



## Board of Selectmen

### Minutes – Regular Meeting

3 April 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Hall of the Memorial Town Hall

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
  
2. **Attendance:**  
Present Board Members: First Selectman Timothy Griswold, Selectman Matthew Ward and Selectwoman Martha Shoemaker.
  
3. **Approval of Minutes:** 6 March 2023 (Reg.) 8 March 2023 (Spec.) 20 March 2023 (Spec.) and 27 March 2023 (Spec.)  
Selectwoman Shoemaker made a motion to approve the 6 March 2023 regular meeting minutes and Selectman Ward seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectwoman Shoemaker asked to amend number 5. Other Business to include the following: Selectwoman Shoemaker thanked Selectman Ward for his service in the Tax Collector's office and asked how long he would be continuing in the position. Selectman Ward responded that he and First Selectman Griswold must discuss this further. Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the minutes with said correction and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. The motion passed.  
  
Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 8 March 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The motion passed.  
  
Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 20 March 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: None. The motion passed.  
  
Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the 27 March 2023 special meeting minutes and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. Discussion: Selectwoman Shoemaker asked that paragraph 15 be amended to include Selectwoman Shoemaker expressed reservations about the purchase of the rifles and she believes public comments should have been heard. Selectman Ward made a motion to approve the minutes with said correction and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion. The motion passed.
  
4. **Public Comment:**  
Kim Thompson, Board of Finance member distributed a statement and voiced her concerns regarding the budget allocation for the purchase of patrol rifles. Her statement focused on the value of the rifles versus their cost and cited numerous studies that dispute the value/benefit. She urged the Board to revisit the inclusion of the purchase of the rifles in the fiscal 2024 Town budget.  
  
George Frampton called in to say that Tantummaheag Landing is private property and that it is not a public highway. Therefore, the Town has no ownership rights. He welcomes pedestrian public access on the property.
  
5. **Communications:**  
Selectwoman Shoemaker said correspondence was received. Michael Fogliano urging an open discussion about House Bill 6633, which concerns possible State affordable housing regulations. She said he should attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting to explain them.  
Selectwoman Shoemaker said Rachel Gaudio wants some answers regarding some personnel issues.



## Board of Selectmen

### 6. Appointments

- a) Katherine Balocca (U) – ADA Committee – To fill an Unexpired Regular Position (No Term)  
Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Katherine Balocca to fill an Unexpired Regular Position. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

Jane Ungemack (D) – Halls Rd. Improvement Committee – To fill an Unexpired Regular Position.  
Selectman Shoemaker made a motion and Selectwoman Ward seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Jane Ungemack to fill an Unexpired Regular Position. Discussion: None. The motion was approved.

### 7. Old Business:

#### Project Updates:

- a. Halls Rd. Improvements – Executed Engineering Contract – A I Engineers  
Edie Twining will hold a kickoff meeting on Wednesday.
- b. Sound View Sidewalks – No Report  
First Selectman Griswold expects the punch list items will be resolved as the weather improves.
- c. Sound View Sewers – Possible DEEP Forgivable \$17 Million Loan  
Selectman Shoemaker said there was an article in the CT Examiner that gave 2 viewpoints and asked First Selectman Griswold to comment. He said the \$17 million forgivable loan has not been officially approved as yet and he confirmed the amount of the loan should range between \$14 and \$17 million. He said the loan amount cannot exceed the amount of the Clean Water funding.
- d. Senior Ctr. Expansion – The Boards of Selectmen and Finance approved a \$19,500 appropriation to fund miscellaneous project expenses. The Senior Center Building Committee has updated the total cost estimate to be about \$5.5 million. Jeri Baker, Chairwoman, thanked the Selectmen for their unwavering support and she hopes to break ground on the project in October or November this year.
- e. Ferry Road Sidewalk – Update  
First Selectman Griswold will be discussing the revised project budget that was prepared by Jacobson Engineering with the Board of Finance tomorrow. He expects construction will begin after Labor Day, if the bids are acceptable.
- f. Swan Brook Outlet – Outflow Crib Repair Complete  
First Selectman Griswold said we will wait to see how successful the crib repair project is at keeping sand out of the drainage pipes. It may be necessary to remove sand from them in order to have the contractor perform the video inspection of the pipe joints.

### 8. **Tantummaheag Landing** – Response from George Frampton

First Selectman Griswold said Mr. Frampton's public comments are contrary to what the Town's counsel has determined. He was hoping for a compromise from him and now some significant decisions must be made.

### 9. **36-1 Buttonball Rd.** – Committee Report on Improvements

Fred Behringer, Chairman, reported that the Committee unanimously approved its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The recommendations included co-management of the property by the Harbor Management and the



**Board of Selectmen**

Open Space Commissions and that public access is allowed. The Commissions will work as a team as they develop the property.

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to approve the 36-1 Buttonball Rd. Committee’s recommendations. Discussion: Selectwoman Shoemaker said a subcommittee should be formed to implement the recommendations. The motion passed.

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to dissolve the 36-1 Buttonball Rd. Committee effective today April 3, 2023. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

**10. Shoreline Gateway Committee – Update**

Selectwoman Shoemaker said there is no update.

**11. Miami Beach Assoc. - Proposal for Pond Rd.**

First Selectman Griswold said the Miami Beach Assoc. would like to make the southern portion of Pond Rd. (between Hartford Ave. and Portland Rd.) a private way and “recreate” Pond Rd. on the north portion of the road, as well as a portion of the Town parking lot. Another suggestion is to have traffic traverse the north end of the parking lot (between Hartford Ave. and Portland Rd.). There are obvious consequences to these plans and the officials of Miami Beach will provide more information.

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to amend the agenda to add Frank Pappalardo from the Sound View Beach Commission as Item a. under New Business. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

**12. New Business:**

a) Sound View Beach Commission

Frank Pappalardo was present to propose the installation of one or two poles with hanging plastic baskets that beach goers could use to assist with managing their refuse removal. There would be signage explaining their use and the items would be provided at no charge by Tom Larson, proprietor of the Just Dump It business. He had photos and dimensions for the prototypes.

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to approve a pilot program to install the business sponsored refuse baskets. DISCUSSION: construction and location options were discussed. The motion was approved.

b) Notification of Possible Federal Grant for Emergency Operations Center Expansion

Senator Chris Murphy has tentatively secured a Federal grant to cover 75% of the cost of a 1,400 sq ft addition to the Boughton Rd. Fire Station to expand the Emergency Operations Center. The estimated cost is \$1,020,000.

c) Electric Supply Rate for the Town and LYSB

First Point Power will be the new electric supplier for the Town and the LYSB at a rate of \$0.10741 (versus the Eversource rate of \$0.2100.



**Board of Selectmen**

- d) Extension of the CWPM Contract for Refuse/Recycling Removal  
The contract terms have been approved by the Boards of Selectmen and Finance for the 4-year renewal option.
  
- e) Delivery of New Public Works John Deere 410 Backhoe Loader  
The Town took delivery of the 2023 John Deere 410 backhoe loader and the old Volvo loader was traded in.

**13 Other Business**

Selectman Ward said the temporary Tax Assistant position term will expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> and he recommended the position be extended through April 30<sup>th</sup> so the permanent position may be advertised properly.

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to extend the Temporary Tax Assistant part-time position through April 30, 2023. Discussion: the position needs to be posted as soon as possible. The motion passed.

Selectwoman Shoemaker would like to create an ordinance that defines the Town Clerk and Tax Collector as hired employee positions rather than elected officials.

Selectwoman Shoemaker would like the Town to purchase a new Graduation Banner, as the old one was accidentally discarded. The new banner will be reusable each year by incorporating Velcro date/ numbers.

Selectwoman Shoemaker and Selectman Ward will be meeting with an HR consultant tomorrow.

Selectwoman Shoemaker asked when the Sound View Operations Committee was appointed and why its members are not listed on the Town website?

Selectwoman Shoemaker said the Finance Director has been on family medical leave since February and she was shocked that the Town Treasurer was not notified. This is a critical role that needs to be filled. Michael Reiter and she have identified a qualified temporary candidate that is willing to work 15 to 20 hours a week. The Town has a fiduciary responsibility to residents and the ARPA funding report is due this month. She would like to see the position filled immediately. First Selectman Griswold said that the Treasurer and the Finance Director should work closely together and he is surprised the Treasurer did not know that the Finance Director has been on medical leave for five weeks.

**14 Adjournment**

Selectman Ward made a motion and Selectwoman Shoemaker seconded the motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Discussion: None. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Clerk