

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

SELECTMEN PRESENT: J. Christopher Kervick, Michelle Hill, and Rick Rachele

ALSO ATTENDING: Lori Quagliaroli, Lucinda VanGieson, William Rousseau, Chief Ruggiero (Fire Department), John Donahue, Mark Urso, Guido Montermerlo, John Stevens, Al Carrasquillo, Ann Frank, Dennis Gragnolati, Neal Cunningham, and additional town residents

CALL TO ORDER:

First Selectman J. Christopher Kervick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Lori Quagliaroli, 4 Norman Avenue – commented regarding the elevator at Senior Center not working.
- Lucinda VanGieson, 70 Grove Street – commented on the condition that was left at the Noden Reed House after some work was done there. She also asked if the water at the Noden Reed Green House could be fixed - it has been broken for over a year.
- William Rousseau, 407 Elmwood Drive – commented on the cleaning up of park areas following use, and the competition between sports venues in Windsor Locks and surrounding towns.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Selectman Rachele moved the acceptance of the June 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes as published. Selectman Kervick seconded the motion. The vote was two in favor (Selectmen Kervick & Rachele), and one abstention (Selectman Hill). Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Voluntary Employee Prescription Program (CanaRx):

CanaRx Services, Inc. is a privately held Canadian company that provides affordable “Brand Name” maintenance medications at a reduced cost to employees as well as savings to the town. Employee participation in the program is entirely voluntary. Even though the FDA has advised caution in using the program there have not been any incidents or claims against the company in the course of their existence.

Selectman Hill stated her familiarity with the program being used at her place of employment. The experience has been positive for both the employees and the employer.

Selectman Hill moved to endorse the Voluntary CanaRx Employee Prescription Program as a voluntary additional benefit to employees of the Town of Windsor Locks. Selectman Rachele seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

A CanaRx Representative will be offering several information forums to all employees to outline the benefits and procedures of the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. West Street Traffic Tables

During the public informational meetings that were held to discuss the reconstruction of West Street homeowners felt that the installation of speed tables would help to control speeding on that street. Crosswalks will be placed at the intersections of Reed Avenue and Whiton Street, and if it is determined that the speed tables are needed as an additional safety measure, the crosswalks will be placed on top of them at those same locations. Engineering issues still need to be addressed with the number of culverts and pipes that will run under the intersection of Spring & West Street. Since the informational meetings, concerns have been raised that speed tables could negatively impact public safety vehicles.

Fire Chief Gary Ruggiero stated that other towns that have installed speed tables have removed them because the difficulty of a delay in speed and response time with fire apparatus and ambulances trying to drive over them. Damage to emergency response vehicles traveling over the speed tables has also been an issue. Chief Ruggiero stated that the fire department is against having speed tables installed for wide number of reasons but especially because of the possible impediment of response time to an emergency situation.

Fire Department members John Donahue, Mark Urso and Guido Montermerlo also commented on the damage that speed tables would do to emergency vehicles as well as the problem of slowing down of response time.

Comments were entertained from West Street residents:

John Stevens (88 West Street), Al Carrasquillo (57 West Street). and Ann Frank (44 West Street) all felt something should be done to control the speed of traffic on West Street, and that a sidewalk crossing should be placed at the corner of Grove and West Street because it is a designated school bus stop.

Dennis Gragnolati, 25 Roberts Street - commented on the traffic speed.

William Rousseau, 407 Elmwood Drive - commented on the necessity of spot traffic enforcement.

Selectman Rachele moved to eliminate the installation of speed tables from the West Street reconstruction project, to contact the Police Commission & the Police Department on increasing traffic enforcement, and to consider adding stop signs at locations on West Street including the intersection of Whiton Street, and to also request more traffic enforcement action on the portion of West Street south of Spring Street. Selectman Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Selectman Hill suggested that a group discussion be held between the Department of Public Works and the Police Department to review all options of crosswalks, stop signs, etc. before the final plans for West Street are completed.

b. Maintenance of American & State Flags on Town Properties:

Currently the Governor's Office notifies the First Selectman's Office when flags should be lowered or raised. The information is then forwarded to a distribution list to notify different agencies of the flag status change. However, if the decree comes in after Town Offices are closed the notice doesn't go out until the following day, or on the following Monday if it is on a Friday. The location of where the various flags that the Town is responsible was prepared, and volunteers are being sought so assist with flag protocol if Town offices are closed. A meeting will be held to discuss the possibilities once interested volunteers have notified the First Selectmen's Office. Insurance liability issues will need to be considered.

APPOINTMENTS, RE-APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS:

a. Appointment of Darry Ruiter to the Conservation Commission

Selectman Kervick moved to appoint Darry Ruiter as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire on January 23, 2022. Selectman Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

TAX REFUNDS: None.

PUBLIC INPUT:

- Lori Quagliaroli, 4 Norman Avenue – commented on the lack of the town having a “Work from Home Policy” as some employees are working from home on certain days.
- William Rousseau, 407 Elmwood Drive - commented on what he feels are public health concerns at the Montgomery building. He also commented on sidewalks on West Street.
- Al Carrasquillo, 57 West Street, commented on his frustration in communicating with the town. He also commented on the placement of sidewalks on West Street.
- John Stevens, 88 West Street asked where the sidewalks will be placed on West Street. (East side – Spring Street to Reed Avenue, West side – Reed Avenue to North Street)

SELECTMEN’S COMMENTS:

Selectman Kervick stated that tentative contract agreements have been made with the Police Union and the Dispatchers Union. They are subject to ratification.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Selectman Kervick moved to enter into executive session to discuss three items regarding real estate acquisition negotiations: All Sports Village CEA, Governor’s Station CEA, and for the Windsor Locks Commons RFQ Responses, at 7:01 p.m. with Jennifer Rodriguez, Town Planner and Neal Cunningham (RFQ Evaluation Committee) in attendance. Selectman Hill seconded the motion.

Selectman Rachele requested that information on discussion items be distributed in advance of the Board of Selectmen’s Meetings so that it can be reviewed in advance of the meeting.

All were in favor. Motion carried.

Upon re-entering Regular Session, Selectman Hill moved to approve the selection of JHM Group as the finalist from the companies that submitted RFQ’s for the Windsor Locks Commons, and to hold a presentation at the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting on July 16, 2019. Selectman Kervick seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion or information to come before the Board of Selectmen,

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. was made by Selectman Rachele and seconded by Selectman Hill. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Barsanti

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Acting Recording Secretary

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