



**TOWN COUNCIL  
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
MONDAY, May 2, 2011  
REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.**

**WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL  
LECTURE ROOM  
324 FRENCH STREET  
WATERTOWN, CT 06795  
MINUTES**

**PRESENT:**

Elaine Adams  
Katherine Duplissie  
Richard Fusco  
Linda Masayda  
Raymond Primini, Chairman  
Paul Rinaldi  
Thomas Winn

**ABSENT:**

Richard DiFederico  
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chairman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Primini called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Ms. King, Secretary executed the roll call.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Chairman's Report** – five town Naugatuck River Greenway clean up scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., people are asked go to Watertown Recreation Department, 51 Depot Street.

**4. Public Participation**

**Al Mickel – 95 Woodvine Avenue**

Mr. Mickel suggested to the Town Council to eliminate the budget subcommittee. It seems to serve no purpose whatsoever, this year whatever was discussed and voted upon was thrown aside for some secret meeting. Last year the same thing happened, why waste your time and effort just go to the secret meeting.

**Ken Cestar – Riverside Street**

I am looking over the agenda and I see the question is back on for the golf course and yet we are talking about the general fund again. How often are we going to keep dipping in the general fund, it seems like we are arguing about nickels and dimes over our budget, our poor kids can't get the money they need for their education and then to take money out of the general fund to pay for sand for the golf course. I think it is time to put a piece of yellow tape around it mark it as unplayable and just continue to play.

**5. Minutes**

**a. Regular Meeting – April 18, 2011**

a. (Richard Fusco sec. Katherine Duplissie) I move to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting – April 18, 2011 as written.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

**b. Special Town Meeting – April 18, 2011 (7:00)**

b. (Richard Fusco sec. Elaine Adams) I move to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting – April 18, 2011(7:00) as written.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

**c. Special Town Meeting – April 18, 2011 (7:30)**

**6. Town Manager's Report – none**

**7. Subcommittee Reports**

**Shared Services** – Thomas Winn – a letter of agreement will be drawn up for the Board of Education to consider and vote on.

**8. New Business.**

- a. Discussion concerning Fiscal Year 2009-2010 audit and consider a resolution authorizing the appointment of an auditor for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.**

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Thomas Winn) I move to approve the resolution appointing Blum Shapiro PC to conduct the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 audit.

Discussion:

**Elaine Adams:** when we received the report in January, the question I have is regarding the BOE with their expenditures; to make sure they are doing it the way they should have been.

**Vanessa Rizzuto – Blum & Shapiro**

We wrote a management letter comment about the way they were encumbering their funds. When we tested their encumbrances we found that some items were not legally encumbered, we disallowed a little bit over \$120,000. So the rest of them were legally encumbered and I believe they are on board with the procedures for encumbering funds, the items that purchase orders are suppose to have in order to be valid. So going forward I am hoping there is not going to be any problems.

**Elaine Adams:** the other part is to update their purchasing policy and that will all be part of it to make sure that all has been done.

**Vanessa Rizzuto:** exactly

**Linda Masayda:** I believe last year we were having a state audit and there was something with the BOE and the amount of money and how it was allocated when we built our schools and there was over \$200,000 the State of Ct was looking to get back.

**Frank Nardelli:** that is Fred Hughes from Blum & Shaprio he is trying to wrap up Swift and the other two projects. Their was special legislation introduced by Sean Williams to say that those items were eligible and Fred Hughes is trying to move forward with the state so we don't have to pay back that money.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b. Consider setting a Special Town Meeting to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$51,329 from the General Fund for payment to Volunteer Firefighters for alarm response. Funding required due to increased alarms due to flooding.**

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Elaine Adams) I move to set a Special Town Meeting to be held on May 16, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at Watertown High School in the Lecture Room to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$51,329 from the General Fund for payment to Volunteer Firefighters for alarm response. Funding required due to increased alarms due to flooding.

Discussion:

**Larry Black – Fire Chief**

We responded to large number of calls within a very short period of time. Our account for paying volunteer Firefighters is \$6.00 per alarm that they receive. From year to year it fluctuates we were up to a fairly high number in that account a couple of years ago but because of lower numbers of responses and the budget issues that the town has had it has been brought down over the last few years. So that in combination with the alarms that we went to on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> pushed us considerable over the amount that is in that line item and this is what we estimate that we will need based on the number of alarms that we did the first two quarters of this year and on the number of alarms that we done so far this quarter barring no other natural disasters or anything like that, we think that will be okay with what we are asking for here.

**Richard Fusco:** do we have any procedural rules or regulations on how you handle this, why I am saying that is a person could call 3 or 4 times in the same night am I correct.

**Larry Black:** they could, if you saw in the note that I gave you out of the 115 calls we did in that 36 to 48 hours 10 of them called more than once. Two of them called 3 times and those were elderly people, one of them very ill. The other 8 calls were twice and those are in the middle of the night. The rest of them over 100 of them we only went to once and their basements did not stop flooding when we left and they somehow managed to get their own equipment they just needed that help initially to get them going. We have had in the past a few incidents where people call us repeatedly we have helped them purchase a pump in some cases, helped them with contractors, encouraged them to go in different directions, we have never refused anyone. We do our best to try to help those people have called more than once.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. **Consider a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to file an application and execute an assistance agreement for State financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$300,000 for a housing rehabilitation loan program.**

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Elaine Adams) I move to approve the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to file an application and execute an assistance agreement for State financial assistance from the Department of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$300,000 for a housing rehabilitation loan program.

Discussion:

**Frank Nardelli** this is something we do every year. This would be for the next fiscal year there has been a public hearing already held on this particular item. We have about 35 people on the waiting list for items like roof repairs, new heating systems, etc. It is a revolving loan, if we get this money we loan and it comes back once the people sell their house. We want to apply for the money, we may or may not get it depending what happens.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

## 9. **Old Business.**

- a. **Consider a request for an appropriation of \$6,500 from the General Fund for the purchase of sand for the bunkers at Crestbrook Park Golf Course.(postponed from April 18, 2011)**

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Richard Fusco) I move to approve the request for an appropriation of \$6,500 from the General Fund for the purchase of sand for the bunkers at Crestbrook Park Golf Course. (postponed from April 18, 2011)

Discussion:

### **Harry Ward – Parks Director**

I believe the last time I was here the question was whether or not Crestbrook Fund would pay back the general fund if this motion was approved. The Park & Recreation Commission Chairman sent a letter in your packets stating that the Crestbrook Operations Fund would pay back the general fund once the operation is back in the black.

**Elaine Adams:** the 18<sup>th</sup> we postponed it, the letter here is dated the 20<sup>th</sup> that would have been Wednesday. Were they able to have their special meeting to get it done?

**Harry Ward** the Park & Recreation Commission did not have a special meeting this was done via e-mails to each other and sent to Frank Nardelli and myself.

**Elaine Adams:** this is not binding at the very least. I never heard you could do meetings by e-mail or by phone.

**Harry Ward** our first meeting is this Thursday.

**Raymond Primini** do they have it on their agenda.

**Harry Ward** no, they feel this is a done deal and did the letter.

**Katherine Duplissie** in the letter it states that Crestbrook Operations Fund will reimburse the general fund as soon as any surplus funds become available, that could be never.

**Elaine Adams** I do not have a problem with loaning the money but I would expect to be paid back in a timely manner which would be the next fiscal year. I can understand the need and you are short it is the beginning of your season and you do not have enough cash.

**Paul Rinaldi** I would feel a lot better with that motion and number two I would like to see the motion made rewritten to say the money will be reimbursed, let's spell it right out.

