

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
Video/teleconference meeting
January 20, 2021
Fire Headquarters – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Present were First Selectman James B. Cosgrove, Second Selectman Raymond Dunbar and Third Selectman Angela M. Higgins. Also present were: Debi Miro, Director Information Technology; Lisa Arpin, Town Clerk; Linda Erlanger, Thomas Brockett, Frank Twohill, Peter Jackson, DeeDee Hakun, Chris Sullivan, Tracy Everson, Carolyn Sires, RTM Members; Tacie Lowe, Mark Colello, Kate Collins and Jerry Mastrangelo, Branford Housing Authority Members. Additionally approximately 40 residents attending the meeting.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the minutes of January 6, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. First Selectman Cosgrove noted there was a mistake on the 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting schedule that was corrected. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by First Selectman Cosgrove to add a green use application from the Department of Parks and Recreation. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from Debi Mirto, Director of Information Technology to waive the bid for the purchase/installation of VoIP telephone systems and communications services with the vendor TPX Communications. For the record this is for the town wide telephone system. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from Debi Mirto, Director of Information Technology to waive the bid for the installation and maintenance of cameras and Milestone camera software at the Transfer Station and award the contract to OminData in the amount of \$25,300.09. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from Branford Arts and Cultural Alliance for use of the Town Green on September 25 and 26, 2021 to hold an art display and market. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from the Branford Community Garden for use of the Town Green on May 15, 2021(raindate 5/16/21) and August 21, 2021(raindate Sunday 8/22/21) to hold plant and produce sales. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from the Branford Recreation Department for use of the Town Green for the month of February to hold “Do you Want to Build a Snowman?” snowman displays. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Correspondence

First Selectman Cosgrove read a letter from the RTM concerning referrals to the Board of Selectmen.

6a. Letter RTM Clerk re: Citizen letter concerning removal of signs in and around October 2020. Discussion took place concerning this issue. Selectman Dunbar stated that this sounds like an ordinance issue and this should be sent to the Rules and Ordinance Committee. First Selectman Cosgrove stated that the citizen petition referenced in the letter from the RTM “An examination of the targeted and unauthorized removal of Town Hall Corrupt, Town Hall Fraud and Fighting for a Fair Process signs in state highways by the Public Works Department”. He stated that signs in the state or town right away are not permitted. He stated that the town has removed signs for many years, over several administrations, that are placed in the town and state right of way. These signs referenced in the petition were not targeted. We have done it in the past and we continue to do it. If a local ordinance is required we can certainly look into that.

6b. Letter from RTM Clerk re: Citizen Petition regarding Parkside. For the record the First Selectman read the citizen petition referenced in the letter from the RTM “An examination of the past and present living conditions at Parkside Village Housing complex and its oversight by the Branford Housing Authority”.

Discussion took place concerning the petition as well as many other issues that were brought up concerning the Branford Housing Authority and Parkside Villages housing complexes. Discussion took place for approximately 1hr and 30 mins. Several residents, RTM members and BHA members spoke to issues. Issues raised concerned lack of communication between BHA members, conduct of the BHA at meetings, lack of transparency of BHA members, removal of

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BHA members, accusations of misuse of funds, budget issues, the agreement between the BHA and Beacon, land exchange between the BHA and the town, the availability of units in the proposed new building for current residents and the availability of future units for seniors.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to schedule a Board of Selectmen's meeting or at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting solely to discuss the Branford Housing Authority. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

First Selectman Cosgrove read a letter from the RTM Clerk concerning the Atlantic Wharf property. First Selectman Cosgrove provided a brief update.

First Selectman Cosgrove read three letters from Wayne Cooke. Wayne Cooke addressed the board for three minutes concerning the referrals from the RTM and his letters (signs, screen sharing, Parkside Village)

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Milici
Clerk