age 65

Information for tax deferral programs for the elderly that are in place currently was included in the BOS packet and on the Town's website. Ms. Leone, Assessor, outlined the parameters (including income requirements for eligibility) of these two programs. If you do not meet the income requirements there does exist a program for those individuals over the age of 65. This program requires that the deferred taxes are paid back to the town upon the sale or transfer of the property. To date, no resident has opted for this program and this town program is expiring in 2021.

Mr. Dilorenzo requested that the BOS consider a program (with no income requirements) to freeze taxes for Westbrook residents over the age of 65. He suggested that the BOS send this request to a Town Meeting for discussion and vote.

The consensus of the BOS was to develop data; i.e. impact on tax revenue, demographics, etc. and determine the potential impact on revenue. The BOS will re-visit this discussion at a future BOS meeting.

BOS members agreed to move up the discussion of Agenda Item 4 (Non-Resident Parking – Mulvey Center, West Beach”.

NON-RESIDENT PARKING - Mulvey Center, West Beach

All Connecticut beaches are open to the public regardless of one's residency and this year, the state parks will open with no restrictions.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to open the West Beach Parking lot beginning, Friday, May 14, 2021, through Labor Day, from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. **FOR WESTBROOK RESIDENTS ONLY.** Proof of residency will be required (tax bill, mail including a Westbrook address, driver's license (photo ID). Furthermore, the BOS will re-visit the parking policy at West Beach and the Mulvey Center after the 4th of July. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Note that all questions regarding the above policy should be directed to Ms. Brainerd @ 860-399-3040.

The motion passed unanimously.

SMALL CITIES GRANT – Interview and Possible Appointment – Grant Writer

A copy of the response to the RFP, developed by A&E Services Group was included in the BOS packet. Mr. Bishop reported that Suzanne Helchowski, as part of her duties as Grant Coordinator, has participated in over 60 hours of training to be eligible to apply for the Small Cities grant.

As previously discussed, the BOS agreed to submit a Small Cities Grant application on behalf of Worthington Manor for upgrades including a new roof, windows, paving and boiler.

Peter Testa, A&E Services Group was available to address questions posed by BOS members. Costs associated with developing the grant application total \$2,250.00 and Ms. Daniw, Merit Properties, agreed that they would be responsible for ½ of this amount and the Town the other ½ (\$1,125 each).

Mr. Hall made a motion to award the Small Cities Grant project to A&E Services Group, LLC and authorized First Selectman Bishop to sign the contract for services. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – Architect – Mulvey Roof

A copy of the draft contract with Hibbard & Rosa Architects, developed by Halloran and Sage, for architectural services related to the Mulvey Municipal Center Roof was included in the BOS packet.

Funds to facilitate the project, \$12,500.00, are in the current year’s Capital budget. The BOF has been updated on the project.

Mr. Hall made a motion to authorize First Selectman Bishop to sign the contract with Hibbard & Rosa Architects in the amount of \$12,500.00 as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Bishop made a motion to appoint Howard Benisvy, R, to the Inland Wetland Commission as the Selectman’s Representative. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to re-appoint Joe DeCurtis to the Westbrook Housing Authority for a 5 year term. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Individuals elected at the recent Town Meeting begin their responsibilities on 5/1/21.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Fuchs made a motion to approve the BOS minutes dated 3/25/21 as presented. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the BOS minutes dated 4/8/21 as presented. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Bishop reported:

- Several Executive Orders have been extended and Mr. Bishop recommends continuing with ZOOM meetings.
- The Town Clerk and Registers will use written ballots and not the voting machines at the upcoming Budget Referendum.
- Trooper Borelli has been promoted and will be leaving Westbrook on 4/18/21. The State will provide an interim Trooper until a permanent replacement is appointed.
 - Mr. Bishop commended Trooper Borelli for his excellent work for the Town of Westbrook.
 - Selectman Fuchs requested that the BOS play a role in the appointment of the next Westbrook Resident State Trooper.
 - Mr. Bishop outlined the protocol used in previous years for appointing Troopers; i.e. the First Selectman was invited to the interviews.
 - Mr. Bishop will follow-up with Trooper Borelli relative to the timeline/process for appointing the next Westbrook Resident State Trooper.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m. Mr. Fuchs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski
Executive Asst.

Noel Bishop
First Selectman