(Richard Fusco sec. Elaine Adams) to postpone

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Consider a request for an appropriation of \$6,111 from the General Fund for the purchase of a triplex greens mower for Crestbrook Golf Course. The \$24,442.60 remaining cost of the mower will be taken out of the Crestbrook Operations Fund which will be reimbursed through the State of Connecticut LEEF Grant Program. (postponed from April 18, 2011)**

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Richard Fusco) I move to approve the request for an appropriation of \$6,111 from the General Fund for the purchase of a triplex greens mower for Crestbrook Golf Course. The \$24,442.60 remaining cost of the mower will be taken out of the Crestbrook Operations Fund which will be reimbursed through the State of Connecticut LEEF Grant Program. (Postponed from April 18, 2011)

Discussion:

**Raymond Primini** was there a deadline for this grant program.

**Harry Ward** the deadline is one year from the date of issuance. It means I have till next year to implement it; the problem is the funds are encumbered for this fiscal year only. Once this fiscal year is over we will have to re appropriate the bonds through a town meeting and then we can go forward with the purchase of this mower. The funds are in the line item right now because we made the transfer at the last meeting to cover the actual purchase of this mower. Frank wants me to wait till the Park & Recreation Commission meeting this Thursday to get definite approval from them before we actually purchase. I need to get this done as soon as possible because I have to trade the old mower into a junk yard and get all that paperwork squared away and back up to the state before the end of the fiscal year so we can show the reimbursement as a revenue to the Crestbrook Fund. Otherwise the revenue will show up next fiscal year and we will show a bigger loss for this fiscal year because the revenue will not be there, we will just have the expense but we will not have the \$24,000 reimbursement in this fiscal year. That is why I am trying to rush it through.

**Frank Nardelli** just so I understand this, if the Park & Recreation approves reimbursing the general fund once there is a surplus in Crestbrook then you people will move forward on both of these items.

**Raymond Primini** yes

**Frank Nardelli** why don't just do the motion that it is contingent upon the Park & Recreation approving the reimbursement that way we would not have to have a special meeting.

**Elaine Adams** if they say no in paying us back in the next fiscal year they don't get the money. If they say yes we will pay you back that is what the timely manner is. If they say no it will be once the surplus are available then that's not what we agreed to.

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Elaine Adams) I move to approve the request for an appropriation of \$6,111 from the General Fund for the purchase of a triplex greens mower for Crestbrook Golf Course. The \$24,442.60 remaining cost of the mower will be taken out of the Crestbrook Operations Fund which will be reimbursed through the State of Connecticut LEEF Grant Program. The \$6,111 is contingent upon repayment to the general fund in the next fiscal year pending the approval of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.

**Frank Nardelli** the only problem with that is their letter said that they would pay back the general fund once there is a surplus.

**Elaine Adams** we are not accepting that.

**Frank Nardelli** you want to get paid back next year.

**Elaine Adams** because the surplus could be never.

**Raymond Primini** wanted to add pending approval of the Park & Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. (Katherine Duplissie sec. Elaine Adams) **I move to amend the agenda for an appropriation of \$6,500 from the general fund for the purchase of sand for the bunkers at Crestbrook Golf Course contingent upon repayment to the general fund in the next fiscal year pending the approval of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

(Katherine Duplissie sec. Elaine Adams) I move to approve the request for an appropriation of \$6,500 from the general fund for the purchase of sand for the bunkers at Crestbrook Golf Course contingent upon repayment to the general fund in the next fiscal year pending the approval of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting on Thursday.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**10. Public Participation**

**Judy Wick – Northfield Road**

I wanted to ask has it ever been considered to charge people when the Fire Department goes and pumps out their basements.

**Larry Black – Fire Chief**

Since these are unusual situations that may occur probably once a year, twice at the very most and looking back at it again our repeat offenders are very few. We have not considered that, I think that the town's taxpayer pays taxes to get a service and this service for unique emergency situations. Yes we go to places where they have sump pumps that have failed but sump pumps are notorious for failing because they don't get used a lot. I don't believe that we have considered it because of that fact. It is an emergency service, it is not a service like taking your brush to the dump or something like that it is an unusual event and it is something that people cannot plan for and it is a service that we can provide as an emergency for them.

**11. Adjournment**

Motion: (Richard Fusco sec. Thomas Winn) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at time 8:06 p.m.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY