



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday January 13, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting– 6:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – A meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Wednesday January 13, 2021 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. First Selectman Hayden called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. Selectman Doering and Selectman Ziobro were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**– None
3. **CORRESPONDENCE** – FY20 Audit, “Stuff a Cruiser” Thank You, CRCOG Legislative Agenda, 2020 General Government Financials, Treasurer Memo on Municipal Grants in Aid Transfer, CT DOT Bridge Inspection Report, November Treasurer Report, Year-End Treasurer Report, Tax Collector December Report, Resident Thank You for FootWearWithCare, BOF Activity Calendar, Coronavirus Relief Fund Award, 5 New CT Laws Effective Jan 1, Silverman Group Presentation to PZC, COST Legislative Priorities, Letter to PZC on Signage, Tax Deferment Program, EDC Activities Report, HAWK Pedestrian Crossing, Surplus Fire Vehicle Sold, MDC Poquonuck Facility Upgrades
4. **MINUTES** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to accept the December 16, 2020 minutes as presented. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**
5. **CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RATIFICATION OF THE E.G. ADMINISTRATORS’ ASSOCIATION CONTRACT**– Board of Education Chair Bob Paskiewicz was invited by the First Selectman to discuss the 3-year Administrators agreement that will cover 2021-2024. Chairman Paskiewicz summarized that the Board and Union agreed on a 6.96% wage increase over 3 years broken down into annual increases 2.42% and 2.32% and 2.22%. He mentioned the state average is 7.24% or 2.41% per year. They also agreed on an insurance increase of 0.5% employee premium share increase each year. Language was added that provides some flexibility on holidays (i.e., swap Columbus Day for another day). For 2022, the total contract increase for all administrators is \$46,777. In 2023 an increase will be \$50,733. In 2024, an increase will

be \$54,294. Selectman Doering asked about the Director of Curriculum's salary level compared to her peers in the area. Selectman Ziobro asked if the increased 403(b) contributions were included in the overall increase number. Chairman Paskiewicz replied in the affirmative.

First Selectman Hayden thanked Chairman Paskiewicz for explaining the contract to the BOS. The First Selectman said that the BOS had three options: take no action on the contract and it automatically ratifies after 30 days, vote to ratify, or take the contract to Town Meeting.

Selectman Ziobro stated this is a difficult time for people financially. He also said that he is on the Board of Education and the Negotiation Committee. Due to a scheduling conflict, he was not able to attend the Negotiation Committee meetings. He said that he has voted no in years past and will do so again this year. He believes the contract should go to a Town vote. First Selectman Hayden said that the townspeople elected the BOE to make decisions regarding the school district and they had accepted the contract and that he was in favor of ratification. Selectman Doering commented that he feels the Administrators are doing a fantastic job. He continued by saying he believes people in town support the schools. Being a former chair of the BOE as well as having been on previous negotiating committees, he knows how involved negotiations can be and would like to see the contract approved. Selectman Doering made a motion to ratify the Administrators Contract as presented. Seconded by First Selectman Hayden. **Motion Carried.** First Selectman Hayden and Selectman Doering voted in favor with Selectman Ziobro abstaining.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **School Town Building Committee Report** – Eversource has started the electric upgrade at Allgrove Elementary School with installing 2 exterior poles. Electrical Contractor is working in the building on Wednesday's when all students are doing remote learning at home. The Building Committee has decided to use ductless split air conditioning units. The Committee will go out to bid in early February.
- b. **Economic Development Report** – First Selectman Hayden mentioned the Commerce park Transitional Zone was approved at last night's Planning & Zoning meeting. P&Z also discussed a proposal for School Street regarding 36-unit apartments in two buildings, with retail on the first floor. There was also a discussion regarding apartment development for 5 buildings with 1 and 2 bedrooms, totaling 120 units on Nicholson Road. The P&Z hearings were continued to their next meeting. Residents from SchoolHouse Landing as well as Crystal Drive and Harvest Lane were in attendance and expressed concern with moving forward with these projects.
- c. **Tax Incentives** – No new information.
- d. **Back office Shared Services Opportunities** – No new information.

- e. **Long-Term Recovery Committee Report** – Next meeting is scheduled for January 21st. In Saturday’s edition of the Let’s Talk Turkey, there is a 28-question survey for residents to complete, to see what needs would be beneficial for the Committee to recommend to the Board of Selectmen.
- f. **Draft Public Safety Dispatch Agreement** – No new information.

7. **NEW BUSINESS** –

- a. **Discuss FY22 Budget Drivers** – First Selectman Hayden summarized the preliminary drivers that he will present at the January 19th Board of Finance meeting. Per State Statute there is an overall budget cap that total Town budgets cannot exceed 2.5% without a penalty. The Town/Schools are budgeted to receive about \$2.8 million in state aid. A major reduction in State Aid could have a significant impact on the Town’s overall revenue stream.

First Selectman Hayden mentioned the town will convert the current “interest only” Bond Anticipation Notes for the School Town Roof and Road Project to 15 or 20-year Bonds in July. This will result in a planned, but significant increase in debt service. Currently the Assessor sees a reduction in Motor Vehicles on the Grand List as COVID has had an impact on the purchase of new cars.

Additional budget drivers include library annual fund contributions are down, the Town Hall and Public Works bargaining units’ contracts expire June 30th. The trash tipping fee is projected to adding \$20,000 to the RCC budget. He anticipates retirements in three departments, depending on the dates, there could be additional costs for training/orientation and vacation buyout. The Fire Department has previously asked for administrative assistance. Granby is looking to provide counseling only and not programming effective July 1, 2021. Youth programing now would be provided “in-house” by the town.

- b. **Appointments & Resignations** – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to accept the resignation of Brandon Freeman from the Parks and Recreation Committee and thank him for his service. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

Selectman Ziobro made a motion to add **7(c) Farmington Valley Health District Report**. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously.**

- c. **Farmington Valley Health District Report** – Selectman Doering mentioned at their last meeting they mentioned they are allotted 300 vaccines a week. They are following the guidelines from the Governor and hoping they get additional supplies. Since the summer into early Fall, positive COVID numbers have tripled, and tripled again after the holidays. FVHD is doing everything they can to keep the schools open, as the transmission in the schools has not been much of a problem, it has been family to family or occupational. Farmington Valley has been a great resource and is doing a great job during this time.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:43pm to discuss personnel issues and retirements. Seconded by Selectman Doering. **Motion Approved Unanimously**. The Board of Selectman exited Executive Session at 7:57pm. No votes were taken.

10. ADJOURN – Selectman Ziobro made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Selectman Doering. Motion **Approved Unanimously** at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole Sokolowski