Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Carole Hall, Steve Dupoise, (Via Skype), Doug Tolles, Jim Walsh, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman
Visitors: Road Foreman, Jeff Terry, Alan Mayer, Dean Gilmore, Mark Livingston, Bill Baslow, Erin Baslow, Alan Mayer, Phil Livingston, Mark Livingston, Phil Livingston, Jr., Bridget Kipp, John Kipp, Mark Pedersen, Polly Darnell, Suzy Roorda, Cathy Walsh, Steven Ayotte and Stacie Ayotte

Adjustments to the Agenda ** Move Anbaric discussion up after visitors business / Resignation letter from a DRB member **

AGENDA RESULTS:
ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT:

1. **Road Update:** Road Crew dealing with small snow storms
2. **Equipment Update:** No major issues at this time. Just the windshield wipers on the 2002 need a new part, which Jeff has ordered.
   The Grizzly is finished; the Crew will be picking it up soon.
3. **Pike Agreement**: No updates

VISITORS BUSINESS:

1. **New Haven Vol. Fire Dept.:** Chief Alan Mayer referred back to the Boards budget meeting, in regards to the upgrades at the Fire Station. In 2011 an energy audit was done on the building. Several things were noted that needed attention. Since the audit, insulation has been added to the attic and very recently weather stripping has been added to the garage doors. There are a few things that need immediate attention: lights, the emergency door upstairs and the back wall, where there is concern there may be mold behind the paneling. To the Fireman, the lights and ventilation are priorities. The lights are over 35 years old, and they are not worth repairing. Victor Bolduc from Bolduc Electric has quoted approximately $1600 -$1700 to replace 38 ballasts and bulbs, with T5 and T8; which will be more energy efficient. The quote includes the Efficiency Vermont rebate of $600.
   Ventilation has been an ongoing issue, when the energy audit was done; it was recommended that an air exchanger be installed. Part of the problem, is the air flow. When the road crew does any work in the garage, all the exhaust, or smells flow into the fire station. There is concern about carbon monoxide as well,

because there is no odor, but this accumulates over time and can be deadly. The air exchanger never happened because at the time of the audit, there was a change in the Energy Coordinator position, and by the time the new person came on board, the grant money wasn't available. Discussed the building itself, it needs to be tightened up, but still needs to breathe. Carole Hall wants to be sure that all of this maintenance will still benefit the Road Crew, when and if they are able to take over that space. Alan said yes, everything will benefit the town / road crew. The waste oil furnace in the town garage was also discussed; it is a big furnace and produces enough heat for the garage side and the Fire Dept. side. Doug Asked Alan if he acknowledges the Fire Dept. is responsible for things inside the building? Doug made a reference to the Memorandum of Understanding the Town has with the Fire Dept. Alan acknowledged the Fire Dept. is responsible for their furnishings, but said it is a town owned building, and therefore the town is responsible for fixtures, doors, etc.

Steve Dupoise suggested the Selectboard take the lead, start making these repairs to the Fire Dept and Town garage. Steve Dupoise made a motion to replace all the lights in the Town garage and Fire Dept. in 2016, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Steve also suggested having the Fire Dept. get a quote on an air exchanger, and bring it back to the Selectboard. Kathy Barrett made a motion to have the amount in the Fire Dept. repairs line item moved back up to $5,000, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)

Alan said the Fire Dept., was in need of a new refrigerator, they put it out on Front Porch Forum last week. He was pleased to announce that a local business owner who would like to remain anonymous has donated a brand new refrigerator.

Doug Tolles asked the Firemen about the pledge of 3 million dollars from Anbaric, if they had thoughts about how they would spend the money. Alan said after meeting with Anbaric, they offered them 3 million for a new Fire Station, so the Firemen provided Anbaric drawing of a new station that included 5 bays, it would include a separate meeting space as well as space for an emergency shelter. Discussed any additional training for fighting a fire at the Anbaric converter station. Alan Mayer said when they trained with VELCO, they were told to stay at the gate. Solar array fires was also discussed, these are very hazardous to firefighters.

Kathy Barrett thanked the Fireman for all the hours of training and service.

