

# MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JUNE 4, 2020

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A meeting of the North Haven Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

## **Members Present:**

Michael J. Freda, First Selectman  
William J. Pieper, Second Selectman  
Sally J. Buemi, Third Selectman

## **Staff:**

Valerie Goodkin, Executive Assistant

Prior to convening the meeting Mr. Freda provided opening remarks relative to the terrible tragedy and horrific death of George Floyd in Minnesota. Mr. Freda reassured everyone that he and the Town embraces diversity and is always ready and willing to assist, support and accept people of all races, cultures and ethnicity. Mr. Freda expressed our heartfelt condolences to the Floyd family. He read a statement from the North Haven Police Department on their response to Mr. Floyd's death. Both Mr. Pieper and Miss Buemi provided their endorsement of Mr. Freda's statements along with their own meaningful comments. Mr. Freda asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Floyd.

Following Mr. Freda's opening remarks, he called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and confirmed the attendance of Selectmen William Pieper and Sally Buemi followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of May 7, 2020.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Following Miss Buemi's request to amend the draft minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting of May 29, 2020 to correctly reflect her "no" vote to enter into executive session to discuss the items in the agenda, she motioned to approve the amended minutes. Mr. Pieper seconded.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Freda provided a brief overview of the challenges the Town's economic development is facing in light of the pandemic. Many of the projects have stalled. He explained how the landscape of economic development has changed away from big box retail to smaller stores, and more healthcare offices. He is continuing to work to keep the major retailer, "At Home", which is slated for the Toy's R Us, Ulta spaces in the plaza on Universal Drive. At this point he is not sure if this will go through, but is doing everything we can as a Town not to lose the opportunity.

At the conclusion of his overview, Mr. Freda invited Miss Buemi to speak to her items on the agenda. Miss Buemi commented that she has always been in support of the Supernumerary Program, but wished to clarify several of Mr. Freda's remarks concerning payment of the supernumeraries while school is not in session. She stated that during Mr. Freda's May 14<sup>th</sup> budget presentation he answered the question of whether the 5 SN's were being paid during the pandemic and Mr. Freda stated that they were paid a little bit after March, but they are not being paid now. Miss Buemi went on to say that during the BOF meeting of May 20<sup>th</sup> Ms. Barrett asked about the \$19,000 expenditure for April. Mr. Freda advised that the SN's were paid for a short period after March into early May. Miss Buemi questioned this as the ordinance outlines their compensation and excludes days when school is not in session. Mr. Freda explained that it was not until May 5<sup>th</sup> late in the day that the Governor announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. Payment for the SN's stopped on May 8<sup>th</sup>. During the period from when schools closed until then, the Chief made the decision to continue paying the SN's primarily for two reasons, one to keep them available should school resume since it was not known if and when that would occur, and secondly, should members of his department come down with COVID he would have those officers readily available to step in to be sure that we could provide adequate public safety. Miss Buemi commented that she has much respect for Chief McLoughlin and his view point during this time.

Miss Buemi proceeded with her next agenda item for discussion involving the Quinnipiac University Voluntary Payment. She stated that Mary White had inquired at a previous meeting as to how the payment would be used and it was stated that it would be earmarked for the firefighter's training facility. Miss Buemi did not see the excess or \$250,000 in the budget or revenue reports. Mr. Freda explained that each year when we receive the QU payment, a portion of the money is earmarked for a particular project, field lighting, playscapes, etc. He explained that the expenditure/community project is not listed in the budget and nor is the revenue. It has been handled this way in previous years as well.

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper to adopt the following resolution regarding the adoption of the Town of North Haven's Emergency Election Contingency Plan.

**RESOLUTION:** Town of North Haven's Emergency Election Contingency Plan(s)

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 11-46, an Act Concerning the Integrity of Elections, requires that the registrar of voters of each Connecticut municipality, in conjunction with the Town Clerk, create an emergency contingency plan for elections, primaries and referenda to be held within such municipality;

WHEREAS, the North Haven registrar of voters and Town Clerk have developed an emergency contingency plan that will provide solutions for election ballot shortages, as well as strategies for addressing a shortage or absence of poll workers, a loss of power, a fire or fire alarm within a polling place, voting machine malfunctions, and weather or other natural disasters, the need to remove and replace a poll worker or Moderator, and disorder in or around the polling place;

WHEREAS, the emergency contingency plan developed by the registrar of voters and Town Clerk meet the requirements of Public Act 11-46, it is hereby **RESOLVED** that said plan is adopted and approved and such plan shall remain on file with the Town Clerk until such plan is amended by the registrar of voters, in consultation with the Town Clerk and upon approval of the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the appointment of Joseph D'Errico (R), 50 Corey Road as Constable to fill the vacant position as a result of the passing of Lewis Borrelli. Term to expire December 5, 2021.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Miss Buemi motioned with a second from Mr. Pieper for the approval of the following Property Tax Refunds:

- Baker, Joseph, 234 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA 01222, in the amount of \$45.58.
- Cab East LLC, PO Box 67000 Dept 231601, Detroit, MI 48267, in the amount of \$99.62; and in the amount of \$583.62; and in the amount of \$382.24; and in the amount of \$175.45; and in the amount of \$244.17; and in the amount of \$238.97; and in the amount of \$396.11; and in the amount of \$224.68; and in the amount of \$47.43; and in the amount of \$503.47; and in the amount of \$395.58; and in the amount of \$322.94; and in the amount of \$381.86; and in the amount of \$257.39; and in the amount of \$240.15; and in the amount of \$580.63; and in the amount of \$285.77; and in the amount of \$209.84; and in the amount of \$143.27; and in the amount of \$317.38; and in the amount of \$382.24; and in the amount of \$286.55; and in the amount of \$111.63; and in the amount of \$270.39.
- Henriques, Paulo, 47 Sentinel Hill Road, in the amount of \$67.16.
- JP Morgan Chase Bank, PO Box 901098, Fort Worth, TX 76101, in the amount of \$468.64.
- Pesticci, Frances L., 13 Pequot Avenue, in the amount of \$155.90.
- Rowland, Tara, 11 Cindy Lane, in the amount of \$477.98.
- Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste 800, Woburn, MA 01801, in the amount of \$181.99; and in the amount of \$87.46; and in the amount of \$475.78; and in the amount of \$195.94; and in the amount of \$122.01; and in the amount of \$350.46; and in the amount of \$565.29.
- Toyota Motor Credit Corp, 20 Commerce Way Ste 800, Woburn, MA 01801, in the amount of \$244.45.
- Vault Trust, Ally Financial Louisville PC, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290, in the amount of \$348.31.
- VW Credit Leasing LTD, 1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048, in the amount of \$274.01.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Pieper motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the approval of the following Bond Release:

Bond #P14-04 Blue Hills Development, Joseph Mineri, release the entire amount in the amount of \$89,667.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Thursday, July 2, 2020 at a location/manner to be determined.

With no further business before the Board, Miss Buemi motioned adjourn at 7:59 p.m., Mr. Pieper seconded.

VOTE: Freda – yes; Pieper – yes; Buemi – yes