

VOLUNTOWN SELECTMEN'S MEETING
April 5, 2016

Meeting	A Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the Voluntown Town Hall. Mr. Sirpenski, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Selectmen Present	Robert A. Sirpenski, Jack S. Wesa
Town Officials	None
Citizens Present	Pamela Delaney, Paul Gruber, Wendy Gauthier, Scott Davidson, Audience of Citizens
Approval of Minutes	
Motion	A motion was made (Jack Wesa/Robert Sirpenski) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 29, 2016. Motion Approved.
Citizens Comments	
Pamela Delaney	Ms. Delaney submitted a letter to the BOS volunteering to serve as the Town's Tourism Representative. Mr. Sirpenski noted that this item would be added to the agenda.
Robert Sirpenski	Mr. Sirpenski noted that he received a call from Anne Olsen, Co-Editor of the Friends of the Voluntown Library Newsletter. Mrs. Olsen was very upset about a decision not to add a political statement to the Newsletter which led to verbal and social media harassment. Mr. Sirpenski stated that the Friends of the Library are a private organization that has done volunteer work for the benefit of the Library for many years and is not funded by the Town. Mr. Sirpenski noted that he apologized to Mrs. Olsen for the upsetting way she was treated and thanked her for the many years of volunteer work both she and her husband have done for the Town.
Correspondence & Announcements	
NECCOG	Mr. Sirpenski provided minutes from the NECCOG Meeting held on April 1, 2016.
Tri-Centennial Committee	Cheryl Sadowski submitted a letter of interest in serving on the Town's Tri-Centennial Committee.
State Firearms Range	Mr. Sirpenski noted that he received five letters asking that the Firearms Range not be located in Voluntown. Mr. Wesa noted that the letters should be sent to the State as the decision is not up to the Town.
Homeland Security	A notice was received from Homeland Security regarding the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.
Budget – VES	Supt. Burrows provided information on the School Budget for FY2016/2017. The school is looking into the Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0 for health insurance, but will not have the actual figures until sometime in May. If approved, the plan could provide substantial savings for health insurance.
Town Clerk Marriage Licenses	The Town Clerk forwarded an email from the Dept. of Public Health asking for verification of payments made in FY2014/2015 for which she does not have a record.
Homeless Hospitality	The New London Homeless Hospitality Center forwarded information on a "Walk to end homelessness" scheduled for April 24, 2016.
YSB/LPC	The Voluntown Youth Services Bureau and the Local Prevention Council forwarded the agenda for their meeting to be held on April 13, 2016.

NECCOG – SEDS Mr. Wesa noted that he attended a meeting at NECCOG regarding the Main Street Project. The project is in the beginning stages and will soon be looking for feedback from business owners and taxpayers.

New Business

Library – Loan Ms. Rubin, Librarian, spoke to the BOS regarding the proposed addition to the Library. Ms. Rubin provided a cost estimate from an architectural firm that projected costs at \$2,537,100. Ms. Rubin pointed out that this was a high end estimate that would be presented to the Building Committee to review and reduce. Ms. Rubin provided the BOS with information on a USDA Rural Development Loan which could be used as a means of financing the Town's portion of the project once the actual figures were available.

Employee Benefits Mr. Sirpenski noted that the Town does not have a policy regarding employee benefits and that through the years various benefits have been grandfathered in. He noted that the Board has been working with NECCOG to establish a policy for health and other benefits, but would wait for the full BOS to be present to make any decision.

BOS Budget FY16/17 Mr. Sirpenski noted that work has begun on the Selectmen's portion of the budget and that funding should remain "flat funded" with little or no increase. He reviewed the larger expenses such as Auditor, Town Council and Insurance costs. The Town is looking into the CT. Partnership 2.0 plan which would keep the same coverage with a reduction of approximately \$7000.00 in cost. The Workmen's Comp. policy will increase due to a correction in the Emergency Responders portion.

Town Clerk/Assessor Budget The Assessor's Dept. has a vacancy for an aide which has not been filled. The various departments worked together to organize a schedule for the current Asst. Town Clerk/Town Hall Aide that would enable the coverage for the Assessor, Town Clerk and other departments as needed. This would result in a savings of approximately \$26,000 for the Town. In addition, the Town Hall would be closed on Fridays to enable coverage of all offices.

Town Flags Mr. Sirpenski noted that there are four flag poles in Town at which flags fly for twenty-four hours a day. They are located at the Town Hall, the Town Green, Wylie Schoolhouse and Robbins Cemetery. The poles at Wylie Schoolhouse and the Town Green have no access to electricity and solar lights will be looked into. The Boy Scouts have expressed interest in maintaining the flags and Mr. Wesa noted that perhaps the Historical Society might take responsibility for the pole at Wylie Schoolhouse. The BOS will contact the Robbins Cemetery Association regarding their flag pole as this is not Town property.

Tax Refund Motion A motion was made (Jack Wesa/Robert Sirpenski) to approve a tax refund for Michael Cavasino. Motion approved.

Old Business

Public Works Garage Mr. Sirpenski addressed questions from Mr. Gruber, Ms. Gauthier and Mr. Davidson regarding the third phase of the Public Works Garage Project. Mr. Sirpenski stated that the project is governed by the State Office of Policy and Management which does not require a building committee. He noted that school projects are administered through DAS and the State Dept. of Education and that building committees are mandated. The Constitution Field Stairway Project is overseen by a sub-committee of the Recreation Commission. Mr. Sirpenski noted that the intent is to use only grant funds for the project, however, if more funds are needed it would go before the Town.

Mr. Davidson asked if a Needs Assessment was done and Ms. Gauthier asked about solar and geo-Thermal. Mr. Gruber asked about a completion date. Mr. Sirpenski stated that an Assessment was completed and solar and geo-thermal were ruled out, he hopes to have the project complete by this fall.

Windstar Van Motion Bids were received on the Windstar Van from John Henn, \$285 and Del McCartney, \$126.00. A motion was made (Jack Wesa/Robert Sirpenski) to accept the bid of John Henn. Motion approved.

BOS Mtg.
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(3)

Agenda Addition
Motion

A motion was made (Jack Wesa/Robert Sirpenski) to add the appointment of a Tourism Representative to the Agenda. Motion approved.

Tourism Rep.
Motion

A motion was made (Robert Sirpenski/Jack Wesa) to appoint Pamela Delaney as the Town's Tourism Representative. Motion approved.

Adjournment

Motion

A motion was made (Jack Wesa/Robert Sirpenski) to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Motion Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:

Approved for distribution by:

Roxanne Gray, Admin. Asst. to the BOS

Robert Sirpenski, First Selectman