

REGULAR MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

JUNE 17, 2013

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

DISCLAIMER

Mr. Flaherty stated the following: “This Town Council meeting is being filmed by a town volunteer. We appreciate his efforts to allow residents to view these proceedings on local cable but the Town is not responsible for the taping.”

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Raymond Leclaire of 17 Birch Hill Avenue complained that unions, and the teacher union in particular, would be making a lengthy, misleading presentation leaving no time for rebuttal from residents. He felt that dollars are being hidden in the school department budget.

Mr. Earl Larson encouraged monetary support for the We The People program.

Mr. Ernest Alter of 600 Victory Highway agreed with Mr. Leclaire in that residents need more of an opportunity to scrutinize the budget. He felt that groups coming before the Town Council for funding assert political pressure and hijacks the system. Once you do something for one group, you have to do it for others.

Mr. Eric Piette's daughter participated in the We The People program. There was a high cost associated with the trip and he believed any organization that rises to a top level should be assisted.

June 17, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting began at 7:02 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Ms. Alves, Mr. McGee, Mr. Yazbak, Mr. Zwolenski, and Mr. Flaherty. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Lombardi.

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSES - T. GERMANOS D/B/A CT GAS INC.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve a holiday sales license to Toni Germanos d/b/a CT Gas Inc. located at 503 Smithfield Road.

HOLIDAY SALES LICENSE - AMERICAN PROMOTIONAL EVENTS, INC. D/B/A TNT FIREWORKS

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to grant a holiday sales license to American Promotional Events, Inc. d/b/a TNT Fireworks located at 1401 Victory Highway.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Flaherty requested that the minutes of April 15, May 20 and June 3, 2013, the payment of bills and the resignation from the Redevelopment Agency be removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve the following: 1.) Budget Committee Minutes of April 29, May 7 and June 3, 2013; 2.) Personnel Board Minutes of March 11, 2013; 3.) Animal Control Monthly Report for May 2013; 4.) NSF&RS Inc. Monthly Incident Report for May 2013; 5.) NS Police Department Monthly Activity Report for May 2013; 6.) NS Municipal Court Monthly Activity Report for May 2013; 7.) Resolution Opposing “Renewable Energy Facilities Located on Farms” from the Town of Charlestown; 8.) Resolution Opposing SB 0322, Assessments on New Construction Single-Family and Residential Condominium Units from the Town of Hopkinton; 9.) Resolution Supporting a Referendum Relating to the Code of Ethics from the Town of Jamestown; 10.) Resolution Supporting the Municipal Road and Bridge Revolving Fund from the Town of Middletown; and 11.) Resolution Opposing Creation of the Ocean State Regional Water Authority from the Town of Scituate.

Minutes of April 15, 2013

Page 5, second paragraph, should be corrected to note that Mr. Civetti is a principal with Braver PC, the town’s auditing firm.

Page 14, under the first motion, the wording should be, “Mr. Ericson suggests that there are three subsidiary amendments based on the map provided and that lot 029 be MU2, lot 054 be open space and lot 471 remain residential.”

Mr. Yazbak commented that he will not be voting on the April 15 or May 20, 2013 minutes as he was not in attendance at those meetings.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 0 on an aye vote to accept the minutes of April 15 and May 20, 2013.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept the minutes of June 3, 2013.

Payment of Bills

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote that the payment to Mr. Flaherty will be taken and voted on separately.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted 4 to 1 on a roll call vote (Mr. Yazbak had concerns about the payments to Braver PC, Town Solicitor Lombardi, and to Vincent F. Ragosta, Jr.) to approve payment of the following: General Fund - \$213,105.53; Sewer - \$235,665.75; Water - \$2,762.52; School Department - \$1,498,072.00; and Fire Department - \$195,147.00 for a total of \$2,144,752.80.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted 4 to 0 on a roll call vote (Mr. Flaherty abstained) to approve payment of \$87.94 to Mr. Flaherty.

June 17, 2013

Resignation from Redevelopment Agency - Nascimento

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to accept the resignation of Eric Nascimento from the Redevelopment Agency and to send him a thank you letter.

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD 2ND ALTERNATE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak and Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to appoint Cynthia Roberts of 49 Weeks Street as the 2nd Alternate to the Planning Board. This will be the completion of a one-year term that expires on December 1, 2013.

APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD 2ND ALTERNATE

MOTION by Ms. Alves, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to appoint Susan L. Overfield as the 2nd Alternate to the Zoning Board. This will be the completion of a one-year term that expires on December 1, 2013.

EXTENSION OF AUDIT CONTRACT

Because there were still some questions regarding this contract, MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Ms. Alves and Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to continue this to June 20, 2013.

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR TRASH/RECYCLING

Finance Director Brenda MacDonald and Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast requested extending this contract for one additional year ending June 30, 2014 at the same cost as this year, \$464,280.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to authorize the Town Administrator to extend the trash/recycling contract for one additional year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REVOLVING LOAN FUND

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Yazbak, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to authorize use of \$10,000 from the North Smithfield Revolving Loan Fund to the Economic Development Commission for the purpose of engaging legal counsel to prepare the necessary documentation for establishing a Tax Increment Financing District in North Smithfield.

APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC FACILITIES ADVISORY TASK FORCE

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to nominate John Flaherty as the Town

Council appointment to the Public Facilities Advisory Task Force.

PUBLIC HEARING RE: BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2014

Town Administrator Hamilton gave a presentation on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013/2014. This included projections on revenue, the final net levy, potential taxes on residential real estate, commercial real estate, tangible property and motor vehicles. The proposed amount for abatements for FY 2014 is \$250,000, an increase of \$100,000. Ms. Hamilton also included proposed expenditures for the various departments as well as debt service and interest. The proposed appropriation for the school department remained the same as fiscal year 2013, \$17,976,868.00.

Additional information:

- Increased payments are required by RI State Pension to retain a fully funded pension liability.**
- FY2014 utilities are budgeted based on actual usage for FY2013.**
- FY2014 also includes approximately \$40,000 toward OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits). OPEB consists of Blue Cross, Delta Dental, etc. for current and future retirees. Currently, the Town has approximately 20 retirees carried on the Town's plans.**
- FY2014 includes the addition of line items for Contingency Infrastructure and Contingency Sports. These budget line items were added this year to cover infrastructure improvements throughout the Town, as well as an amount to fund school sports should the School**

Department be unable to fund the program with their existing allocation. These total approximately \$400,000 that was not included in last year's budget.

June 17, 2013

Budget highlights:

- This budget reflects maintaining a mandated 4.00% tax levy increase.**
- There are NO funds being used from the town's unrestricted or "surplus" account to help balance this lean budget.**
- Residential real estate values, for the most part, were reduced during the revaluation.**
- The Town is currently in the process of negotiating a three-year contract with municipal employees.**
- The Town is proposing an increase in the exemption for motor vehicles from \$500 to \$675.**
- A level funding of the School Department's appropriation is currently proposed.**
- This proposed budget includes an additional \$249,000 in State Aid for the School Department as well as an increase of \$37,600 in State Aid for the Town.**

Superintendent of Schools Stephen Lindberg presented a few highlights from the budget request of the school department.

There were numerous teachers and residents who spoke, refuting the comments made by Mr. Leclair at the beginning of the hearing and who hoped the Council would support the school department's budget request.

A few residents spoke about supporting the contribution to the "We The People" group and hoped the Council would continue to do so.

There were heated comments by and between Mr. Lindberg and Budget Committee Chairman Michael Clifford regarding the school department budget.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Ms. Alves, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 9:57 P.M. to continue the meeting to 10:30 P.M.

Mr. Paul Vadenais of 31 Greenwood Street questioned why some of the municipal revenues were not being included in the budget proposal. He felt there should be consistency with all departments by showing all gross revenues.

Chief Reynolds asked the Council to support the police department budget before them as well as the request for three new vehicles in the capital budget. He is two vehicles short because of accidents and he is asking for one additional.

MOTION by Mr. Yazbak, seconded by Mr. McGee, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk