

Bethlehem Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Selectmen Office

July 14, 2014

Present: Chairperson Laleme, Selectman Blanchard, Selectman Culver, Selectman Fiorentino.

Chairperson Laleme opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Chairperson Laleme read the public hearing notice and opened the public hearing for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update 2014. Jack Anderson reviewed the plan and said it was adopted in 2004 and needs to be updated every 5 years. Mr. Anderson also explained there is a grant to pay Mapping Solutions to update the plan. He said the cost is \$10,000.00 with 50% being paid by the grant to Mapping Solutions and our share is covered by employees attending the meetings (soft money) so there is no money out of pocket. Mr. Anderson said the plan plans for threats to the Town for hurricanes, wind storms, etc. Selectman Blanchard moved to accept the plan as written. Chairperson Laleme seconded. Rita Farrell asked the difference between disasters and hazards. Mr. Anderson explained that the Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential "dangers" and makes a plan for it if it should happen. Selectman Culver read the definition of Hazard "*A natural hazard is a source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental, or geological event.*" and Hazard Mitigation "*Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards (44CFR 201.2). Hazard mitigation activities may be implemented prior to, during, or after an event. However, it has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs.*" Rita Farrell said she read some old minutes and asked if the Town had had a plan for the Cruft building prior to the collapse and for the Cedarcroft because of the leak in the roof. Jack Anderson said there is certain criteria that goes along with mitigation and doesn't believe there is funding for those situations. Chairperson Laleme said she doesn't know if individual properties would qualify. Selectman Culver said as a town we can take care of it but would not qualify for FEMA. There was discussion about FEMA and disaster funds. Julian Czarny asked for a copy of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update to be given to the library. Carried 4-0. Chairperson Laleme closed the public hearing at 6:44.

The Board reviewed a request from Sage of Bethlehem to have live entertainment at their establishment. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the request for live entertainment inside and outside at Sage of Bethlehem. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme said Darren Perkins is requesting a new mower because the old mower broke. The proposal he submitted to the Board is for a used mower for \$10,800.00 with 2,000.00 down and 3 yearly payments of \$3,286.13 each. Chairperson Laleme moved to accept the proposal. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Selectman Culver asked what the interest rate is. Chairperson Laleme said the old

equipment will be taken and auctioned to offset the \$2,000.00 down. Selectman Culver said he wants to know the interest rate and asked Frank to find that out and also asked if there is a non appropriation clause. Chairperson Laleme gave an update on how the country club is doing this year and said it is about \$5,000.00 ahead right now. Chairperson Laleme said the lease company for this mower is the same company that was used for the last mowers. There was discussion about how the course is in excellent condition this year. Selectman Culver said he is concerned that there isn't an opt out clause. Chairperson Laleme and Selectman Fiorentino withdrew their motion and second. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the proposal if there is an opt out included. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed abatements. Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the abatement for Charles Stewart for \$357.63. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the abatement for Northern District Council Assc. For \$10,788.19 due to it being tax exempt. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the abatement for Theophile Simard for \$3021.95 due to overpayment. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme moved to approve the abatements for Antonio and Kimberly Pereira for \$445.38, \$445.38, \$408.26 & \$157.03 due to value changes. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Culver said he talked with Mary Jackson and she said all but 7 properties have been redeemed.

The Board reviewed the minutes from 06/30/14 and 07/07/14. Selectman Blanchard moved to approve the minutes from 06/30/14. Selectman Fiorentino seconded. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Fiorentino moved to approve the minutes as amended (corrected spelling error Dan to Don). Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Selectman Fiorentino said the lattice at the Visitor's Center is painted and that he still needs to rip out the old stuff and do the railing. He said he would finish it soon.

Chairman Laleme said the Board received legal advice on the speed limit issue and will discuss it next week to give the Board time to review it.

Chairperson Laleme said the pool opened today and there were a lot of people there. She said they received their permit on Friday and that it is free for all Bethlehem residents today. Chairperson Laleme moved that all Bethlehem residents get in free for this week. Selectman Blanchard seconded. Carried 4-0.

Rita Farrell asked if there was a notice in the paper about the pool opening. Chairperson Laleme said the press was there today and that Rhienna called the radio station. She also said the committee did a

great deal of work on this and how it was a wonderful community project. Chairperson Laleme said the pool committee should be proud.

Chairperson Laleme said the Board voted last week to approve the purchase of a highway truck but they should have waived the bidding procedure for Brett to purchase the truck. Chairperson Laleme moved to waive the bidding process because the truck was available privately. Selectman Culver seconded. Carried 4-0.

Chairperson Laleme said it is being discussed to have the Select Board plus April play a golf match against the Department Heads in September.

Rita Farrell asked about the status of the hearing on the Cruft building and was told we are still waiting for the court order. Mrs. Farrell asked some clarification questions about minutes to a prior meeting and also asked about the attorney's opinion on the Drag Strip. Chairperson Laleme said the opinion is not public unless the Board votes to make it public. Mrs. Farrell told Chairperson Laleme that she asked the Planning Board to waive their advice (at Select Board and Planning Board joint meeting on 07/07/14). Chairperson Laleme said she did not ask that it be waived. Chairperson Laleme said there may be minutes from a prior meeting of the Planning Board that she supported waiving an attorney opinion. Mrs. Farrell asked about correspondence from DES and how it is handled if someone wanted to see it. She was told they are in an electronic file and can be printed out when requested. Mrs. Farrell said people wouldn't know they exist and said they should be printed out and put in a binder. Mrs. Farrell was told again they were printed for anyone who requests them. Chris McGrath asked how many requests we get for those documents and was told none.

Chairperson Laleme moved to go into non-public session per 91-A:3, II (a) and for legal consultation. Selectman Culver seconded. Chairperson Laleme did roll call with all members agreeing to go into non-public session.

The Board had a telephone conference with attorney.

The Board discussed personnel.

At 7:57 Selectman Blanchard moved to come out of non-public session. Chairperson Laleme seconded. Carried 4-0.

At 7:57 Selectman Blanchard moved to adjourn. Chairperson Laleme seconded. Carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

April Hibberd

Administrative Assistant