

Town of Stafford
Board of Selectmen
Warren Memorial Town Hall
Veterans Meeting Room
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday September 11, 2014
8:00PM

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

VOL _____ PAGE _____
STAFFORD LAND RECORDS

2014 SEP 15 P 1:32


ATTEN J. MARINO
ATTEST TOWN CLERK

Minutes:

1. First selectman Richard Shuck called the meeting to order at 8:01P.M. Also present were Selectman Deidriene Knowlton and Selectman Neil Hoss. A quorum was established.
2. Upon motion of Selectman Knowlton and seconded by Selectman Hoss the board unanimously approved the minutes of August 28, 2014.
3. First Selectman Shuck discussed the Letter of Engagement (see attached) for the combined utility extension and redevelopment project for the town in which Luchs Consulting Engineers will provide professional consulting services to the town. First Selectman Shuck explained that this needs to be done, there is no project funding, the next step is to solidify the cost of the project so that it can be sent to town meeting for approval.

Upon motion of Selectman Knowlton and seconded by Selectman Hoss the board unanimously approved authorizing First Selectman Shuck to sign the Letter of Engagement with Luchs Consulting Engineers, LLC pending approval from the Board of Finance in regards to the funding.

4. Stafford Energy Advisory Committee members were present to discuss a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Encon and CEFIA. SEAC member Leonard Clark explained that some changes have been made regarding the amount of Car Charging Stations and he also discussed the possibility of revisiting the Highway Garage and the Willington Avenue Station. They are looking into the possibility. Since the PPA is being changed, the board agreed to table the issue and possibly have a special meeting next week.
5. First Selectman Shuck explained that he has received numerous emails from residents and business owners expressing their concerns about cutting the Police department following meetings where a few residents voiced their desire to cut and/or get rid of the police department. First Selectman Shuck read a letter from resident Mr. Jim Bailey. Selectman Hoss moved to enter all of the letters (see attached) into the minutes of the meeting and also send them to the Board of Finance.
9. Selectman Knowlton moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Beth A. DaDalt
Recording Secretary

Beth Dadalt

From: Jim Bailey
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 8:45 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Duncan@staffordct.org

Stafford Board of Selectman and Stafford Board of Finance,
Please read this letter into the minutes of the 9/11/204 meeting.

My name is Jim Bailey. My wife Sheila and I have made our home here in Stafford for more than 20 years. I am writing this letter to voice my concerns over the prospect of losing our local police.

Fortunately, we have had very few occasions to contact our resident troopers office. That changed recently when our daughter became the victim of an online predator. I won't go into detail but suffice it to say it was a parents' worst nightmare. If not for the decisive action of Lieutenant Tom Duncan and our resident troopers office our lives would be very different today.

I spent many hours of frustration dealing with the bureaucracy which is our CT State Police system. It was not until our local men and women became involved that we finally saw things change. They came to our home and showed themselves to be every bit the professionals one would expect.

They were able to relate to our daughter in a way that was respectful and informative. She recently visited them of her own accord to express some concerns.

As a resident, I want men and women in uniform who understand our town and its people. I don't want to experience the same frustration of feeling like my concerns were not being taken seriously by someone sitting behind a desk miles from here.

I don't mind spending my tax dollars on people who earn it and I will vote to keep our police here in town.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Jim Bailey
49 Conklin road
Stafford, CT

Beth Dadalt

From: Matt D'Amour
Sent: Monday, September 08, 2014 3:54 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Stafford PD

Dear Mr. Shuck and members of the board,

As a land owner, business owner and tax payer in the town of Stafford I find it absolutely necessary to have a fully functioning and present Police Department. I can not imagine an environment without that benefit. Last year my shopping center was responsible for contributing in excess of \$165,000 in Tax revenue for the Town of Stafford. The primary benefit to Big Y Foods and our operation is the presence and security that accompanies the Stafford Police Department. From a business perspective we have only had positive experiences when interacting with the department and they have proven most responsive. We appreciate all they do to serve as partners in the Stafford community.
Sincerely,

Mathieu D'Amour
Senior Director of Store Development
Big Y Foods Inc.

From: Artisans Corner _____
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 11:50 AM
To: Thomas Duncan
Subject: Re: questions

Thank you for sharing that. I believe we need a full police force in town and I know all of you are working at your max. We appreciate all you do. We just want to make Stafford a safe and enjoyable place to live. We need more coverage of the main street area, and more police officers would help with that. Businesses downtown want to provide a safe atmosphere for people to walk and shop. A large force would help with covering the area.

Feel free to share my thoughts. As we truly need to have you guys in town.
thanks
Renee

Beth Dadalt

From: Peter F. ALix
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Cc: Thomas Duncan
Subject: Police staffing levels

Mr. Shuck,

I am writing to you today to voice my support for the present level or increase to police staffing for our town. I have heard that there are persons in town who wish to see the town eliminate one police position as a cost saving matter. This is a bad idea and really no savings at all. One only has to look at the rural nature of our community to realize that doing away with one police position would cause more harm than good. If you check the news daily you will find many examples of police response time being called into question, last week Hartford police were called to task about the response time to a possible home invasion. A few years back the Connecticut State Police were taken to task when their response time was considered a contributing factor in the death of a woman at the hands of her estranged husband in the eastern part of the state.

About thirty years ago the Borough of Stafford had a small police department; this was eliminated in favor of a Resident Trooper program as a means of saving money. The town changed to one Resident Trooper with a few constables. The Stafford Police have since grown to a larger force to meet the needs of our expanding community. Now some residents wish to do away with one trooper because they think this is a savings. This is a bad idea. To think that the shortfall can be picked up by the troopers of Trp C in Tolland is a false sense of security. One only needs to look at the staffing problems of the State Police to realize that they too are stretched to their limits.

Eliminating one police position as a short term answer is to take one giant step backwards in time. I do not believe that backwards is a direction to take our community.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Alix

Beth Dadalt

From: Micahl Faux
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 9:14 AM
To: Beth Dadalt; Thomas Duncan

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that the Stafford Board of Finance has proposed eliminating one of the State Trooper positions within the Town of Stafford. I'm writing this letter because this decision can and will have a dramatic impact on the Town of Stafford. The Board of Finance is making this proposal from a questionable financial standpoint and fails to recognize the potential repercussions of such a decision. I write this not only as a tax paying and concerned citizen, but also as a former police officer with over 6 years of law enforcement experience. Decreasing the police presence is not the answer to solving the Town's budget predicament.

As a former police officer who was involved in two active shooter situations, I can assure you that cutting a police officer position endangers the citizens of Stafford. The attitude of "it won't or can't happen here," is naive and ignorant, just ask the families who were affected by the tragedies at Hartford Distributer Inc., Sandy Hook Elementary school, or even the families of the three troopers that were shot just one mile from the Stafford town line. It is a fact that more people would have lost their lives in the Hartford Distributer shooting had myself and other officers not arrived so quickly. We were able to arrive so quickly because we were staffed appropriately, which would not be the case here in Stafford. One officer could potentially save many lives in that situation and you can't put a price tag on that. I personally made four of the dea² notifications to the families who lost loved ones in the Hartford Distributer shooting and couldn't image having to do tha knowing that we could have prevented the loss of their loved one if we weren't understaffed. I suggest the Board of Finance take that into consideration before making such a shortsighted decision. There is an inverse relationship between officers and crime, which should not be ignored. Losing an officer will decrease police presence and potentially increase crime. Residents of Stafford currently feel safe, why would you risk that?

Please recognize you are talking about potentially endangering people and this is not just about saving a few thousand dollars. There may be limited times when the Town is in dire need of the one "extra" officer, but recognize when those times do come around, you and the citizens of Stafford will be thankful to have kept the position. I'm certainly in favor of reducing the extremely high taxes we pay in Stafford, but please start reducing in other areas that will not impact the safety of my family and fellow citizens.

Thank you,

Micahl Faux

Beth Dadalt

From: John Terault
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Cutting Police Patrols

To the First Selectman,

I have worked for Asplundh Tree Expert Co. for over 30 years and our Company has maintained a facility on Orcuttville Road since the early 1970's. I was very disappointed to hear that they may be cutting the budget for Police within the town. We have worked very closely with both the State Troopers and the Local Officers on patrols that have helped us provide security for our building and the equipment we house at the location. I, as a tax payer, do not want to see this service cut as it has definitely provided us with since of security as the Troopers and the Officers have provided protection at that facility with their regular patrols.

Once again, we, as business owners, do not want to see this benefit to the town cut.

Thanks for your consideration.

John D. Terault Jr., MCA
Field Supervisor for R046

Beth Dadalt

From: Hughes, Jackie
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Town Police Department

Dear Mr. Shuck,

As a citizen of Stafford Springs for over 30 years I am appalled to hear that there are townspeople who want to minimize our town police department thinking that our taxes will decrease. As Selectman, I think you need to find a way to explain to these people that this idea would be detrimental to our town and also explain to them that the dollar amount for the budget will not decrease anymore since it cannot go any lower than it is right now.

This town needs more tax revenue as you know, and if Stafford had less income property and different zoning regulations it just might make it easier for other companies to build in town and not only alleviate residential taxes but employ towns people.

Please do whatever is in your power to save our Police Department. They are a vital part of our town and we need them!

Thank you for your time.

Jackie Hughes

Beth Dadalt

From: Jennifer Alix
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 8:50 AM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Police Budget

Mr. Shuck,

Over the past few days there has been much talk amongst some residents that the current level of police personnel in Stafford is unnecessary and a state trooper position should be eliminated.

I am writing today in support of the current level of police personnel. The recent changes within the police department have not only saved the town money but have maintained the level of police experience available to our town.

Public safety is of the utmost importance to me. As a community we need to ensure that our children are safe in school, our senior citizens are safe downtown, and our homes and persons are safe.

As a small town we do have support from Troop C. A resident facing an emergency, especially if it is life threatening, can not wait 10, 20, 30 minutes or more for an out of town trooper to come to their aid.

Please do not make any further cuts to the current police budget.

Thank you,
Jennifer Alix

Beth Dadalt

From: Artisans Corner
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 10:03 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Police force

Rumor has there are several people looking to remove the police department in town. I for one disagree. We need a solid police force and presence in town. I feel we need even more coverage. As a tax payer I wanted my voice heard.

Please pass this on to Mr. Shuck

Thanks

Renee Goodwin

Beth Dadalt

From: Natalie Clark
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 9:43 PM
To: Richard Shuck; Beth Dadalt
Subject: Police department

I have heard a rumor going around that there is a group of individuals that believe the town would be better served and would save money by eliminating the police force in town. I hope this is not even being considered. I live in the Borough and it was very apparent this summer that we actually need a greater police presence. As a Stafford resident and tax payer, I want to make you aware that I am strongly opposed to eliminating the police department in town. I am fully supportive of our department.

Respectfully,

Natalie Clark

Beth Dadalt

From: Kim Post <
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 8:05 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Police dept

I do NOT support removing our police department. I think it is ridiculous. Kim Post

Beth Dadalt

From: Heather Fagan
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 7:19 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Budget

Mr Shuck,

Mr. