

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
April 7, 2021
Zoom – 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman James B. Cosgrove, Second Selectman Raymond Dunbar and Third Selectman Angela M. Higgins. Also present were: Attorney James Perito; Alex Palluzzi, Director, Parks and Recreation; Brian Devlin, Superintendent, WPCA; Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Sustainability and Compliance Manager; Lisa Arpin, Town Clerk; Tacie Lowe, Jerry Mastrangelo, and Mark Colello, Branford Housing Authority Members; Ray Ingraham, Peter Jackson, Dee Dee Hakun, Frank Twohill, Thomas Brockett, and Carolyn Sires, RTM members; Richard Greenalch; and approximately 35 citizens.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to enter into executive session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss pending tax appeals. First Selectman Cosgrove invited Attorney James Perito to attend the executive session. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Present in executive session were First Selectman James B. Cosgrove; Second Selectman Raymond Dunbar and Third Selectwoman Angela M. Higgins and Attorney James Perito.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to return to regular session at 6:12 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a proposed settlement in the Side Hill Springs LLC v. Town of Branford – 181 Leetes Island Road and Tucker v. Town of Branford – 19 Queach Road pending tax appeals. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a proposed settlement in the Wikstrom v. Town of Branford – 11 Maclean Place. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a proposed settlement in the RK&J Motel Associates LLC v. Town of Branford. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the Branford Housing Authority. Tacie Lowe, Chairman, Branford Housing Authority addressed the board and read a prepared statement. First Selectman Cosgrove asked several questions concerning funding sources, the number of units, the redevelopment and the new fee structure. Tacie Lowe stated that all current residents will be rehomed. Jerry Mastrangelo, Branford Housing Authority stated that many of the residents are scared or uneasy. Their living environment will change and they will now be moved into buildings with other residents varying in age ranges. Mark Colello raised a concern about the property deed. First Selectman Cosgrove requested breakdown of current and past residents that are or were recipients of funding from RAP/ERAP programs.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to waive the requirement for advertised bidding for the sale of a 2008 Ford 12-passenger bus and sell it to the Legacy Theater in the amount of \$2,500. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve a request from Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Sustainability and Compliance Manager to waive the bid for the hauling of Municipal Solid Waste and extend the contract with Cherry Hill Construction for one year at the previously bid price. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Brian Devlin, Superintendent, Wastewater Treatment Facility provided a report concerning emergency work that was necessary at the Linden Shores Pump Station.

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to abate the taxes on property acquired by the town located at 16 Summer Island Road in the amount of \$956.79 and \$620.54. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Green Use:

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from the Marion Lovig for use of the Town Green on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to hold a prayer for National Prayer Day. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard for use of the Town Green on Saturday, May 8, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to Powder House Day. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve to approve a request from Murphy's Paw Rescue for use of the Town Green on Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 12:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to hold "Gathering of the Paws". Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve a request from Tabor Blues Jam for use of the Town Green to hold concerts on June 5, July 3, August 7 and September 4, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that James B. Cosgrove, First Selectman of the Town of Branford be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Personal Services Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to purchase and install a playscape at Hammer Field – CPAP 2016-07

In addition, that James B. Cosgrove, First Selectman is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

It is further certified, that James B. Cosgrove was elected First Selectman of the Town of Branford. His term of office began on November 19, 2019 and will continue until November 16, 2021. As the First Selectman James B. Cosgrove serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Branford and on March 22, 2016 had both the authority and held the office to sign on behalf of the Town of Branford a Personal Services Agreement for financial assistance to purchase and install a playscape at Hammer Field – CPAP 2016-07.

Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Reappointments:

Dockmaster - Leno Torrelli for the 2021 boating season. Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to approve the reappointment. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Appointments:

Human Services Board

Mary Perry to fill a vacancy left by Ronald Washington term to expire December 31, 2023.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Veterans Parade Committee

John Fitzgerald to fill a vacancy left by Juris Patrylak term to expire September 30, 2023.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the appointment. Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Selectwoman Higgins to approve the following proclamation:

Arbor Day

Whereas, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and;

Whereas, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and;

Whereas, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nations and the world, and

Whereas, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife, and;

Whereas, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and;

Whereas, trees in our town increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and;

Whereas, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

Now, therefore, We, The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Branford, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the Town of Branford and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Seconded by Selectman Dunbar. Vote unanimous.

Correspondence – First Selectman Cosgrove read a letter from Thomas Brockett, RTM, Minority Leader.

Other – none

Motion made by Selectman Dunbar to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Seconded by Selectwoman Higgins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Trista Milici
Clerk