

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY &
TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS OF NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Town Council Chambers

7:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Andrew Esposito, Deputy Mayor Joanne Wentworth, Council Members Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto, Vincent Candelora, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner. Also present was Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

Council Member Michael Doody was absent.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
 - a. February 7 – Regular WPCA & Town Council Meeting

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2006 Regular Water Pollution Control Authority and Town Council Meeting as presented.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY AGENDA

3. CORRESPONDENCE/CITIZENS' STATEMENTS

There were no correspondence or citizens' statements at this time.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

5. NEW BUSINESS: None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/CITIZENS' STATEMENTS

There were no correspondence or citizens' statements at this time.

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:
- a. Hazardous Waste & Recycling Committee

Councilor Bigelow reported that the Committee discussed placing recycling containers at the various fields and for special events. The Recreation Department is consulting with Bozzuto's on this. She also indicated that the Town will be participating in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program again this spring.

- b. Pension Committee

Councilor Candelora reported that the Pension Committee approved a pension for an employee. The Committee also authorized the transfer of funds from large cap growth into bonds and futures, bringing the bonds up to 30% which is required by the investment plan. The Committee reviewed revising the investment plan to allow for more flexibility so funds will not have to be so rigidly allocated.

The Pension Committee discussed a request from the Fire Commission to increase pensions for volunteer firefighters. The retention issue with respect to volunteer firefighters was also discussed.

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Kilduff presented and reviewed with the Council his Memorandum dated February 15, 2006 (Attachment 1).

The Town Manager distributed to Council members for their review information provided by CCM on the "Governor's Proposed Budget Revisions (FY06-07): Car Tax Repeal and Small Increases in State Aid - Impact on Connecticut's Towns and Cities" dated February 16, 2006.

Town Manager Kilduff reported on the COG public hearing held on the Route 22 Corridor Study at which no public members were present. He distributed information to Council members that was available at this public hearing. He indicated that another public session with respect to this issue will be scheduled.

9. COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS: None.

10. CITIZENS' STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Esposito opened the meeting to citizens' statements. There were no citizens' statements, petitions or correspondence at this time.

11. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman, that the North Branford Town Council hereby appoints Mary Caruso to the Economic Development Commission as the Chamber of Commerce member for a term to expire December 31, 2007.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, that the North Branford Town Council hereby reappoints Scott Small to the Building Code Board of Appeals for a term to expire July 31, 2010.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby appoints William Galdenzi to the Planning and Zoning Commission to replace Frances Lescovich for a term to expire May 31, 2007.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, that the North Branford Town Council hereby appoints Steven DeFrank as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

VOTE: Failed 4 to 3 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.

FOR: Mayor Esposito, Councilors, Mary Bigelow, Andrew Bozzuto and Ashley Joiner

OPPOSED: Councilors Vincent Candelora, Donald Fucci and Arthur Hausman

ABSTAIN: Deputy Mayor Wentworth

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby reappoints David Stannard to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby reappoints Lorane Black to the Hazardous Waste/Recycling Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2007.

VOTE: Passed 7 to 0 with 1 abstention in a roll call vote.

FOR: Mayor Esposito, Deputy Mayor Wentworth, Councilors Mary Bigelow, Vincent Candelora, Donald Fucci, Arthur Hausman and Ashley Joiner

ABSTAIN: Councilor Andrew Bozzuto

MOTION: Councilor Bozzuto moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby appoints Vincent Caprio to the Economic Development Commission as an alternate for the Community-at-Large for a term to expire December 31, 2008.

There was discussion by the Council on the implementation of the membership requirements for the Ordinance on the Economic Development Commission. There was also discussion on the status of member Kevin Grant on the Economic Development Commission.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and Action Re: Economic Development Commission Appointments

This item was taken up under item 11. Resignation and Appointments.

- b. Discussion and Action Re: Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Town Manager to Execute a Cost Sharing Agreement with the State Department of Transportation for Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption Equipment at Route 80 and Forest Road

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Bigelow, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Town Manager to Execute a Cost Sharing Agreement with the State Department of Transportation for Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption Equipment at Route 80 and Forest Road (Attachment 2).

Town Manager Kilduff briefly reviewed this item with the Council.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion and Action Re: Regional Local Property Tax System

Councilor Candelora stated that he would like to discuss Governor Rell's proposed automobile tax cut. He had some concerns with respect to this proposal and would like to send a letter to Hartford outlining some of the issues that need to be addressed for municipalities. He pointed out that the dollar value to Towns will be based on the 2005 Grand List and questioned how the 2006 growth would be made up. He also noted that Towns realize gains every year in the Grand List from automobile taxes and questioned how this would be accounted for each year by the State. Although businesses would not be exempt, Councilor Candelora questioned if the Town would be reimbursed if the businesses no longer own vehicles. He felt that the Town should be proactive with respect to this issue and outline its concerns to the State as he was concerned that some of this burden will be shifted to real estate taxes.

Councilor Bigelow stated that the State is notorious for putting caps on funds to Towns. She noted that there is a history of the State not continuing funding to Towns.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wentworth, that the North Branford Town Council hereby requests that the Town Manager put together a letter to our State Senator and State Representative outlining concerns regarding the Governor's automobile tax cut proposal.

Town Manager Kilduff confirmed that he will put something together for the Council's review.

Councilor Candelora indicated that this could be reviewed and finalized at the March meeting of the Council.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

b. Discussion and Action Re: Possible Elderly Tax Relief Program

Councilor Candelora stated that he would like to relook at elderly and veteran tax relief. He suggested that this could be referred to the Finance Committee for review.

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman, to refer Elderly and Permanently Disabled Tax Relief to the Finance Committee for review and come back to the Council with a possible recommendation to either augment or supplement the tax relief programs for elderly and veteran residents.

Councilor Joiner stated that she would like information on how many people qualify and what the restrictions are as well as what the tax impacts of any proposed revisions would be. She requested background information on this when it is presented to the Council.

Councilor Candelora clarified that this would not be ready for this year.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

c. Discussion and Action R: Interest in Pilot Program for Public Financing of Municipal Elections

Town Manager Kilduff reviewed with the Council a letter dated January 30, 2006 from the State Elections Enforcement Commission on a Pilot Program for Public Financing of Municipal Elections. He noted that this would have to be incorporated into the budget if the Council was interested in this pilot program.

There was some discussion on this by Council members. It was the consensus of the Council that it is not interested in this pilot program at this time.

- d. Discussion and Action Re: Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of Local Grant Dollars for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation to the Greater New Haven Transit District

MOTION: Councilor Bigelow moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves a Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of Local Grant Dollars for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation to the Greater New Haven Transit District (Attachment 3).

Councilor Bigelow reviewed how this grant program works and indicated that the funds received will be earmarked for Dial-A-Ride services to the Town of North Branford.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- e. Discussion and Action Re: Financial Report - January 2006

Treasurer/Finance Director Anthony Esposito reviewed with the Council the Financial Report for January 2006. He noted that the revenues are slightly under last year at this time as there is a timing issue with receiving the State Grants for Education. The funds will be forthcoming.

Treasurer/Finance Director Esposito also pointed out that Property Taxes-Current is 2% ahead of last year at this time. He reminded the Council that the Tax Collector is out on an extended sick leave and commended the staff and part time person filling in for doing a great job with keeping the operation running smoothly.

Under expenditures, he pointed out an overage in Technology for a purchase order that has not yet been expended.

- f. Discussion and Action Re: Appropriation Transfers

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the attached appropriation transfer, as recommended by the Town Manager and the Treasurer/Finance Director (Attachment 4).

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- g. Discussion and Action Re: Approval of Tax Refunds

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Joiner, that the North Branford Town Council hereby approves the attached property tax refunds (Attachment 5).

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

- h. Discussion and Action Re: Ratification of Town Manager's Selection for Purchasing Assistant/Risk Manager
 - i. Adjourn to Executive Session Pursuant to CGS 1-200(6)(A)

MOTION: Councilor Candelora moved, seconded by Deputy Mayor Wentworth, that the North Branford Town Council hereby adjourns to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss Personnel, pursuant to CGS Section 1-200(6)(A); and that attendance at said Executive Session be hereby limited to Town Council members and the Town Manager.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilor Joiner moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, to return to open session at 7:50 p.m.

VOTE: Passed unanimously.

- ii. Ratification Vote for Purchasing Assistant/Risk Manager

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Hausman, that in keeping with Section C6-3 of the Charter of the Town of North Branford, the Town Council hereby confirms the Town Manager's appointment of Michelle Knockwood to serve as the Purchasing Assistant/Risk Manager.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

14. CITIZENS' STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Esposito opened the meeting to citizens' statements and petitions. There were no citizens' statements or petitions at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Wentworth moved, seconded by Councilor Candelora, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

VOTE: Passed 8 to 0 in a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Krajewski,

Clerk to the Council