



Town of Orange, Connecticut

TOWN HALL
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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023
TOWN HALL
LOWER- LEVEL MEETING ROOM
7:00 P.M.**

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

First Selectman James Zeoli
Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt
Selectman Judy Williams
Selectman Ralph Okenquist

Selectman John Carangelo
Selectman PJ Shanley
John Cifarelli, Finance Director
James Vincent, Fire Marshall
Ann Denny, Secretary

ORANGE, CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
2023 APR 13 AM 8:30

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by First Selectman Zeoli. The fire exits were noted, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the roll call.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(2 minutes per person)

Tom Pisano, 523 Fairway Road was not happy that Mr. Zeoli ended public comment last month and did not let Peggy Pisano speak. He is also waiting for an answer from Town Attorney Marino regarding the petition he has going.

DeeDee Lebov, 660 Broadview Road was also not happy about last month's meeting and feels Mr. Zeoli owes Mrs. Pisano an apology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Selectman Zeoli made the following announcements:

In Memorium: Betty Gagel, Anthony Nardecchia

- Sunday, March 12th: Daylight savings begins. Please remember to ‘spring ahead’ and move your clocks ahead one hour.
- The Lions Club Annual Easter Egg hunt at HPCC is Saturday April 1st with a rain date of April 8th. Games and activities begin at 11:30, The Easter Bunny arrives at 12:30, and the egg hunt begins at 1:00 pm. This event is free of charge.

- Wednesday April 5th is the beginning of Passover, Happy Passover to all who celebrate.
- Friday April 7, 2023: All Town Offices will be closed in observance of Good Friday. The transfer station will remain open.
- The Park and Rec Department have completed training on the new software and online registrations will be available soon.

Selectmen Goldblatt announced that the next shredding day and HazWaste collection is Saturday April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at HPCC. He is working with the Regional Water Authority to make a list of hazardous items that will be accepted.

Fire Marshal James Vincent reminded residents to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when they move their clocks for Daylight Savings time. The Fire Marshal's Office will do it for residents if they need help.

MINUTES

- ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, ***the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 8, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen***

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request from the Fire Marshal to waive the bid process to purchase a vehicle from the state bid list** – Fire Marshal James Vincent presented the request before the Board of Selectmen. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Okenquist, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, and unanimously carried, ***the board approved the request as presented from the Fire Marshal to waive the bid process to purchase a vehicle from the state bid list.***
2. **Request to increase the Custodial Rates upon ratification of the 2022-2025 UPSEU Local 424-Unit 21 Orange Town Hall Employees contract** - Finance Director John Cifarelli presented new rates to charge for the High Plains custodians upon ratification of the 2022-2025 UPSEU Local 424-Unit 21 Orange Town Hall Employees contract. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, and unanimously carried, ***the board approved the request as presented from Finance Director Cifarelli to increase the Custodial Rates upon ratification of the 2022-2025 UPSEU Local 424-Unit 21 Orange Town Hall Employees contract.***
3. **Request from the Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc Committee to retain a consultant for a traffic and safety study** – Selectman Carangelo presented a request from the Fred Wolfe Park committee to retain a consultant for a traffic and safety study. The committee did a tour of the park with Rick Capecelatro and feel that they would like to start with a traffic and safety study of the existing park before expansion is done. The committee does not know what it will cost and wanted

clarification on the process. Discussion ensued; it was felt an RFQ should be done because the Board of Finance will have to approve it before they can proceed. There was public comment from Jomo Nichols and Tom Pisano who shared concerns if the study was for current or future traffic in the park and if the traffic study will be implemented if done. Mr. Shanley and Mr. Carangelo stated the committee wants to make sure that what is there is safe before they look at expanding because requests for bathroom facilities, a snack bar, and many different recreational purposes besides soccer and lacrosse have been suggested. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Williams, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved the request to allow the Fred Wolfe Park Committee to proceed with searching for a vendor for a traffic and safety study and return to the Board of Selectmen for approval and have a special meeting if necessary.***

4. **Tax Refunds for the Month of March:** ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Okenquist, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved the tax refunds in the amount of \$12,655.20 for the month of March.***

At 8:05 P.M. Selectman Williams ***made a motion*** to close the Regular meeting and convene into Executive Session, Finance Director Cifarelli was invited to join the Executive Session. Selectman Okenquist ***seconded the motion***. All voted in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **Discussion of 2022-2025 Proposed Labor Agreement between the Town and UPSEU Local 424-Unit 21 Orange Town Hall Employees**

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:50 P.M.

VOTE

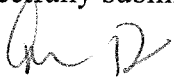
On a motion made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, and unanimously carried, ***the board approved*** that the Board of Selectmen move to ratify the Tentative Agreement between The Town of Orange and UPSEU Local 424-Unit 21 Orange Town Hall Employees.

COMMITTEES

1. **Pension Board** – Selectman Goldblatt reported they are watching things very carefully. The Town employees defined contribution plan is being transitioned to Voya and is expected to be completed by April.

At 8:53 P.M., Selectman Williams made *a motion to adjourn the meeting*. Selectman Okenquist seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Denny".

Ann Denny
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen