**Board of Selectmen**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday July 11, 2013**

**6:30pm Clifford B. Green Memorial Center**

**Present:** Austin Tanner, Bob Kelleher, Drew Dionne and Melissa Bradley; Secretary

**Also Present:** Rick Ives, Courtney Tanner Bellow, Tiffany Tanner Rosen and WINY Radio

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tanner called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
2. **Approve Previous Minutes:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to approve the minutes for discussion. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Mr. Kelleher clarifies in item #6, he does not disagree with a Town Administrator, only the process of the State Statute John Filchak quoted. Mr. Tanner clarifies he would like to present the study to a bigger audience for discussion and information, not for making the decision. Drew Dionne made a motion to amend his motion with the changes states. Bob Kelleher seconded the amended motion. Amended motion passed 3-0.
3. **Public Comment**

* Courtney Tanner Bellows– Ms. Bellows states she is opposed to the Recreation Department moving to the School and a letter stating so was sent to the Selectman, School Board and Superintendent. Ms. Tanner feels the costs would be increased for a space that may not be permanent and also possess a security risk.
* Tiffany Tanner Rosen – Ms. Rosen has the same concerns and believes we would be restricting certain people from accessing the Recreation Department, such as registered sex offenders and anyone with a restraining order who cannot go near anyone in that school. Also, the school may not have the handicap accessibility that the Recreation Director is looking for.

Mr. Tanner states he has not been able to meet with Bucky and Louise because of vacations but will in the near future.

1. **Discussion on Certain Motor Vehicle Exemption:** A resident in Town has a vehicle that is adapted for a handicap person and asked the Town for a motor vehicle exemption. Mr. Tanner asked Attorney Brouillard to write an ordinance and this would have to go to a Town Meeting. Drew Dionne made a motion, for discussion, to accept the ordinance for Tax Exemption for Certain Motor Vehicles and move towards Town Meeting. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Mr. Dionne recalls asking for what the cost to the Town was from the Revenue Collector. Mr. Tanner asked the Assessor and she would not be able to obtain those figures without the specific’s. Mr. Dionne questions if the vehicle is a transfer of ownership, it would not meet all the requirements in the ordinance. The dollar amount is discussed and does not seem necessary and Mr. Kelleher would to see a spouse included if permissible. Mr. Kelleher would like Attorney Brouillard to include a summary of the ordinance that can be published in the newspaper. Drew Dionne amended his motion to include the one change in the ordinance and include a summary of the ordinance for the newspaper. Bob Kelleher seconded the amendment. Motion passed with amendment 3-0.
2. **Discussion on Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit:** This can only be approved in July, Mr. Tanner tables this item. Mr. Kelleher states it is free to the Town but looks as there are forms and bureaucracy to get involved.
3. **Discussion on Zoning Ordinances:** There are two different ordinances to be presented. One is to change the number of members from ten to eight. Mr. Tanner thinks the ordinance looks ok, just the terms need to be straightened out so two members are reappointed each year. Mr. Tanner will discuss this with Attorney Brouillard. Mr. Kelleher suggests if they cooperate, they can all resign on December 31st and they could be reappointed for the correct terms. Mr. Kelleher would like a summary to publish for this ordinance also. The second ordinance is to change two fees. One is $150 for failure to comply with an approved site plan, special permit, subdivision or re-subdivision including any conditions of approval and $100 for any other violation of the zoning regulations. There is confusion of what other violations there would be that is not already outlined. Bob Kelleher made a motion to bring the two Planning and Zoning ordinances to a town meeting for approval with clarification on the fee structure from the Land Use Administrator. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
4. **Discussion on Petition:** A petition was presented from residents to call a town meeting under section 7.1 of the Conn. General Statutes to require the Board of Selectmen to convene to a Town meeting to adopt an ordinance requiring Town meeting approval before entering into any agreement, contract or lease of any Town owned property or equipment with a value exceeding five thousand dollars. The Town Attorney ruled it was not filled out properly and is not valid. Mr. Tanner states the Selectmen could bring it to a Town Meeting themselves with restrictive wording. Mr. Kelleher states the State Statute does not require it and it will set a bad precedence and is concerned with the direction this is going. Mr. Kelleher does not want to set a town meeting for a lease when he does not believe the petition is about a lease at all. Mr. Dionne states it was important enough for the residents to circulate a petition; they should be able to vote on it. Mr. Kelleher comments it can be reduced to a close common denominator that we will hold a town meeting because a town employee doesn’t like his relocation plan that the Chief Executive Officer said we want to do this. Mr. Tanner states the petition was circulated not because of a town employee but from a former Selectman that does not like the rent that is being charged. Mr. Kelleher states that is not the basis of the petition. Mr. Dionne states the intent was there, if they had proper knowledge of writing and executing the petition, this discussion would not be taking place and a Town Meeting would. Mr. Kelleher is concerned with the way this all came about and is troubled that this petition has nothing to do with the lease and everything to do with the underlying problem. Mr. Tanner states the way it was written it would cause a vote for anything over $5,000 in Town and does not feel that was their intent. Mr. Kelleher does not feel it is a problem with the lease and it would never have been called into question if we were not displacing Recreation and asking them to move somewhere else, it is just a game being played, in his opinion. Mr. Dionne points out their displacement has also changed three times since these discussions have begun. Mr. Kelleher agrees and suggests maybe rethinking this, backing off, and reconsider Tiffany Street. Mr. Tanner feels there are two issues, and if it wasn’t for the one, the other one would not happen. Mr. Kelleher is not convinced spending money to renovate the Town Hall is wise because in four to five years, the space will be out grown. The Selectmen agree to hold a public hearing to discuss this at the same time as a town meeting.
5. **Discussion on Probate Lease:** Discussion held in #7.
6. **Single Family Dwellings:** No Discussion.
7. **Calls For Service:** No Discussion.
8. **Other Business**

* John Filchak will have the final draft of the Town Hall Function Study completed by July 15th. The Selectmen request it to be emailed and also emailed to major commissions for review. Final discussions will be held at the next meeting.
* Drew Dionne made a motion to set a Town Meeting date on July 31, 2013 at 7pm at the Brooklyn Middle School. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.
* QVC will be hosting an information session regarding the police dispatch consolidation on July 18th at 10am.

1. **Approve Bills:** No bills were given.
2. **Public Comment:**

* Courtney Tanner Bellows suggests keeping the Recreation Department move out of the press until a decision has been made. There is a lot of hear-say and misinformation. Mr. Tanner states it is all public information the public has a right to free speech and to express their opinions. Rick Ives does not think all the facts came out and it is time to make a decision and move forward. Courtney Tanner suggests using space in the former town garage. Mr. Tanner comments the town garage did not go back into there because the costs were to high to fix it.
* Mr. Kelleher questions if the reason why the utilities at the former garage are so high has been determined? Mr. Tanner has not found that out and will contact CL&P to conduct an audit on the site.

1. **Executive Session:** Bob Kelleher made a motion to go into executive session at 7:36pm for purposes to discuss labor issues. Drew Dionne seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Executive session ended at 8:00pm.
2. **Adjourn:** Drew Dionne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Bob Kelleher seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted;

Melissa J. Bradley

Secretary