



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday April 8, 2020
Virtual Meeting– 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday April 8, 2020 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Resident Amanda Thompson thanked the Selectmen for allowing the Scouts to join the meeting to work on their Citizenship of the Community Merit Badge. Resident Paul Calebaugh questioned Governor Lamont’s Executive Order 7S Section 6 Municipality Program Election regarding Municipalities to have remote voting, and if the Board of Selectmen are going to go forward with this process for a mail in vote for the Budget. First Selectman Hayden replied that the Board of Selectmen are studying that option, and it is under consideration. Calebaugh also questioned if the emails from the 20-21budgetcomment@egtownhall.com will be publicized. First Selectman Hayden said that is the mailbox for the Board of Finance, they will share the correspondence as they normally do.
3. **CORRESPONDENCE** – 2020 Census Update, Executive Order 7S Section 7 Regarding In-Person Voting Requirements, CCM Executive Orders That Impact Municipal Operations, COVID-19 Response Efforts Volunteers, United Way COVID Response, February General Government Financials, BANS Calendar, Playground Notice, FVHD Release of COVID-19 Information, Speeds on Route 20, Revised Board of Finance Budget Calendar, Bod Commission Meeting, Comptroller March Financial Report, Recycling News, March Tax Collector’s Report, Resident Letter on EG Fire Department Parking Lot, BOE Audit Corrective Action Plan, Resident Letter on BOE Policy Adoption
4. **MINUTES** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to accept the March 25, 2020 minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Tax Incentives** – No new information.
- b. **School Town Building Committee Report** – The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Allgrove Elementary School Electrical and Air Conditioning Project was posted in the Hartford Courant and on the State DAS website.
- c. **Economic Development Report** – The Economic Development Officer (EDO) position consists of one, seven-hour position for Marketing and Commercial Real Estate and one, seven-hour position for Business Development. Both individuals started last week and have reached out to local businesses, discussed State and Federal small business loan programs and are providing additional information to assist our commercial residents. Selectman Ziobro asked if they looking to see if they can bring in new business. First Selectman Hayden replied that they will be looking for new businesses, however, for now with the Coronavirus they are concentrating assisting local businesses and providing information. First Selectman Hayden mentioned that the Community Development Director has followed up with the State regarding a local business applying for the Bradley Development Zone benefit.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **FY20 & FY21 Critical/Non-Critical Capital Items** – Due to the extraordinary financial impact of COVID-19, the Board of Finance (BOF) has requested that the BOS prioritize essential and non-essential capital projects for FY20 and FY21. There will be a Special Meeting of the BOS held on April 15th to address this and other issues. Many of the FY20 capital items are fire department requests. The First Selectman will reach out to the Fire Chief to discuss priorities.
- b. **FY21 Budget** – First Selectman Hayden stated that due to the potential financial impact of COVID-19, the preliminary draft budget has been reduced from 1.86% to 1.1% and that he is looking at other items to reduce the overall budget. The BOS will discuss each budget line at the April 15th special meeting.
- c. **Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S Section 6 Municipality Program Election** – This Executive Order provides for two programs which can benefit communities. The BOS can choose one or both of the plans which are: The Deferment Program and the Low Interest Rate Program. The Deferment Program adds a 60-day grace period to payment of FY20-21 taxes (due date of October 1st instead of August 1st). The Low Interest Rate Program reduces the interest penalty for not being current with taxes from 18% annually to 3% annually for the months of April, May and June. The 18% rate would be effective up to March 31st and then begin again on July 1st. The interest reduction is strictly for three months (April, May and June).
- d. **Teacher's Contract** – First Selectman Hayden stated that the Teacher contract was delivered to the Town Clerk on March 27th. By State Statute, the Board of Selectmen has 30 days to decide whether to approve the contract, take no action on it which

would automatically ratify it on April 26th or take the contract to Town Meeting prior to April 27th. The BOS will decide which action they will take at their next meeting.

e. Potential Special Meeting Date – The Board of Selectmen will have a Special Virtual Meeting on Wednesday April 15th at 5pm.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – Resident Paul Calebaugh expressed his financial concerns during this difficult time. He urged that business should not be conducted as usual and stated that there should be staff reductions, a 0% increase in operational budgets and that capital projects should be cut. Resident Amanda Thompson thanked the Board of Selectmen for their efforts and asked them to think long term as once this is over, the Town and Schools still need to be maintained. Thompson also asked what the difference is between a 0% Budget increase and a 0% Mill Rate increase. First Selectman Hayden stated a 0% increase in operational expenses is flat to the current year. A 0% increase in the Mill rate means that the tax rate does not increase. Selectman Doering thanked everyone for their efforts during this very extraordinary unprecedented time, especially the Ambulance, Police and Fire Department.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not needed.

9. ADJOURN – Selectman Doering made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Ziobro. **Motion Approved Unanimously** at 7:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sokolowski