



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

---

302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-2384  
Telephone (860) 395-3123 • Fax (860) 395-3125

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2017**

3:30 P.M.

**Town Hall – Second Floor Conference Room**

**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** Recited
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-** None
- IV. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMAN:** The First Selectman commented on North Main Street: Project Authorization Letter and Bid Authorization granted. May be out to bid in the month of March. He then spoke of last Thursday's storm and that he asked DPW Director Larry Bonin why this storm was different. The likely answer is the warm weather Wednesday, snow Thursday and big freeze Thursday night-Friday. This developed a layer of snow pack on the roads. The First Selectman shared with the Board a Listserv from DPW Directors who had the same issue in their towns. Mr. Bonin showed up at this time and offered his explanation.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Board of Selectmen Meeting January 24, 2017, Joint Meeting Board of Finance & Board of Selectmen January 17, 2017, Joint Meeting Board of Finance & Board of Selectmen January 21, 2017, Joint Meeting Board of Finance & Board of Selectmen January 31, 2017. All moved and approved with the amendment that Mr. Giegerich was at the joint meetings on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- VI. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**
  - A. Discussion and possible action for referral to Board of Finance- Marketing Plan Development fund appropriation. Jim Keating and Carol Conklin discussed how marketing opportunities are decreasing at the state level, especially with tourism. Mr. Keating discussed how the Mullin Plan was widely accepted by the town commissions years ago and that we should have an update. We rely more on residential property taxes now by about 10-15 % than we did then. (Donnelly's left right after the Mullin report came out.) The focus on a \$10,000 marketing plan would be to bring more commercial business to town and retain what we have. A local marketer, Rich Scierka, was introduced to Susan Beckman by the First Selectman and he has been helpful. Moved that this recommendation be made to the Board of Finance by the First Selectman, seconded by Ms. Conklin: approved.
  - B. Discussion and action to sunset Old Saybrook Police Department Building Committee. The First Selectman complimented the efforts of Dan Moran who successfully guided this committee to the completion of this building. The

committee need no longer exist as the contractor has been paid and is no longer on the site.

- C. Discussion: Probate Court. Judge Lomme joined the table. The First Selectman (FS) commented a bit on the history of the court in the Town Hall and that the lease is 3 years expired. The First Selectman has never felt that the Court was a good fit, and has had other Selectman from the District here to show them how the Court is situated in Town Hall. The FS knows it is a convenience to have it here, but commented that the town not only pays a fee of 6k to the court but also pays for heat, a/c, electric, maintenance, repairs, custodial and other incidentals. Because of the tremendous loss in revenue over the last few years, the Town must review all expenses. The court takes up about 10% of the available office space in town hall. The court's share of expenses is probably 12-15k. The FS, given all that has gone on with the budget crisis at the state level, does not wish at this time to put this move and expense on the other 8 towns, but will be looking to review the lease with the other towns.

Judge Lomme stated that the court very much enjoys being here. He passed out several informational pieces informing the Board of how the towns are charged and what the court does for its business. The Probate Court administration is proposed to be cut to 4m from 17m in 17-18. He fully agrees that Old Saybrook is essentially providing a subsidy to the other towns and that the lease should be renegotiated. He figures the court would need nearly 2k square feet for a lease and also would need to include moving expenses.

- D. Discussion and Possible Action on purchase of town streetlights- not discussed due to time constraints.

- E. Appointments

1. Pension and Employee Benefits Board. Vacancy (resignation).

Appointment is for the unexpired portion of a five year term due to expire on 1/2018. Rowena Moffett, an attorney with Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman, was moved to be appointed and seconded by Mr. Giegerich. She is also currently President of the New Haven County Bar Association.  
Unanimously approved.

- VII.** Motion to add to the agenda discussion and possible action on 2017-2018 budget. Moved and unanimously passed.

- VIII.** Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Finance of a proposed budget for 2017-2018. The First Selectman discussed this year's budget process, which is a bit different than past years as there have been joint meetings at which many department budgets have been discussed. However, in order to fulfill Charter obligations, the First Selectman handed a budget compilation to the Board. It shows a \$200,000 reduction from Department proposed budgets. \$500 from assessor, \$85,000 from employee benefits, 10k from Labor & Personnel, \$8k from the Library, \$2500 from Marine Patrol, \$2,000 from Registrars, 25k from the Police Department, 10k from off budget retirement, 2k from traffic & streetlights, 15k from DPW sinking fund and 40k from DPW capital. The First Selectman acknowledged that the BOS and BOF will continue to work together on the expenditure side of the budget into March. He discussed how this budget assumes approximately \$350,000 in revenue from the state, down nearly 1m from 2 years ago. If the town is required by law to contribute to the Teachers' Retirement, as the Governor proposed, the town would owe money to the state and these funds would result in a higher mill rate or a significant reduction in the school budget. Ms. Conklin feels that it would have to come from the school

budget. She gave the example of her daughter's education coming from a private school to a public school and feels that there could be significant savings in the schools. The First Selectman criticized the Governor's budget for relying far too much on labor savings which labor has not agreed to.

Proposed budget moved and unanimously passed to the Board of Finance.

**IX. COMMENTS FROM THE SELECTMEN-** Mr. Giegerich suggested that the 3T committee be sunsetted at the next Board meeting.

**X. ADJOURNMENT-**at 4:40 p.m.