

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN – March 9, 2010**

**MINUTES:**

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM. Present were First Selectman Donald Stein and Selectmen Greg Cantwell and William Downes. Also present were Francine Beland, Assessor, Terri Collins, Tax Collector, James Bonetti, Resident Trooper, and members of the press.

**DELEGATIONS:** No delegations were present.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Bill Downes, seconded by Greg Cantwell and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 and February 17, 2010 meetings.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Greg Cantwell, seconded by Bill Downes, and passed unanimously to approve the following tax refunds:

\$ 288.07	Diane Depray	refund
\$1,792.36	First American Realty Estate Tax Service	refund
\$2,239.68	John and Stacy Zematis	refund
\$2,755.18	Dovenmuehle Mortgage	refund
\$ 18.96	Lisa DeRoode	refund

**DISCUSSION:** The Selectmen and Trooper Bonetti discussed the proposed implementation of a new town ordinance to prohibit loitering. The proposed ordinance is intended to focus on a growing problem of teenagers at the Mallory Brook Plaza who congregate in front of the laser tag business and the two adjacent restaurants. The other merchants have been complaining that the teenagers are creating a problem for their businesses and have requested assistance from the Resident State Trooper. Greg Cantwell expressed his concerns that anti-loitering laws are very difficult to enforce, can provide too much discretion to the police, and that such laws can open the town up to lawsuits for discrimination. He felt that the landlord and merchants should be providing security. If this does not resolve the problem, the police can arrest individuals for “simple trespass”.

All three Selectmen agreed that there is a problem at the Plaza and that the town should work with the owners to resolve it. Resulting action from this discussion was for the First Selectmen and the Trooper to work with the landlord and the shopkeepers to request that they accept responsibility for this issue and to consider the use of the State Police as backup. However, if that is not possible, the Board will revisit this subject at its next meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Bill Downes, seconded by Greg Cantwell, and passed unanimously to authorize Maria Mullady, Town Clerk, to apply to the State of Connecticut for a Historic Document Grant.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Greg Cantwell, seconded by Bill Downes, and passed unanimously to appoint Michael Beauchene as an alternate to the Conservation Commission for a term ending December 31, 2010.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Bill Downes, seconded by Greg Cantwell, and passed unanimously to change the meeting time for Board of Selectmen meetings back to 7:00 PM as was done in the past.

**DISCUSSION:** Don Stein informed the Board that he has been approached by various electrical generation wholesalers and that he was considering signing a 1-year contract at a lower cost per kw-hr than we are currently paying. The Board agreed to this approach as long as proper due diligence is exercised in picking a supplier.

**DISCUSSION:** The Board reviewed the expenditures through February, the tax collection rate, which is ahead of last year and which is expected to meet or exceed the budget, and the Grand List, which is up by 0.44% from the previous year's list. The General Government budget is projected to meet its target and, with the positive news about tax collection rates, this fiscal year will likely end with positive results.

**MOTION:** The 2010/2011 General Government budget recommended by the First Selectman was approved on a motion made by Bill Downes, seconded by Greg Cantwell, and passed unanimously. This budget totals \$1,757,948, which represents an increase of \$34,909 or 2% over the prior year, and will be provided to the Board of Finance at their meeting on March 16, 2010. The First Selectman is awaiting a quote on the Town Garage project and will present the economic analysis at the next Board meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Greg Cantwell, seconded by Bill Downes, and passed unanimously to add the appointment of an Assistant Animal Control Officer.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Bill Downes, seconded by Greg Cantwell, and passed unanimously to appoint Steve Joseph as an Assistant Animal Control Officer. The First Selectman will send a letter to the State informing them of this appointment.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Greg Cantwell, seconded by Bill Downes, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald S. Stein  
First Selectman