

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 1, 2009  
(Subject to Approval)**

**PRESENT:** First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.  
Selectman Carol Hubert  
Selectman Kenneth Kerin  
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin  
Selectman Stuart Somers  
Selectman John Turk

**ALSO PRESENT:** Board of Finance Member Donna Pereira, Charter Revision Commission Member Catherine Palmer, Treasurer Bill Sarosky, IT Consultants Jack Rutherford and Frank Salamone, Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor, Office Manager Noreen Thompson, Interested Citizens, and Members of the Press.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Sel. Davis called the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2009 to order at 7:30 p.m. in Room 205 of the Town Hall.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Doug Ziemke, 165 Lum Lot Road, member of the IT Steering Committee and Chairman of the IT Website Committee, said he thinks Southbury needs a full time focused IT person so as to get the most out of what the town has invested in IT assets.
2. Ken Korsu, 272 Old Woodbury Road, said he believes the town needs IT support. But in order to consider a full time position, he feels a full plan and proposal of the cost and of what the IT person will do and when is needed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter dated September 18, 2009 from State DOT to First Selectman stating that the Town's application for the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Transportation has been approved.
2. Letter dated September 21, 2009 from CASHO stating they are awarding the 2009 Distinguished Service Award to the Town of Southbury.
3. Letter dated September 23, 2009 from the Democratic Town Committee endorsing the creation of an IT staff position.
4. Meeting calendar for October 2009.

With respect to Item #2, Sel. Hubert wished to make note that it is due to the leadership and efforts of Director of Public Works Tom Crowe and Road Foreman Ronnie Metcalf and staff that the town has won the 2009 Distinguished Service Award from the Connecticut Association of Street & Highway Officials. First Sel. Davis noted that a contingent from the town will be attending the awards banquet on November 21, 2009.

### **MINUTES**

Sel. Hubert said that on page 3 of the minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting in the last paragraph under "Tuition Reimbursement Request", she did not suggest that someone be employed for a time before being entitled to tuition aid. She suggested that someone should have to be employed for a period of time after attaining the reimbursed credits.

**Upon a motion by Sel. Hubert, seconded by Sel. McLaughlin, the minutes of the September 17, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, as corrected above, were approved with five aye votes and Sel. Kerin abstaining.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Upon a motion by Sel. Kerin, seconded by Sel. Turk, the following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved:**

#### **1. Appointments**

**RESOLVED, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee, hereby approves the following:**

**Move Maria C. Stack from alternate member to regular member of the South Britain Historic District, for a term to expire on January 15, 2011**

**Appoints Jeffrey E. Marshall of 842 South Britain Road as an alternate member of the South Britain Historic District, term to expire on January 15, 2013**

**Appoints Rae A. Van Egas of 4 Independence Circle as a member of the Pomperaug Valley Water Authority, term to expire on December 7, 2009**

**Appoints Janis P. Hogan of 456 Judd Road as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission, term to expire on January 15, 2012**

**Appoints Patrick J. Hayden of 89 West View Road as an alternate member of the Board of Finance, term to expire on December 7, 2009**

## **2. Refunds**

**RESOLVED**, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Tax Collector and in accordance with State Statute 12-129, hereby approves the refunds for a total amount of \$997.97.

## **3. Driveway**

**RESOLVED**, that the Southbury Board of Selectmen, upon the recommendation of the Driveway Inspector, hereby releases the following driveway bond in the amount of \$1,500, the work having been satisfactorily completed:

<b>PERMIT NO.</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	<b>SURETY</b>
609	Daniel Rado 88 Country Woods Lane Lot 13 SW	Naugatuck Savings Town File 06-75

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Code of Ethics Ordinance**

First Sel. Davis said the proposed Code of Ethics Ordinance had been sent to the town attorneys and Attorney Tinley had called him to say that he did not like the proposed Code at all. Attorney Tinley said the proposed Code has no reasonable person standard and does not state who enforces the Code. Mr. Davis said Attorney Tinley suggested the Woodbury Code of Ethics as a good code and thought it could be adopted by Southbury with slight tweaking.

Sel. Hubert felt that the town should get something, however short, in writing from Attorney Tinley so as to have a record of his concerns. Selectmen Turk and McLaughlin agreed with her. First Sel. Davis will ask Attorney Tinley for a letter. Sel. Hubert noted the Board could look at the Woodbury Code before its next meeting.

**Sel. Somers moved to defer discussion of and action on the Code of Ethics until hearing from the town attorney and the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Sel. McLaughlin seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

### **2. IT Position**

**Without objection, Sel. Kerin's September 3, 2009 motion, (seconded by Sel. Somers) that the Town hire a full-time mid-level IT person to support the technology in the Town, was taken off the table and opened for discussion.**

First Sel. Davis noted that all Board members had received his written report on creating a full time IT position.

Sel. Somers said he thought there was money in the budget for an IT person. First Sel. Davis said there was money in last year's budget, but not in the budget for FY 09/10. Sel. Hubert noted the Board of Finance said the money could be found. (Later in the discussion, Board of Finance member Donna Pereira said that funds in the reserve account for computer needs could pay for an IT person for the rest of this fiscal year.) Sel. McLaughlin mentioned there was no room in the contingency fund to pay for an IT person.

Sel. Kerin presented the position for hiring a full-time IT person. He said planning and coordination were two of the crucial elements missing from the town's current IT support system and the current approach to IT is reactive and compartmentalized. He said each town department tries to do its own thing with varied levels of success. Sel. Kerin said the town needs someone who has leadership and ownership of the IT area and is proactive and pursues a coordinated and planned approach. He said the IT person should report to the first selectman.

Sel. Kerin spoke of what has been accomplished while the two IT consultants have been employed over the last eight months: the town has a new and interactive website; the GIS system is getting back into operation; the financial accounting system will soon be up-to-date and windows-based; and the parks and recreation software, which had not been updated (for free) in more than a decade, was updated (at a cost of thousands of dollars after so many years). Mr. Kerin said it was not a question of spending money, but of moving IT from a compartmentalized, isolated, reactive, gatekeeper sort of a function to a proactive, leadership, ownership function in which pride can be taken.

Sel. Kerin noted that the part-time IT consultants could not deal with such things as confidential information, licensing, long range plans, and overall staff education. Mr. Kerin indicated on a copy of the job description for the full-time IT person the items which he felt part-time consultants could not do.

First Sel. Davis pointed out that the town hall departments are compartmentalized. Each department has its own program to do a specific task. But, Mr. Davis said, each department takes ownership of its IT program to serve the public efficiently and with expertise.

Sel. Kerin said computer program updates have come and no one has been putting them in place. He said an IT person could deal with the vendors regarding the updates and sell them to the departments. Sel. McLaughlin said that an IT person was not necessary for vendors to do what they are supposed to do and perhaps the department heads need more training in their systems.

Sel. Somers said that he feels the town does not know what it's missing because it does not have the technical people to tell them what is available and what they might be able to do. Mr. Somers said that a lot of the departmental programs could be integrated together so that information in one department could be available in another department. He said you have to tell a consultant what exactly you want to do, whereas a full-time IT person is going to know what is available and what you may want to do. Also, Sel. Somers said, as things are done, the departments will come up with different ideas of what they want.

Sel. Somers said that with an IT person, eventually the general public will be able to do things through IT which they cannot do now. Thus an IT person will save money for the taxpayers individually.

Sel. Hubert said she agrees with Selectmen Kerin and Somers 100%. She pointed out that Southbury is one of the few towns not to have assessments available online and having them online would save both town employees and the public time and money. Sel. Hubert pointed out that First Sel. Davis's report mentions the lack of interconnectivity between departments.

Sel. Somers said that even if a full-time IT person is hired, the town will still need outside consultants for specific projects. The full-time IT person would be someone with the expertise to know the proper consultants and programs needed. Selectmen Somers and Hubert pointed out that the IT person would know what the town is missing.

There was some discussion about the GIS system. Sel. Hubert pointed out that EMS, the Highway Department, Inland-Wetlands, and Conservation (among other functions) should be incorporated into the GIS. Sel. Somers pointed out that Southbury's GIS data-base is transferable to an updated GIS program.

Sel. Turk said he knows that hiring a full-time IT person is the right thing to do. He said the town needs someone to plan strategically and look out for the best interests of the town. But, Sel. Turk said, it is not the right time. He feels it would be morally repugnant to hire a full-time IT person now when 109 town employees did not have raises this year.

First Sel. Davis said he knows something has to be done, but now is not the time. He suggested reconsidering the situation in the spring when the new budget is considered.

Sel. Turk said he would like to see a 5-year plan developed for IT. He said some people had told him an IT person would be needed to develop a 5-year plan. Sel. McLaughlin said she thought the IT Steering Committee could develop a 5-year plan the way the Roads Study Committee made a 5-year plan for the roads.

Board of Finance member Donna Pereira reported that the Board of Finance is strongly in support of hiring a full-time IT person. She cited the need for an update to the accounting system so that the reports they get are adequate. Ms. Pereira admitted that the accounting system was now being upgraded, but said that, without someone to stay on top of things, there was no guarantee that the system would not become outdated again. She said it was a source of frustration to the Board of Finance that the town has been paying for upgrades to several systems and that the upgrades have not been taken advantage of.

**A vote was taken on Sel. Kerin's motion, (seconded by Sel. Somers) that the Town hire a full-time mid-level IT person to support the technology in the Town. Selectmen Hubert, Kerin, and Somers voted aye. Selectmen Davis, McLaughlin, and Turk voted nay. There not being a majority in favor, the motion failed.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **REPORTS FROM SELECTMEN SERVING AS LIAISONS**

Sel. Somers reported on land use matters: there is a new subdivision application of 11 lots off Georges Hill Road; the proposed new medical building is still before the Wetlands Commission; and there has been a petition to change the separation between liquor stores.

First Sel. Davis reported that the traffic lights on Main Street South have now been coordinated so that theoretically one can drive the length of Main Street South at the speed limit without having to stop for a red light.

**Sel. Turk moved, seconded by Sel. McLaughlin, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger