

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT



JAMES B. COSGROVE
First Selectman

RAYMOND E. DUNBAR, JR.
ANGELA M. HIGGINS

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Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting

January 17, 2024

Fire Headquarters – 4:30 ~~5:00~~ p.m. (as corrected by the Clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Present were First Selectman James B. Cosgrove, Second Selectman Raymond Dunbar and Third Selectwoman Angela M. Higgins. Also present were Attorney Michael Cretella; Brian Devlin, Superintendent, WPCF; Tracy Everson, Maryanne Amore, John Hartwell, RTM Members; Gyanu Shrestha; Ram Shrestha; Carl Dawson; Mary Jo Riddle; Dan Hally and 6 other residents.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the minutes of December 6, 2023. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Executive Session – Tax Appeals – The board did not go into executive session to discuss the tax appeals.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to enter into executive session at 4:30 p.m. to discuss a Stipulation for Judgment in the Farids Stony Creek, LLC v. Town of Branford tax appeal. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. First Selectman Cosgrove invited Attorney Michael Cretella to attend the executive session. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to return to regular meeting at 4:33 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the Stipulation for Judgment in the Farids Stony Creek, LLC v. Town of Branford tax appeal case. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve accept a report from Brian Devlin, Superintendent, Wastewater Treatment Facility concerning emergency work that was necessary to repair the Pine Orchard Pump Station. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from Brian Devlin, Superintendent, Wastewater Treatment Facility to waive the bid for the purchase of two 10HP non-clog Homa submersible pumps and award the contract to Mechanical Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$12,898. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from the Parks and Open Space Authority to waive the bid for the rehabilitation and improvement of three parking areas located at two separate trailheads on Red Hill Road and award the contract to J.G. Boyd & Sons in the amount of \$14,495. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Appointments:

Daniel Cosgrove Animal Shelter

Bernice McKay to fill a vacancy left by Stephanie Malkin term to expire September 30, 2024. Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

RTM District 4

Gyanu Shrestha to fill a vacancy left by Ram Shrestha term to expire November 18, 2025. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Reappointments:

Board of Police Commissioners

Patricia Austin and Janice Heggie-Margolis terms to expire January 31, 2027. Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointments. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Board of Fire Commissioners

Robert Massey, Jr. and David LaCroix terms to expire January 31, 2027. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

East Shore District Health Department

Darlene Zimmerman term to expire February 28, 2026

Elaine Anderson term to expire February 28, 2027. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the appointments. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Human Services Board

Mary Perry, Lexi Klarman, Elizabeth Sattelberger and Mary Grande terms to expire December 31, 2026. Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointments. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Parker Memorial Park Commission

Edward Masotta term to expire December 31, 2028. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Planning and Zoning Commission

Joseph Chadwick term to expire October 31, 2028. Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Zoning Board of Appeals - Alternate

Richard Falcigno term to expire October 31, 2028. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Green Use:

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from Branford Counseling and Community Services for use of the Town Green on June 1, 2024 (rain date June 2) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to hold an education event and various activities. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from MADD for use of the Town Green on April 6, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to hold a mini-golf and youth day. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from MADD for use of the Town Green on October 5, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to hold Walk Like MADD. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Correspondence:

Letter from Board of Recreation dated January 10, 2024 RE: WIS Athletic Field upgrades.

Other – Carl Dawson addressed the board concerning flooding in the Waverly Park area. First Selectman Cosgrove expressed that the town is aware of the issue, it's very complicated but the town continues to evaluate options to address the flooding in this area as well as other areas. Mr. Dawson also stated that residents received a second tax bill and he felt that it was a waste of money.

Dan Hally addressed the board to request that the board consider changing the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. First Selectman Cosgrove stated that the meeting times in the past, during his tenure,

for 8 years the meeting time was 6:00 p.m. and public participation has been very limited and there is much far greater public participation at this meeting that started at 4:30 p.m. Public participation is always welcome and the board members always make themselves available to the public. There have been times, during prior administrations, when these meetings were held at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Hally also expressed concern with the appointment of Peter Black as the Deputy Registrar of Voters and staffing of the ROV office.

Tracy Everson addressed the board requesting that the board consider changing the time of the Board of Selectmen's meetings and the timing of the Board of Selectmen's agenda.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to adjourn the meeting at 5:19 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk