

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, April 12, 2022  
Multi-Media Room and via ZOOM  
Mulvey Municipal Center

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. In attendance included: First Selectman Hall, Selectman Campbell, Selectman Bialicki, Tony Cozza, BOF member, Marilyn Ozols, Planning Commission Chairman, Joan Angelini, Town Clerk, Tim Kellogg, Library Director, MaryJo Noonan, Library Board Chairman, Chris Ehlert, BOF member, Chairman Energy Committee, Paul Winch, BOF Chairman, Jill Brainerd, Facilities, Bonnie Hall, ZBA Chairman, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance and John Palermo, Emergency Management Director.

First Selectman Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

USE OF CONTINGENCY – eTickets, Library Shelving, SCBA equipment

As previously discussed, the E-tickets, Library Shelving and SCBA requests for funding were removed from Capital with the recommendation that these projects be funded via Contingency from the current year's budget. Copies of the requests from the departments were included in the BOS packet.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to appropriate, and forward to the BOF for further action, the amount of \$6,000 from Contingency to fund the purchase of eTicket printer(s). Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to appropriate, and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, the amount of \$5,500 from Contingency to fund the purchase of Library shelving. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to appropriate, and forward to the BOF and Town Meeting for further action, the amount of \$13,955 from Contingency to fund the purchase of SCBA equipment. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM LIBRARY - Use of Library Gift Fund - \$19,000

The protocol for the use of the Library Gift Fund calls for BOS and BOF approval of the recommendation developed by the Library Board of Directors. A copy of the Library Board's request was included in the BOS packet. The \$19,000 request is for the purchase of library materials, equipment, supplies, furnishings and furniture; plants and landscaping materials, memberships, continuing education, stipends to graduating high school pages and library employees.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to approve the use of the Library Gift Fund in the amount of \$19,000 as recommended by the Library Board of Directors. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM LIBRARY – Acceptance of Summer Programming Grant - \$2,000

The Library received a \$2,000 grant from the CT State Library to fund Summer Enrichment Programs.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to accept the Grant from the CT State Library in the amount of \$2,000 for Summer Enrichment Programs and forward to the BOF and a Town Meeting for further action. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DOG PARK – Follow-up Discussion

Mr. Hall recommended that the area at the entrance to the Athletic Fields off of McVeagh Road be considered for a Dog Park.

Linda Nolf expressed support for a dog park and reported, as a realtor, that like a good school system, dog parks also draw people to towns.

Mr. Hall read the following e-mail received from Mr. Bob Curt:

“John, if you have seen the People of Westbrook site on Facebook you know that there is overwhelming support for a dog park in Westbrook.

The concerns have been cost, location and safety for the dogs (fencing).

New costs can be minimized/eliminated if we could use existing Westbrook facilities that are under used. Location opinion is up in the air. But it needs to be a place that has parking, is at least somewhat fenced in and does not need initial start-up maintenance costs.

You know that I think Ted Lane field should be considered. It has all of the pluses and few minuses. These minuses being interruption of seasonal Little League and softball activities. This is easily addressed...no dog park during other scheduled activities.

I know that Ted Lane field has a well deserved reputation as a first class Little League field. We also have baseball and softball fields at the High School. It is unlikely that both facilities will be used at the same time.

I know that Ted Lane field is considered “sacred ground” by some people. But sacred ground should be used to its maximum extent for all Westbrook residents and not lay fallow.

Thanks.  
Bob”

The consensus of the BOS was that Ted Lane field is not an appropriate location for a dog park (health concerns; i.e. feces in areas where children play). BOS members agreed that the location recommended by First Selectman Hall (entrance to the Athletic Fields off of McVeagh Road) is an appropriate location for a dog park.

Items requiring additional information include:

- Insurance/Liability
- Costs for fencing, installation of parking area, site work– approximately \$19,000
- Signage/rules/by-laws
- Potential for expansion
- Formation of Committee (similar to Town of Clinton)

This item will be discussed further at the next BOS meeting.

#### CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY GRANT

Ms. Angelini reported that the Connecticut State Library Grant in the amount of \$5,500 will be used to purchase additional shelving for the Town Clerk’s vault. The cost estimate was included in the BOS packet and totals \$7,475.00. The additional funds necessary for the purchase are available in the Town Clerk’s Fund.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to approve the grant from the Connecticut State Library in the amount of \$5,000 as presented and to authorize First Selectman Hall to execute all necessary grant documents. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FROM RESIDENT – Tables on Town Green – no written request received; item tabled.

#### SET DATE FOR TOWN MEETING

The BOS scheduled a Town Meeting on Thursday, 5/19/22 @ 7:00 p.m.

#### UPDATE FROM ENERGY COMMITTEE

Mr. Ehlert reported:

- LED lighting assessments and upgrades have been completed at the Library. LED lighting upgrades will take place at the Town Hall. The Energy Committee is involved with the boiler conversion to natural gas project at the library.
- As previously reported, a grant was submitted for a carport (including solar panels) at the Town Hall. It is anticipated that the awards will be made public in May. Note that the carport, if funded, would be an ideal location for EV charging station(s).
- This year’s Capital includes LED upgrades to the Riggio Building and Academy Building.
- The old Landfill is being considered for a potential solar array.

- Ad Hoc Energy Committee members need to be re-appointed. This will be an agenda item at the 4/28 BOS meeting.
- Mr. Ehlert will speak with Ms. Castracane regarding alternate suppliers for electricity and natural gas as well as the status of bills associated with streetlights.
- The Energy Committee now meets every other month. Their next meeting is in May.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION – Mulvey Center and Library Roof Bids

A copy of the bid opening results was included in the BOS packet. Mr. Hall reported that 7 contractors participated in the mandatory “walk-through” relative to the Mulvey Roof and the Library Roof. Four bids were received for the project. Tom Hibbard, Architect, is currently reviewing the bids for completeness. The BOS and BOF will discuss funding sources for the project.

APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to accept the resignation from Jim Crawford, Town Center Revitalization Committee. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Note that the TCRC and EDC committees meet jointly and Mr. Crawford was a member of both committees.

First Reading – Meri Wick – Town Center Revitalization Committee

Mr. Campbell made a motion to appoint Steve Bergeron to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to appoint Athena Uzzo to WPCA. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/24/22 and 3/30/22 BOS meetings. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Hall reported:

- The Planning Commission has requested a BOS representative to work on a POCD Implementation Committee. Note that this individual does not have to be a BOS member. Interested individuals were encouraged to contact the First Selectman’s office
- The “panic” alarm button was inadvertently activated last evening. Mr. Palermo, Emergency Management Director, is developing/revising the policy, including drills, relative to the Panic Alarm. Employees and Board/Commission Chairs will be updated on these protocols.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for the purpose of a Personnel matter (interview Asst. Town Clerk candidate). Invited into the Executive Session: Joan Angelini, Town Clerk, BOS, and candidate. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Angelini and the candidate left the Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

Regular Session resumed at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to appoint Rose Datum as the Assistant Town Clerk effective April 21, 2022, 24 hours per week, \$19.02 per hour. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Executive Assistant

John Hall, III  
First Selectman