

MAYOR
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI

DEPUTY MAYOR
JEFFREY A. MACMILLEN

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL P. DOWNES



COUNCIL MEMBERS
BRUCE ABELSON
MARIE E. DIAMOND
WALTER GOAD
CRAIG C. MILLER
NICHOLAS PALLADINO
RONALD PELLICCIA, JR.
THOMAS P. ZAMPANO

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471
TOWN MANAGER (203) 484-6000 TOWN HALL FAX (203) 484-6025

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY & REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

**North Branford High School Cafeteria
6:30 p.m.**

Mayor Angeloni called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Salute to the Flag

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Angeloni, Deputy Mayor Macmillen, Councilor Abelson, Councilor Diamond, Councilor Goad, Councilor Miller, Councilor Palladino and Councilor Pelliccia, and Councilor Zampano.

Also Present: Town Manager Downes; Assistant Town Manager Burke; Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito; Director of Public Works Merola, Assistant Director of Public Works Celentano, Members of the BOE, John Florio from BOE.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

a. March 12, 2024 – Budget Workshop at 6:30pm

Motion: To approve the March 12, 2024 Budget Workshop Minutes.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

Second: Councilor Diamond

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

b. March 19, 2024 – WPCA & Town Council Meeting

Motion: To approve the March 19, 2024 WPCA & Town Council Meeting Minutes

Moved: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

Second: Councilor Diamond

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AGENDA

3. Correspondence/Citizens Statements: None

4. **Unfinished Business: None**
5. **New Business:**
6. **Citizens' Statements and Petitions**

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

7. Town Manager's Report

a. General Updates

Town Budget

The work on the proposed town budget has been completed. Councilors received their binders last week and the full proposed budget is printed and before you this evening, and as we know, the public hearing on the Town and Board of Education budgets will follow the council meeting this evening.

Today, April 2nd is **World Autism Awareness Day** and April is autism awareness month. This year marks the 17th annual World Autism Day and provides an opportunity to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism fostering worldwide support. Autism Speaks at www.autismspeaks.org provides free resources.

Sensory Friendly Public Safety Day

In conjunction with this, The North Branford Police Department and the North Branford Fire Department, Parks and Recreation and Hometown Foundations, Inc, are partnering with the Linked Autism Safety Project for a Sensory Friendly Public Safety Day on April 9th, 10:00-11:30 am at North Branford Fire Co. 2 on Middletown Ave. where kids can meet and greet officers and firemen, see patrol cars, ambulances and fire apparatus. Again, this is a sensory friendly event for individuals with developmental, cognitive and physical differences. The event is open to residents and non-residents. Pre-registration is requested and can be done on the North Branford Parks and Recreation page at northbranfordct.myrec.com

Today is also **Primary Election Day**. There is still time to go to the polls if you are a registered Republican or Democrat to vote for your party's presidential candidate.

Polling Places

District 1: Jerome Harrison Elementary School

335 Foxon Road - Route 80

District 2: Stanley T. Williams Community Center (Senior Center - Gym/Cafe)

1332 Middletown Avenue - Route 17 Northford

District 3: Stanley T. Williams Community Center (BOE Meeting Room)

1332 Middletown Avenue - Route 17 Northford

Voting Hours

Regular Elections/Primaries - 6 am to 8 pm

I want to extend thanks to our hard-working registrars of voters and their volunteers as well as our Town Clerk's office staff who have gone above and beyond this past week to accommodate the new

early voting in addition to the normal absentee ballot and primary election activity that keeps them busy at this time of year.

Easter Egg Hunt Co. 3

This past weekend North Branford Co. 3 held their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Northford Park- I was pleased to attend, and the event had all the calm and relaxation you would imagine when a few hundred children run across an open field trying to get candy out of the grass ahead of each other. It was, as always, an enjoyable event, and our thanks to the Easter Bunny who made a special appearance, as well as everyone at Company 3 who makes this a fun event that children look forward to every year.

Park & Rec.

Parks and Recreation is hosting the return of **Junk in Your Trunk**- Saturday April 27th from 8:00am – 12:00pm at STW community Center where you can sell tag sale items from your vehicle. Cost is \$10 per parking space and bring your own table to display your goods. Register in advance at nbrecreation.com

Memorial Day Parade

Our annual Memorial Day Parade is at the end of next month and I am thankful once again that Gina Cox and Kathy Poston have agreed to take the lead on organizing our Memorial Day parade. We have held two organizational meetings including Public Works, Fire and Police on logistics and securing parade elements. We have some new elements this year which we are excited about as this important event continues to grow, and now with the creation of the Veterans Service Commission, Chuck Larkins of the commission will be joining us as we continue to finalize details and put on the parade which will be held on the Northford side of town this year.

Scrap Metal Pickup is going on this week on your regular collection day- This includes air conditioners, dehumidifiers, microwaves, large appliances (refrigerators, with doors removed), metal lawn furniture, hot water tanks, tools, metal fencing, filing cabinets, furnaces, garbage pails, non-riding lawn mowers with gas removed, outdoor grills, small machines and aluminum siding.

There will be a free Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, April 13th – this includes TV's, CD/DVD Players, VCR's, computers, monitors, printers, laptops, keyboard, mice, wires, hard drives, small kitchen appliances etc. – The drop-off location is the Public Works facility at 290 Forest Rd. from 9am- 12pm. Special thanks to the Solid Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee and our Public Works Department for coordinating in conjunction with Take 2 electronics recycling.

Bulk Pickup – will be the week of **April 15th** on the day of your regular pickup. This includes tree limbs, tree branches, scrap wood, rugs (which all need to be less than 4 feet long, no thicker than 4 inches and need to be bundled and tied), couches, mattresses, box springs, picnic tables and wooden furniture. No scrap vehicle parts. No home cleanouts.

Earth Day

The Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee will be holding their annual **Earth Day** event on Wall Field ahead of Little League's Opening Day on April 20th. This year the committee is reaching out to businesses, nonprofits, hobbyists, and organizations that sell products and services that are eco-friendly. The committee will supply tables to participants, so they can meet with residents while they walk the infield of displays.

Training for Boards and Commissions

There will be a training event for members of elected and appointed Town boards and commissions and their clerks conducted on April 17th, 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. Instruction will be on procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, and Freedom of Information Act Compliance. The Training will be conducted by Town Attorney Bryan LeClerc and me. So far we have over a dozen members signed up, members should RSVP to Gina in my office. We will be holding more of these training events before the year is out to attempt to reach everyone who needs the training.

b. Permanent Project Building Committee

North Branford Intermediate School -the project is expected to ramp up during April break.

North Branford High School – The roofing is almost complete and rooftop units are being installed. Gum masonry is almost complete, interior CMU punch list is being worked, Interior painting continues. The new scheduled completion date is September 11th.

North Branford Police Department/ EOC- The pre-pavement binding is scheduled for this week, and elevator delivery is scheduled for April 15. Interior finishes are ongoing, painting, ceiling grid and flooring. The new scheduled completion date is June 13th.

8. Community Events and Presentations:**9. Citizens' Statements, Petitions and Correspondence****10. Resignations and Appointments:****11. Unfinished Business: Discussion and Action****a. Discussion and Review of 2019 Blight Ordinance Proposal**

Mayor Angeloni said Town Manager Downes, Town Attorney LeClerc along with Town Planner Perkins have reviewed this proposal and updated it. Town Manager Downes responded that the product of that meeting was submitted to the Town Council for consideration.

Councilor Diamond asked about the enforcement of how it is determined who is going to be sent for a particular issue. Town Manager Downes said it will be the Town Planner acting in his capacity as the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Mayor Angeloni asked if the committee who brought forward the blight ordinance 2019 reviewed it. Town Manager Downes responded that the committee members from 2019 have not reviewed it.

Motion: To table the discussion and review of the 2019 Blight Ordinance Proposal until the May meeting.

Moved: Councilor Zampano

Second: Councilor Goad

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

b. Creation of an 1831 Committee

There are no updates on this at this time.

c. Town Center Committee

Mayor Angeloni stated that at the last meeting, Town Attorney LeClerc was asked to review the charter as there were questions on the makeup of the committee.

Town Attorney Leclerc said the proposed makeup of the committee is okay given the advisory nature of the committee.

Councilor Pelliccia asked how many committees are we going to allow people to be on and get some fresh faces on the boards.

Attorney LeClerc responded stating within the section of the charter, within Section 10-3 regarding Conflict of Offices- it prohibits a person from holding more than one elected, or council appointed office, position or community membership in town at the same time. There are certain exceptions which include Notary Public, Justice of the Peace, or if you create a joint board/ commission or coordinating body.

Like with the PPBC, you can create a Town Center committee having special participants if you will, similar to a liaison position who can be involved. It is the choice of the council on who will be appointed to this new committee.

Councilor Pelliccia asked with the liaisons, would they be voting members or would they be on the committee to add special knowledge. Attorney LeClerc said it would be in an advisory capacity and provide specific knowledge.

Motion: To table Town Center Committee makeup until the May meeting.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

Second: Councilor Diamond

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

12. New Business: Discussion and Action

a. Review and approval of Public Works Seasonal Job Description

MOTION: That the Town Council approve the adoption of the job description for Seasonal Laborer as presented.

Moved: Councilor Diamond

Second: Councilor Goad

Discussion: Councilor Palladino asked that with this seasonal position, do we need to specify the time frame within the description. DPW Merola responded that in their contract it states what seasonal is considered.

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

b. Annual C-Med Funds Designation

MOTION: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that The North Branford Town Council instructs the Treasurer/Finance Director to notify the State Department of Emergency Services and Public

Protection that the Town of North Branford designates MedCom, Inc. as the recipient of the Town's C-MED funds 2024-2025 for 2024/25 pursuant to Section 28-24-7 (a) and (b).

Moved: Councilor Diamond

Second: Councilor Abelson

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

c. Application for ARPA non-profit organization funding

i. North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc

Mayor Angeloni shared this is a new application that was received. Applications have closed as of April 1. Town Manager Downes responded that there was one additional application that came in just before the April 1 deadline.

Dave Sargent, President of Land Conservation Trust shared that COVID shortened the number of activities the Land Trust could have. It was noticed that people wanted to get outdoors and the need for more outdoor activity. They are in the process of acquiring part of the Beech/Pond St. for the creation of an ADA compliant trail and parking lot. This will be the first ADA compliant trail in our town. Councilor Goad asked if the parking lot that's on the corner is where it would be? Mr. Sargent said if you are on Beech St about halfway down there is a second gate area that the water company used that is no longer used. That is where they plan to open trails. It is 26 acres.

Councilor Zampano asked if the ADA is a requirement or is it something to create for something different? Mr. Sargent said the Land Trust is making it ADA compliant as it's an inexpensive way to make it more inclusive.

Mayor Angeloni stated that at the last meeting we put additional funding into the ARPA fund. There is \$13,000 left in the pot. Councilor Pelliccia suggested to table this application until we see the last application.

Motion: To table the discussion of the Land Conservation Trust application until the May meeting where they all can be reviewed at once.

Moved: Councilor Pelliccia

Second: Councilor Goad

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

ii. Water n' Webs Waterbird Rehabilitation Centre, Inc.

Mayor Angeloni stated that at the last meeting, a detailed breakdown of what the \$4,000 would be used for was requested. Ms. Powers responded that the website would be very basic per Powers; the very basic website is \$4,000. Mayor Angeloni asked if the council does not allocate the full amount how will the money allocated be used. Ms. Powers stated that they would use it towards a website and just continue fundraising to raise the rest of the money needed for the website.

Councilor Diamond asked if there were any other quotes on this one. Councilor Pelliccia said that a lot of websites need to be maintained. How much would it be to maintain? Ms. Powers stated that the cost is \$400 a year for the company to maintain it. Councilor Abelson asked if Ms. Powers had researched any other companies for this website or received any other quotes for the

website creation. Ms. Powers stated she did not research any other quotes/ companies, as they like how Mosaic presents the websites and wanted to go with that option.

Motion: To table this application until the May meeting and review all of them and make a decision.

Moved: Councilor Goad

Second: Councilor Palladino

Discussion:

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

d. NIP Fund Request to Purchase of A-Frame Sign & letters not to exceed \$500

MOTION: The North Branford Town Council authorizes an additional amount not to exceed \$500 out of the NIP fund for the purchase of an additional A-Frame Sign and associated letters for use by the Solid Hazardous Waste and Recycling Committee.

Moved: Councilor Diamond

Second: Councilor Palladino

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

e. Setting Additional Budget Hearing Dates

Mayor Angeloni said right now there is only one more date scheduled for Budget Workshops is 4/4/24 and we need to have the budget finalized at the April 16th meeting.

Councilor Diamond requested that the council add another workshop date: Tuesday 4/9/24 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Angeloni shared that some council members won't be able to attend due to school vacation, but five members have committed to attend that additional meeting.

Motion: To add an additional Budget Workshop meeting on Tuesday April 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Council Chambers.

Moved: Councilor Diamond

Second: Councilor Zampano

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Abstain: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

f. Pole Attachment Agreement with Frontier Communications

Atty LeClerc shared that this agreement was negotiated with SNET/ Frontier Communications regarding the municipal gain and that is the ability of Town to construct a wire-based telecommunications network using the Frontier poles. There are certain rights under the state's jurisdiction and regulations. The Town has the ability to put their telecommunications equipment on the poles that are already there. It has been negotiated for many months with Frontier Communications.

Motion: For the town to enter into a pole attachment agreement with SNET doing business as Frontier Communications and authorize the Town Manager Michael Downes to execute such an agreement on behalf of the Town of North Branford in such form as is acceptable to the town attorney.

Moved: Councilor Abelson

Second: Councilor Miller

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

g. Request for bid waiver for Smith and Wesson Handguns

MOTION: To approve the request for a bid waiver for Smith and Wesson Handguns for the NBPB.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

Second: Councilor Diamond

Discussion: Councilor Abelson asked about the old handguns. Is it legal to sell the ones not being used to the people who own them. Chief Lovelace said that the State of CT, they went to all firearm purchases have to go through a federally licensed firearm dealers kindly referred to as an FFL. They would follow the town's policies on surplus equipment, get those approvals and then the town would transfer those firearms through the FFL, who then would file paperwork with the State of CT special firearms unit and then those equipment would be available for purchase to those individuals. This is something done commonly in law enforcement work.

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Abstain: Councilor Miller

13. Citizen's Statement and Petition

14. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Macmillen

Second: Councilor Diamond

Discussion: None

With all in favor, the motion is passed.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathleen Daly, Clerk

April 5, 2024