

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FINANCIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 1, 2024**

Present: Ryan Curley-First Selectman, John Dillon, Michael Hernandez, Robert Hetrick, Jr., Shaun Manning, Michael Pelton, Jim Tripp

Absent: None

Staff: Tom Robinson (Finance Director)

Others Present: Members of the Public and Media

**1. FIRST SELECTMAN CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

First Selectman Ryan Curley called the Financial Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck-Foreman Community Room located at 265 Main Street, Portland, Connecticut.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ACCEPT AGENDA**

Delete #7 Monthly Budget Report. Shaun Manning made a motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Michael Pelton. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**4. APPROVE MINUTES: (Regular) April 17, 2024; (Special) April 23, 2024**

John Dillon made a motion, seconded by Shaun Manning, to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes, all were in favor, motion carried.

Shaun Manning made a motion, seconded by Jim Tripp, to approve the (Special) April 23, 2024 minutes, all were in favor, motion carried.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Ryan told of a presentation ceremony at Airex Rubber Products for a \$100,000 grant that they received from the State; they were one of six recipients. He extended his congratulations to Airex. Gov. Lamont and the Chief Manufacturing Officer for the State were present, as well as the other recipients.

Ryan provided an update on the Jobs Pond flooding; it is rising an inch each day. The State and Federal officials are now involved. A report has been completed to go to Washington but they are now waiting for estimates on pricing. The cost to pump the pond will be between \$1 and \$2 million with a 25/75% match. Everything is being lined up for the next step. One pump will be used pumping 5,000 gallons per minute. Insulation will be used to control noise. Mitigation options will then be explored.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**7. PROCLAMATIONS: EMS WEEK; POLICE WEEK; PUBLIC WORKS WEEK**

Shaun Manning made a motion to accept the three proclamations but waive the reading of them, seconded by Jim Tripp. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**8. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

- **Resignations**

- D) Kenneth A. Kearns, Board of Assessment Appeals (resigned 4/24/24) term ends 11/2025

- **Appointments**

John Dillon nominated Christopher Darby as a full member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, seconded by Jim Tripp. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

John Dillon nominated Kevin Backman as an alternate member [to replace Peter Filanda] to Parks & Recreation Commission, seconded by Jim Tripp. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

- **Reappointments**

**9. REFUNDS OF EXCESS PAYMENTS: Marino Joseph CLU & Phyllis RLU [\$7.00] Correction**

Robert Hetrick made a motion, seconded by Michael Pelton to reimburse Marino Joseph CLU & Phyllis RLU [\$7.00] which was a correction. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

**10. STATUS REPORTS**

Ryan Curley shared the following:

- Nice ribbon cutting at the track last week.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> is the annual town budget meeting at 7:00 p.m.; the referendum vote will take place on Monday, May 13, from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at the Portland Middle School, 93 High Street.
- A special joint meeting of BOE and BOS took place two weeks ago when Dr. Britton presented the plan for a consolidated school and the financial implications. The next joint meeting will be on Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m.
- The Brainerd Place project will go before P&ZC on Wednesday, May 8, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Portland HS.
- Oakwood Soccer has been sold and will no longer be used as a rec complex.
- A hydro geologist with GZA will be invited to our next BOS meeting on May 15 to provide an update on where we are and what we are doing to become water

independent. We need to have the well in the ground to be in a strong negotiating position with MDC and to identify the source of the funds.

- He and Ryan O’Halpin had a nice meeting with CT Water regarding River Crest where water was found to see if there is a shared interest.
- We have applied for a number of State drinking water revolving funds in the hope of getting some bonding funds as well as applying for some federal funds.
- Ryan said the RFP for 248 Brownstone Avenue needs to get out. He met with Tighe and Bond. A drone team took videos of the site, the spa location and shots of the river to use in the RFP.

Jim Tripp reported on Water & Sewer:

- GZA did survey the wetlands in March required to make sure we are maintaining distances and not impacting Carr Brook. Notes were included in the well site suitability which was submitted on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the work on clarifier #2 was completed, that is the relining project and reworking the mechanicals. At the time of the meeting, they were looking forward to testing and then do clarifier #1 and they anticipate less problems there.
- Parks & Rec: The Easter event was successful with approximately 350 people attending. They are planning a fall festival at the riverfront park following the Portland 5K scheduled for September 28. They were approached by a resident regarding the Rt. 17 Rec Complex and having batting cages put in. The plan would have required all the exercise equipment that is cemented in be moved; the commission did not want to do that. They may look at another way of doing it. They are working on a new field usage policy based on a tier system so that appropriate usage is being allocated.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **12. BOARD OF SELECTMEN GENERAL INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Nordic Spa will have their groundbreaking on June 8, Quarry Day.

Ryan told of the Rt. 9 traffic light meeting and how the plans may hinder access to Portland. DOT is starting to listen to the concerns of the officials of Portland, Middletown, Cromwell and East Hampton. If it goes through, construction starts in 2027 through 2031. There will be two roundabouts, one to DeKoven Drive and one in Cromwell which should keep tractor trailers off of Main Street Middletown.

Michael Pelton told of the first meet on the new High School track. A fundraising event will take place on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise money for equipment.

## **13. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

- **Review Town Charter**
- **Ethics Ordinance**

## **14. ADJOURN MEETING**

Shaun Manning made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Robert Hetrick, all were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Hoy, Board Clerk