2. **Anbaric Update:** Steve Dupoise indicated much of the information would need to be discussed in executive session. What he can share is the ISO report on how the grid works, came through to attorney Richard Saudek. The first company to get ISO clearance gets "dibs" on the transmission line. It looks as though

Anbaric will get ISO clearance first, as TDI is going for the Public Service Board piece first. Steve said they are learning there is more than enough demand in southern New England for power that both projects could move forward. Attorney Richard Saudek helped Steve and Carole settle on 3 experts to work for the Town. Anbaric expects to file their 45 day Notice to the Public Service board in late March. There were approximately 12 people in the audience who would be directly affected by the Anbaric converter station. Discussion among the audience and Selectboard about Anbaric contacting some neighbors but certainly not all. Questioning why they are dragging their feet, and not reaching out to these folks. The niehgbors who have met with Anbaric, said no compensation for them was even mentioned.

Doug Tolles made a motion to agree to support Anbaric's proposal as proposed, seconded by Jim Walsh.

Doug said he is concerned with noise, lighting, and would like them to commit to everything they have already proposed. Steve Dupoise and Carole Hall said they haven't even begun to negotiate yet, they're just breaking the surface. They don't want the town to come up with the money for experts when we may get Anbaric to pay for it. Doug Tolles pointed out they have had a month to get a check to us, and we haven't received anything yet. Jim Walsh is concerned about when the sound studies will be conducted. He has had past experience with the VELCO substation, and those studies were quite flawed. He said there are certain times to conduct noise studies, the best times are when there aren't a lot of leaves on the trees, and when there is no significant snow on the ground. Carole Hall and Steve Dupoise are the two appointed to work with Anbaric and the Town Attorneys and they said the board hasn't agreed to anything yet. They will discuss some in executive session tonight.

Kathy Barrett said Steve and Carole have been given the power to negotiate. It would be foolish of Anbaric to send the Town a check when there's no written agreement. Doug Tolles said a yes vote would mean move forward and no vote would mean cut ties with Anbaric. Vote taken by roll call 1 yes / 2 no (Tolles / Walsh) 2 abstentions (Barrett / Hall)

Carole Hall said no one has signed anything; we will get the attorney to look everything over before it is put before Anbaric. She suggested all the neighbors work as a group.

TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. **Town Hall Application:** Carole Hall made a motion to approve Andrea Warren's application to use the gym for Line Dancing in the evenings from 6 - 8 pm, contingent upon her certificate of insurance. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/9/16, in the amount of $3,172.13, seconded by Carle Hall. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
2. Carole Hall made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/16/16, in the amount of $3,417.94, seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Jim Walsh made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 1/18/16, in the amount of $14,364.14, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll 5 yes / 0 no
4. Defer the Financial and Bank Statements until the next meeting, February 2, 2016.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/15/15, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/5/16, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/8/16, seconded by, Carole Hall. Vote take by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
4. Carole Hall made a motion to pay the Assistant Zoning Administrator $15.00 per hour, seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett) Kathy does not approve the wage sheet in total.
5. Outside Audit – There were some bills that were accrued in 2015 totaling $8,994.37, but were not submitted for payment until 2016. Steve Dupoise made a motion to put these accruals in the 2016 budget and footnote the Town Report, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Road Fund budget:** Discussed which roads have been paved over the past 5 years. Katie Reilley printed out a summary of those roads for the Board to see. Road Foreman, Jeff Terry said one of his goals is to get all the paving on the west side of town done, because it is the oldest pavement. He added the only way to keep up with paving is to do 3 -5 miles per year. The discussion continued about paving and the amount of money in the budget for it. Steve Dupoise made a motion to add $150,000 to the project related line item in the road budget. Katie & Jeff will put their heads together to come up with which road to pave. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles) The impact of a possible tax increase was discussed; possibly make cuts to the General Fund budget to even things out. The Bridge Fund was also discussed, to

see if possible cuts could be made there.
Steve Dupoise made a motion to leave the appropriation for the bridge fund at $50,000, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)
Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the Road Fund budget with the revenue at $632,947.99, total expenditures $1,160,249.00, and the amount to be raised by taxes $527,301.01. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)

2. **General Fund budget:** Doug Tolles made a motion to bump the delinquent property tax amount to $30,000, seconded by Jim Walsh. Treasurer, Barb Torian said you shouldn't play with delinquent taxes. Doug said Sue Ford has gotten better than half of the delinquencies paid this year. We shouldn't ignore that revenue source. Vote taken by roll call 2 yes / 3 no (Barrett / Dupoise / Hall)
   Carole Hall made a motion to make the delinquent taxes at $20,000, seconded by Steve Dupoise. Carole Hall then amended her motion to make the amount $24,000, as Doug Tolles suggested this is the amount of delinquent taxes owed for 2014. Seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett)
   Doug Tolles made a motion to show the health insurance be broken down into the Clerk and Treasuer, seconded by Jim Walsh. Barb Torian said the past Selectboard didn't want it broken down because of HIPPA rules. Discuss how this should appear in both the General Fund and Road Fund budgets. 2 yes / 2 no (Barrett / Dupoise) / 1 abstention (Hall) Motion fails
   Carole Hall suggested adding a box under the Clerk and Treasurer to show their health insurance benefit there, or under payroll related as it shows in the road budget. Polly Darnell said there is not time to change the formatting of these budgets, all the reports and the Town Meeting Warning are due to the Auditors by this Thursday. Barb Torian suggested it is something to look at for next year.
   Steve Dupoise made a motion to approve the General Fund budget as amended with the revenue at $252,911.66, total expenditures $696,495.84, and the amount to be raised by taxes $484,825.34. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote taken by roll call 2 yes / 2 no (Tolles / Walsh) / 1 abstention (Hall)
   Doug Tolles made a motion to defer discussing the General Fund budget until after executive session, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
3. Letter to the Agency of Transportation re: Vergennes Bypass: Doug will forward to town attorney Cindy Hill, to have her look it over before it is forwarded to VTRANS.
4. Interim Zoning Bylaws for Solar – nothing at this time
5. **Solar:** Doug Tolles updated the Board, there were 2 hearings last week, and this week there are 2 days of hearings on Next Generation (Field Days Rd). There is a freeze on net metering for 2016. Those who are proposing the solar arrays

larger than 300 kW are claiming our Town Plan has very broad language. Doug is concerned that the PSB will agree with them.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Steve Dupoise made a motion to appoint Travis Paquette as the Deputy Health Officer, term ending 2019. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
2. R & L Rubbish & Removal collects trash and recycling on Saturday mornings at the Town Garage. Currently there is a port-o-let left from when Casella was doing the trash and recycling. Now that collection has changed hands, Casella is removing the port-o-let. R & L is asking to have one on site and Louie said R & L could probably pay for half. Pam Kingman called Dundons; they are willing to rent one to the Town for $100 per month, with a $10 delivery fee. Steve Dupoise made a motion to have Dundons bring a port-o-let to the town garage; with the understanding that R & L will pay for half the cost. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to accept, with regret the letter of resignation from Marie Gordon from the DRB, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

   Carole Hall made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the town's negotiation with Anbaric would clearly put the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses negotiation terms in public. Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett) Kathy said there are members of the Selectboard that do not respect the confidentiality of executive session)

   Carole Hall made a motion to go into executive session at 11:05 pm, to discuss the town's negotiation with Anbaric under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

   Carole Hall made a motion to come out of executive session at 11:50 pm, seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

   Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize Carole Hall, Steve Dupoise, Town Attorney, Cindy Hill and Attorney, Richard Saudek to hire consultants and to set up an escrow account; pending modifications to and acceptance of the letter from

Leslie Caldwell, Attorney for Anbaric. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Return to the General Fund budget discussion:
Kathy Barrett made a motion to approve the General Fund budget with the revenue $252,911.66, total expenditures $737,737.00 and the amount to be raised by taxes $484,825.34. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles) Doug felt the budget is unaffordable to our taxpayers.

Town Meeting Warning:
Carole Hall made a motion to approve the Town Meeting Warning as written, dated January 20, 2016, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Tolles)

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Sheriff's Activity Logs

The next scheduled meeting is on February 2, 2016.

Adjourn: 12:50 am
Respectfully submitted:
Pam Kingman
Approved:

Kathleen L Barrett
Chair, Kathy Barrett

Carole Hall
Vice Chair, Carole Hall

Steve Dupoise

Jim Walsh

Doug Tolles