

MAYOR  
JEFFREY A. MACMILLEN

DEPUTY MAYOR  
THOMAS ZAMPANO

TOWN MANAGER  
MICHAEL P. DOWNES



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
BRUCE ABELSON  
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI  
MARIE E. DIAMOND  
WALTER GOAD  
VINCENT J. MASE, SR.  
NICHOLAS PALLADINO  
RONALD PELLICCIA, JR.

# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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

## MINUTES WPCA & TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Town Council Chambers  
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Macmillen called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

### Salute to the Flag

#### 1. Roll Call

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

**Also Present:** Town Manager Downes, Assistant Town Manager Burke, Town Treasurer/ Finance Director Esposito, Public Works Director Merola, Assistant Director Celentano, Town Attorney LeClerc, Town Engineer Benni, David Perkins, Town Planner, and Bill Savastano SHWRC member.

#### 2. Community Events and Presentations: None

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

##### a. August 15, 2023 – Town Council Meeting

**Motion:** To approve the August 15, 2023, Town Council Meeting minutes.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Diamond

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**Abstain:** Councilor Pelliccia

### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AGENDA

#### 4. Correspondence/Citizens' Statements and Petitions: None

#### 5. Unfinished Business: None

**6. New Business: Discussion and Action**

**a. 26 Mansfield Drive (Map 62B, Lot 29C) – Totoket Woods Development LLC  
Request to Connect to Sanitary Sewers**

Town Engineer Benni shared that the North Branford water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) at its February 2, 2021 meeting, approved the request to connect a proposed building on the above referenced property to sanitary sewers. The approval proposed to connect a new 4,800 square foot garage/warehouse building, with a 1,200 square foot office space on the second floor. The approval required the Owner to pay a connection fee for the building sewer connection in the amount of \$12,000 based upon the approval building square footage.

Since the approval the property owner has revised their plans and decreased the proposed building size to a 1,920 square foot garage/ warehouse building, with 256 square feet of office space on the second floor, as depicted on the attached Site Plan. In accordance with the Sewer Regulations, the owner is required to pay a special connection fee of \$4,000 per assessment unit for the first five (5) units, and \$2,000 per unit thereafter. The number of units is based upon the revised building square footage of 1,920 sf (2 @ 24' x 40') garage/warehouse) industrial use computed at 1 unit. 3,000 sf) which equates to 0.64 units, plus 256 sf (16' x 16') of office space (office use computed at 1 unit. 1, 000 sf) which equates to 0.26 units, for a total of 0.90 units which is rounded up to 1 unit. The special connection fee is therefore 1 unit x \$4,000/unit, for a total of \$4,000.

**MOTION: WHEREAS**, the current owner(s) of the property known as 26 Mansfield Drive, (Map 62B, Lot 29C), proposes to connect a 1,920 square foot garage/ warehouse building with an additional 256 square feet of office space on the second floor locate don said property to municipal sanitary sewers as shown on plans entitled “Property Located at #26 Mansfield Drive, North Branford, Connecticut, Proposed Site Plan” prepared for Totoket Woods Developers, LLC Drawing No 2 of 3, dated 12/10/2020, Revised 5/31/2023, as prepared by Criscuolo Engineering, LLC and **WHEREAS**, the proposed sanitary sewer connection will benefit the property by allowing a 1,920 square foot garage/warehouse building with 256 square feet of office space on the second floor, to be served by municipal sanitary sewers;  
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the North Branford Town Water Pollution Control Authority approves the proposal to connect said building on said property to municipal sanitary sewers subject to the following conditions:

1. That the installation be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations Governing the Installation of Sanitary Sewers in Development and in conformance with the Town of North Branford Sanitary sewer details; and
2. The North Branford Water Pollution Control Authority shall require the owner/developer to pay a Special Connection fee for the building connection, in the amount of \$4,000, based upon a proposed 1,920 square feet of garage/warehouse use on the first floor and 256 square feet of office space on the second floor, computed at a rate of one (1) unit per 3,000 sf of industrial use and one (1) unit for every 1,000 square feet or part thereof for office use, which shall be paid to the Town prior to issuance of a sewer connection permit in accordance with the Town of North Branford Regulations for Layout and Assessment of Sanitary Sewers; and
3. Any revisions required by the Town Engineer shall be included in the final construction plans, including that a 6-inch tapping wye shall be installed into the existing 8-inch sewer line where the proposed sewer connection is to be made in Mansfield Drive.

4. That the owner(s) enter into an agreement with the Town authorizing the connection of the proposed building to the existing sanitary sewer line in Mansfield Drive in general conformance with the above reference conditions, and that the Town Manager be hereby authorized to enter into said agreement on behalf of the Water Pollution Control Authority subject to approval of the agreement by the Town Attorney. Said agreement shall be executed by both parties and filed with the Town Clerk prior to commencing any work on this project.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

## **7:30 pm Public Hearing**

### **Designating the Town of North Branford as a Rehabilitation Area and Establishing Criteria for the Eligibility of Real Property for Assessment Deferral and Administrative Procedures.**

The North Branford Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Branford Town Hall Council Chambers. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to hear comments on: Designating the Town of North Branford as a Rehabilitation Area and Establishing Criteria for the Eligibility of Real Property for Assessment Deferral and Administrative Procedures.

Dated at North Branford, Connecticut this 2nd day of August 2023. Michael P. Downes, Town Manager. Email public comments [public.comments@townofnorthbranfordct.gov](mailto:public.comments@townofnorthbranfordct.gov)

Bill Savastano, Sunnyside Dr. had a comment to share. He was interested in knowing how much money could be lost by the property tax deferrals. Mayor Macmillen said there is not an accurate answer on this. Councilor Pelliccia said there is a net benefit as you are essentially approving properties in town.

Assistant Town Manager Burke shared that this process freezes tax assessment for development projects. Any increase in assessed value is deferred over a 5-year timeline. The money is not recouped. It is meant as a business incentive for construction.

Councilor Abelson asked when they freeze it for 5 years the taxes are still accrued? Town Manager Burke said they are still paying as they exist prior to development. The value of the increase is deferred until the project is complete. Tax Assessor Ambrose shared that the first year after the CO is issued you are paying the previous October 1 assessment: then 20% each year over 5 years. This is approved on a per project basis. There are currently 14 parcels on the program right now. Councilor Goad asked if this is something we as a town want to do or have to do? Attorney LeClerc said you have to be designated as a rehabilitation area to be able to defer taxes.

**MOTION:** To add to the agenda item 12 f. for discussion and action of RFP #924003 for the staffing of the ambulances.

**MOVED:** Councilor Pelliccia

**SECOND:** Councilor Mase

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**MOTION:** To add 12 g the acceptance of the STEAP Grant for the New Police Department Facility to the agenda.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Mase

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

The public hearing closed at 7:41 p.m.

**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**7. Reports of Committees, Boards and Commissions:**

**a. Economic Development Commission**

Councilor Palladino shared there was no meeting.

**b. Park & Recreation**

Councilor Angeloni shared the next meeting is at the end of September.

**c. Police Commission**

Councilor Diamond stated the next meeting is on Sept 11, 2023.

**d. Fire Commission**

Councilor Pelliccia shared that the next meeting will be held on September 7, 2023.

**e. Planning & Zoning Commission**

Deputy Mayor Zampano shared that the next meeting will be held on September 7, 2023.

**f. Finance Subcommittee**

Councilor Angeloni shared that the next meeting will be on September 12, 2023

**g. Public Safety Communications Sub-Committee**

Councilor Diamond shared that for.

- Homeland Towers: Clintonville Rd.

We are waiting for Verizon to install their equipment before Motorola / NorComm can start their work. They are anticipated to start their work in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September. It is estimated that it will take 3 to 4 weeks for Motorola to complete their work. That will put us into the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October before Motorola can start to install our equipment.

- Tilcon Tower
  - Work installing our equipment began about two weeks ago.
  - Completion is expected around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

**h. CIWWA**

Councilor Diamond shared that the next meeting will be held on September 27, 2023.

**8. Town Manager's Report:**

**a. General Updates**

**East Haven ACO takeover as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.** – As the Council is aware East Haven has begun providing animal control services to North Branford effective last Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. I took the opportunity to visit the ACO team as well as meet up with East Haven Mayor Joe Carfora at the East Haven Animal Shelter on their first day serving North Branford and welcome them to serve our community.

### **Blueprint Committee**

The organizational meeting for the Blueprint Committee was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, here in the Council Chambers. Members were sworn in with Deputy Mayor Tom Zampano being elected as chairman, and member Dan Armin being selected as vice chairman. Future meetings will be held at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday of every month, alternating between Edward Smith library and Atwater library through to March when they are charged with delivering their recommendations to this council. Details on meeting times and locations are published on the town website.

### **Women of Excellence**

The Shoreline Chamber of Commerce held their annual Women of Excellence Awards ceremony luncheon on Tuesday of next week, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Woodwinds in Branford. The event honored two women of distinction from each community of North Branford, Branford and Guilford who have made significant contributions to their communities. This year the honorees from North Branford were Councilor Rose Angeloni, who was recognized for excellence in Public Service and Bonnie Symansky who was recognized for Excellence in the Arts & Community Service. I was pleased to join with Mayor Macmillen, State Representative Vin Candelora, State Senator Christine Cohen, and Anthony Afrieyie of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office to recognize these two outstanding residents for their numerous contributions to our community.

### **Towers**

- Homeland Towers: Clintonville Rd.

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- Tilcon Tower
  - Work installing our equipment began about two weeks ago.
  - Completion is expected around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September.

### **FEMA Inspection at PD**

FEMA conducted its inspection of the PD/EOC project on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. I met FEMA personnel at the construction site where they took some photos and viewed the drawings, and also observed the easement set aside and fenced off by both DPW and Newfield keeping construction away from where items of interest had been uncovered from the archaeological study. They are quite pleased with what they saw relative to the project as we are much farther along than any other project in this grant group, and they look forward to holding us up as an example of an excellent project. Following this visit we were cleared to begin submitting for reimbursements.

### **Bulky pickup date set (also, scrap metal pickup)**

We have set the date for Bulky waste collection this fall, and it will take place the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>. The Council will recall that we were required to negotiate for bulky waste

collection for years 3,4 and 5 of our five-year contracts, which we did earlier this year, which is why we did not have the date set at the beginning of the year as we ordinarily do.

I would remind residents that we also have a scrap metal collection coming up this fall the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, on your regularly scheduled trash collection day. Scrap metal includes appliances and large appliances such as refrigerators (with the doors removed) metal lawn furniture, grills, small machines, and non-riding lawn mowers with the gas removed.

### **Finance Dept**

As you know Patti Schaefer recently retired from our Finance Department. I am pleased to report that Jill Drezek has begun work as our new AP Account Clerk and is training in the post. Also, as you are aware, Anita Mancini has retired as our staff accountant to take the post of Finance Director in Old Lyme. We are currently interviewing candidates for this vacancy. Anita is unable to join us to recognize her service, but we did produce a plaque recognizing her retirement and are sending it to her. In the meantime, we have a very experienced temporary replacement in that position until we are able to fill it permanently.

**Trunk or Treat** – The Park and Rec Dept is gearing up to put on their annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event for kids- the event takes place at STW Community Center from 2:00pm- 3:30pm Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> rain or shine.

### **b. Permanent Project Building Committee**

**Police Department /EOC Project** -the erecting of steel work continues, and the project remains on schedule for early spring completion.

**NBIS**-some reappointing has been done and windowsills reset.

**NBHS** -Work continues on the punchlist, the Phase II demo is in process.

**STWCC** -Roof is done and warranty issued. Fascia punch list has been identified and final work scheduled this month.

## **9. Citizens' Statements and Petitions and Correspondence:**

Cliff Potter, Middletown Avenue said he was saddened to see on Facebook that the names were disappearing off the beam due to the rainstorm after the signing. Councilor Angeloni said some of the markers given for the beam signing were not permanent markers and it washed off a lot of the signed names. The Police Commission will be addressing it at their meeting next week.

Bill Savastano, Sunnyside Dr. wanted to share that he thought it was great when the ACO bill was passed and the Do's and don'ts. The due diligence was wonderful. His hope is that when it comes time to discuss the Bulky waste/ trash contract you will be just as involved. He also wanted to discuss the Veterans council and it was something that is mandated by the state and hoped to see if it could be formed and include some more younger veterans.

## **10. Resignations and Appointments:**

- a. Resignation of Charles A. Rubano (R) from Planning & Zoning Commission as a regular member.**

Mayor Macmillen wanted to recognize Charles Rubano as this isn't just a resignation from a commission, he has accepted a position as an officer and serves a second 4-year term in the Marine Corps. Thank you to Mr. Rubano for his service to the town and service to our country.

**MOTION:** To amend the agenda to add item 10 c to appoint Barry Ponder as an alternate on the commission as a permanent member to replace Charles Rubano.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Abelson

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**b. Appointment of Jennifer Ash (R) to the Blueprint Committee to replace Steve Torino (R) as a regular member.**

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Pelliccia

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**c. Appointment of Barry Ponder (R) as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission to replace Charles Rubano (R)**

**Motion:** to appoint Barry Ponder as a regular member for Planning & Zoning Commission to replace Charles Rubano, with term to expire May 31, 2026.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Mase

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**11. Unfinished Business: Discussion and Action: None**

**12. New Business: Discussion and Action:**

**a. Creation of Veteran Service Commission – Set Public Hearing date.**

Town Manager Downes shared that he has previously mentioned his intention to propose to the Council the creation of a Veterans Service Commission for the Town of North Branford. The attached draft documents are his proposal. As you know, we had a VFW a while back which has closed up. In talking with numerous veterans in town, there doesn't seem to be much interest among them to bring the VFW back. This does create a social, cultural, and official gap in our community relative to our veteran community. There is no question that our town is highly supportive of our veterans, yet there really is no local established channel to coordinate that support. This proposed commission would change that, creating a standing body that creates and coordinates events in town such as our Memorial Day parade, and can create new events, observations, and memorials. It would be composed of veterans and immediate relatives of veterans from both sides of town.

The council can create this new body by an ordinance or a resolution. It is recommended that it be created by ordinance. An ordinance gives greater permanency to the body, gives greater weight and significance to its mission, purposes and powers, and prevents elimination or serious modification at future whims. Both options are presented to you in support of this memorandum. If it is the pleasure of the Council to move forward with this as an ordinance, a public hearing can be scheduled by the Council to advance it with the suggested motion provided.

**MOTION:** That a public hearing be set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday October 3, 2023, for a proposed amendment to the Code of the Town of North Branford for the Creation of a Veterans Service Commission.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

Attorney LeClerc wanted to share that once you are on one commission, you can only serve one at a time in North Branford.

Councilor Angeloni asked if the Town Council is considered a board of commission? Attorney LeClerc said Town Council is not considered a board or commission. Councilor Angeloni stated there is some verbiage in the packet, would it need to be changed now, or at a later date. Town Manager Downes said it could be changed at a later date.

Attorney LeClerc verified within the charter *10-3 Conflict of Offices*: “No person shall hold more than 1 elected or council appointed office position or committee membership at the same time in the Town of North Branford, except justice of peace, or notary public, or membership on a joint board, commission, committee or coordinating body. No person should hold a compatible town office as set forth in the general statutes. No person shall hold more than one elected or council appointed office or committee membership, and no one may hold more than one position on a commission or committee”. Since it is listed in the charter it cannot be changed, by ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Zampano asked how it would relate to the Blueprint Committee? Councilor Angeloni stated that within the details of the committee it was created to require 2 members of the town council to be involved. Attorney LeClerc stated that the Blueprint Committee is meant as an advisory committee to the Town Council.

**b. Resolution amending the membership of the Blueprint Committee**

Mayor Macmillen stated that at the organizational meeting of the Blueprint Committee meeting on August 23rd, there was general agreement that the committee members that are designated from Parks and Recreation, Planning and Zoning, and Economic Development should also have alternate members from the commissions to ensure representation in the event of the absence of a full member.

As the Blueprint Committee is created by resolution, the Town Council needs only to pass a resolution adding these members.

**MOTION:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the North Branford Town Council amends the membership of North Branford’s Blueprint Committee to add one alternate member designated from each of the following Commissions- the Parks and Recreation Commission, The Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Economic Development Commission.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Diamond

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**



**MOTION:** To amend the agenda to add item 12 h The appointment of Steve Torino as an alternate member from the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Blueprint Committee.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Goad

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

#### **c. FY24 GIS Service Contract**

Town Engineer Benni shared Tighe & Bond has provided Geographics Information system (GIS) services to the Town of North Branford since 2010. The original agreement (Enclosure) for GIS Consulting and Internet Data Housing Services was dated March 10, 2010 and was extended year to year via a written Amendment. The current Amendment 11 for FY 24 (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024) has been provided with the Enclosures for your review. The bulk of services provided by Tighe & Bond include GIS Web Hosting, Tax Map Updates, and As Needed Technical Assistance. Amendment 11 was reviewed by Tax Assessor, Dave Ambrose. Dave and Town Engineer Benni are of the opinion that Tighe & Bond could continue to provide these unique professional services to the Town. Their GIS platform is very user friendly, provides a great benefit to Town residents, and is used daily by many employees. The annual lump sum fee and not to exceed budget for these services has not changed from year to year over the course of the annual Amendments. The Terms and Conditions contained in the original agreement dated March 10, 2010, will remain in effect under Agreement 11.

**MOTION:** That the North Branford Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to sign the FY24 GIS Services and Hosting (Amendment 11) to extend the March 8, 2010, GIS Consulting and Internet Data Hosting Services Agreement to continue to provide Geographic Information Systems to the Town of North Branford not to exceed \$8,500 for FY 24.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

#### **d. 2024 White Hollow Sewer Deferred Payment for October 2023 and January 2024**

Tax Assessor Ambrose shared that on or before August 31, 2023, town residents in the White Hollow sewer project district were afforded the opportunity to submit, in writing, their request for sewer deferral payments due and payable October 2023 and January 2024. Pending Town Council approval, the following homeowners qualified by filing their correspondence letter in addition to the qualifying for the homeowner's program, as stated in Sections 12-129b and 12-170a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**MOTION:** To approve sewer assessment deferral for Charles Wayne and Maryann Forbes for the October 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024 payments.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Goad

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

#### **e. Complete Streets**

Town Planner Perkins shared there is a policy to reconstruct the streets. 2022 was the deadliest year on Connecticut Roadways in decades, with more than 360 fatalities including 70 pedestrian deaths. the CTDOT Complete Streets Design criteria focus on three areas to improve safety and mobility:

**Pedestrian facilities-** includes sidewalks, shared use paths, or side paths on both sides of the roadway.

**Bicycle facilities-** includes paved outside shoulders, bike lanes, separated bike paths, or shared use paths on both sides of the roadway.

**Transit provisions-** includes crosswalks, shelters, benches, and other ways to make existing or proposed transit stops more accessible.

It is incumbent on the Town to always make our streets and pedestrian ways and crosswalks safe.

It is important to have a Complete Streets Policy while working with the state on road projects.

Grant applications with Complete Street Policies bonus points from reviewers.

Councilor Angeloni asked how it applies to the state roads in town. Town Planner Perkins said it does not apply to the State roads as they have their own Complete Streets policy. It's in impetus to have sidewalks. It is something desirable and needed for the safety of members of the community.

**MOTION: WHEREAS,** a goal of the Town of North Branford Comprehensive Plan is to continue to improve and maintain the local roadway network and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of North Branford Comprehensive Plan recommends Improved safety on State and local roadways for all users and

**WHEREAS,** bicycling and walking are important forms of transportation and recreation in our community. and

**WHEREAS,** bicycling and walking contribute to health, fitness, neighborhood vitality, social interaction, and economic development; and

**WHEREAS,** the full integration of all modes in the design of streets and highways will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion by improving mobility options, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the general quality of life; and

**WHEREAS,** educating the public about safety, health and mobility are part of being a quality community; and

**WHEREAS,** Complete Streets are defined as facilities that are designed and operated to enable safe and efficient access for all users. Persons with disabilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders are able to safely and efficiently move along and across a complete street.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the intent of the Town of North Branford Complete Streets Policy is to recognize bicyclists and pedestrians as equally important as motorists in the planning and design of all new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken by the Town.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of North Branford, State of Connecticut on September 5, 2023, by the following vote:

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**f. EMS Personnel RFP# 924003**

Councilor Pelliccia was contacted by Fire Chief/ Finance Director Esposito about the addition of this agenda item and Councilor Pelliccia said it would be fine.

Fire Chief/ Finance Director Esposito shared, as previously discussed, there were concerns regarding the current vendor that the fire department uses for Emergency Medical Services personnel (primarily Paramedics) A Request for Proposals was put together which was approved by the Town Council and advertised.

The Town received three responses to the RFP. He had attached the memorandum from the Purchasing Department. The simplify the bid analysis, the three respondents, in order of their pricing were:

- 1) Syra Health Corp
- 2) Northeast Fire Rescue
- 3) Vintech Management

Upon examination, the Syra Health Corp has no history of providing EMS personnel, rather, their strength is CNA's and nurses etc. That left Northeast and Vintech. I have attached an analysis that compares the current budget figures to the Northeast bid response. As listed above, the Vintech bid came in higher than Northeast, so I did not include their new cost in the analysis.

The Board of Fire Commissioners, at their August 7, 2023 Special Meeting, voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that the RFP be awarded to Northeast Fire Rescue.

**MOTION:** BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the North Branford Town Council, based on the recommendation of the Board of Fire Commissioners, votes to award RFP# 924003 to Northeast Fire Rescue, based on their response to the aforementioned RFP.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Goad

**Discussion:** Mayor Macmillen stated that this is something that is needed. This is a required service for the town and there are only so many providers who have Paramedics. Councilor Angeloni stated this new amount will not work with the current budget. It was also asked if there is some wiggle room for when this new company would be going into effect to have to work a bit better with the budget. Fire Chief/ Finance Director Esposito stated that is something that could work. VinTech is willing to work with the town throughout the transition period to a new company. Fire Chief Esposito said that there is currently a 60-day clause, but VinTech is willing to waive it if needed.

Councilor Pelliccia said the Town has gotten quite a deal from VinTech over the years and assessing the numbers from Northeast then what the Town of Madison pays their people, and many surrounding towns are paying for their services.

Councilor Abelson asked if Vintech is liquid enough for the 60-day clause. Fire Chief/ Finance Director Esposito feels confident that Vintech is. There is a contingency plan.

Councilor Mase asked why, if we have grown up using VinTech for so many years, are we making this change to another company? Finance Director/Fire Chief Esposito stated that Vintech did come in at a higher bid then Northeast Fire Rescue.

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**g. Acceptance of STEAP Grant Award for New Police Department Facility**

Town Manager Downes shares the request to accept the STEAP Grant for the Police Department Project. The Council has previously authorized the application for the grant (August 11, 2020) but has not authorized the acceptance of the grant. Accepting this grant will allow the Town to receive reimbursements within the scope of the work and the grant.

**MOTION:** To authorize Town Manager Downes to accept the STEAP Grant on behalf of the Town for the new Police Department Facility.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Palladino

**Discussion:** Councilor Mase asked if this extra money affects the budget for the new Police Department. Mayor Macmillen stated this is more of a formality to have this accepted as it was already factored in.

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**h. Appointment of Steve Torino as an alternate member from the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Blueprint Committee**

**MOTION:** To appoint Steve Torino as an alternate for the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Blueprint Committee

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Councilor Abelson

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor, the motion is passed.**

**13. Citizens' statements and petitions**

Al Rose, 40 Valley Rd shared he had done some research on the history of North Branford. He was looking at scrapbooks from the 1950's. 1963 NBHS was built, and it cost 1.3 million and it was built so well that the town has paid almost half to knock it down. In 1966 they had to add onto the school, and then the diamond was added in 1972. In 1968 there were 3,031 students enrolled.

He had also seen a full-page ad and the Audubon society for beautiful on the hill above route 80, Lake Gaillard; Yale Forestry and the Water Company wanted to build 2 classrooms and open it up to have hiking, etc. Mr. Merola stated that the New Haven water company and it turned into the Regional Water Authority and the plan never happened.

Across the street from his farm there is a medical building that has been approved to go in. It was read in the paper that there is a \$5 million grant, and the medical facility is going forward. He had been hearing from Branford Police Department officers that there is an issue with this facility. It was heard there are a lot of Police calls to that location. Deputy Chief Lovelace did some research, and this is a med facility operating out of Branford and they had 22 calls at it last year. The clients were having to be transported to New Haven and that amount seems doable. What's not doable is that the corner of the road has had more accidents and 2 fatalities over the last 2 years.

When the state redid that corner, you see the white line on the corner is 9" to the piece of ledge. Developers in the past were told they had to add a lane if they were going to build there. This company is trying to do less than what was approved.

When he was going to build the winery on his open property had to send over 200 letters to neighbors within 500 feet. There are a lot of red flags for this new facility. This is a residential facility that has major calls 10-15 calls per week. Branford has 15 officers per shift, North Branford only has 3 officers per shift. The DOT asked for a turning radius for the town's largest apparatus, to see if it works. This group is coming to town, the Zoning board isn't looking at it, the Traffic Authority isn't informed about it. We need to have a note on the zoning plan or a permit that cannot be a residential facility without further applications.

Bill Savastano, Sunnyside Dr. asked Town Manager Downes if the Veterans Committee is similar to a public act that was enacted in 2013. Town Manager Downes stated this is requiring towns to designate a veteran's contact person who is Kathy Poston. Mr. Savastano states that it also says that a committee should be created, and some members need to be bilingual. Town Manager Downes stated they will check it out to see if this is similar.

Mr. Savastano stated that in talking about Blight, he spoke with Town Planner Perkins and hopes that the Blight ordinance considers that performance maintenance is part of the blight.

The bulky waste was passed to John's and the paperwork says the previous contract for their 5 years includes a 3% increase every year. If you look at it, we are increasing by \$10,000 by year 4 and year 5 is \$20,000. When the trash contract comes up again, the Town Council will get involved and be thinking about different options.

#### **14. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

**MOVED:** Councilor Angeloni

**SECOND:** Deputy Mayor Zampano

**Discussion:** None

**With all in favor the motion is passed.**

**State of Connecticut  
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
Certified Resolution of the Legislative Body  
Of North Branford**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes, including Section 4-66g, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection is authorized to extend financial assistance for Public Safety projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of North Branford make an application to the State for \$128,205.00 in order to undertake the construction of a new Police Department facility and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved by the North Branford Town Council:

1. That is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Connecticut General Statutes, including Section 4-66g;
2. That the filing of an application by the Town of North Branford in an amount not to exceed \$128,205.00 is hereby approved and that Michael Downes, Town Manager, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection; to provide such additional information to execute other documents as may be required; to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State Financial Assistance if such an agreement is offered; to execute any amendments, revisions, and revisions thereto; and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of North Branford.

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I, Lisa A. Valenti, Town Clerk for the Town of North Branford, duly appointed and qualified according to law and having custody of the seal of the Town of North Branford hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of North Branford on September 5, 2023, and, that said resolution has not been amended, rescinded or revoked and remains in full force and effect.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of North Branford this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2023.

Clerk

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Lisa A. Valenti, Town

Affix Town Seal Here