

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT BOS MEETING

TOWN OF WESTBROOK, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
Mulvey Municipal Center  
Multi-Media Room/ZOOM

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, Donna Castracane, Director of Finance John Palermo, Emergency Management Director, Rich Annino, Park & Rec Director, Michelle Centore, Library Director, Linda Tragakes, Mary Jo Noonan, Library Board Chairman, Tony Cozza, BOF member, Jill Brainerd, Facilities, Paul Winch, BOF Chairman, Cliff Spencer, Elizabeth Carpenter, Social Services Director, Courtney Burks, Senior Center Director, Bill Cusson, Fire Chief, John Flaherty, Fire Marshal, Lynne Spencer, Board of Fire Commissioners, Chair, John Palermo, Emergency Management Director,

First Selectman Hall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Ms. Castracane reported that the BOE has been in discussions with Eastern Connecticut Health and Municipal Cooperative (ECHMC) for Health Insurance. ECHMC provides an opportunity for municipalities and BOEs to join together to achieve long term efficiencies and savings in Health Insurance. The BOE's application into the Cooperative has been accepted. If the Town moves forward with the program, the Town will remain "self-insured" and will gain 2 seats on the ECHMC Board. In addition, there would be no changes to employees health benefits. The BOF will be updated on the opportunity at their 2/15/23 meeting and Ms. Castracane is waiting for additional information/clarification from the Town's insurance broker. The BOS will discuss further at a future meeting.

FIRE MARSHAL STAFFING

Mr. Flaherty reported that one of the part-time Fire Marshals has resigned. Mr. Flaherty recommends that his hours be increased from 24 hours per week to a maximum of 35 hour per week. There would be no impact to the budget if this request were approved by the BOS.

Mr. Bialicki made a motion to authorize an increase in the Fire Marshal's hours as recommended (24 hours per week to a maximum of 35 hours per week). Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INNOVATIVE MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

A copy of the Innovative Mosquito Management Contract was included in the BOS packet. The total contract is not to exceed \$16,500.00.

Mr. Campbell made a motion to authorize First Selectman Hall to sign the contract with Innovative Mosquito Management as presented. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL BUDGET DEPARTMENT REVIEWS

As done in previous years, BOS members agreed that no votes will be taken relative to individual department budgets until all departments have been presented to the BOS.

The BOS reviewed the following budget submittals:

- Recreation, Library, Social Services, Senior Center, Fire Dept, Fire Marshal, Fire Commissioners, Emergency Management.

Department Heads were available to address questions/comments posed by BOS members. Ms. Castracane will update department budgets as discussed this evening.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Hall reported:

- Bids are being submitted for furnace replacement at the Academy Building. The current equipment is approximately 30 years old and funds are budgeted for the project.
- The Fire Department will be added to the HVAC RFP being developed for Town buildings.
- Public Works will facilitate a portion of the smoke sensors replacement project in the Police Department.

- At the next BOS meeting, the Board will discuss the promotion of a part-time Public Works employee to fill a vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Bialicki seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest,

Suzanne Helchowski  
Executive Assistant

John Hall, III  
First Selectman