

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**(Note: These minutes were released by the Board of Selectmen by a unanimous vote at their meeting of September 13, 2010.)**

Present: Chairman A. Raymond Randall, Jr., Selectman Jeffrey D. Jones, and Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki.

Location: T.O.H.P. Burnham Library on Martin Street.

At 9:02 a.m., citing the need to discuss the value of real property at Conomo Point, the Chairman entertained a motion to move to Executive Session. He said that discussing the value of real property in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position and invited Mr. Zubricki to attend. He said that the Board would not be returning to Open Session. The motion was moved, seconded, and per a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board moved to Executive Session.

The Board was joined via speakerphone by Mr. Mark Lynch and by Mayor John Harkins of the Town of Stratford, Connecticut. Mayor Harkins explained in great detail the history of land that had been leased on a peninsula in his town and how leases were terminated, with the eventual return of the area to its natural state. The situation in Stratford in 1994 was almost exactly the situation that the Town of Essex faces today demographically, financially, environmentally, legally, and socially. He recommended that the Town of Essex develop a plan that will commence immediately after the expiration of the current leases that will preserve the waterfront area proper while realizing both a one-time revenue windfall and a recurring tax advantage by selling the leased lots. He questioned whether new leases of short duration were worthwhile since questions regarding the value of such leases given the short time period would likely cloud the issue. Mayor Harkins indicated that his Town should have acted differently over the long history of the Stratford issue, which stretched from 1994 to the present day, without realizing the most advantageous result for the Town, and at a significant cost and resource drain to the Town. The Mayor indicated that his comments could be used publicly and that he was willing to speak to Town officials and the public in the future, if necessary.

There being no further business at this time before the Board requiring an Executive Session, a motion was made and seconded to return to Open Session. After a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board returned to Open Session at 10:10 a.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brendhan Zubricki

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey D. Jones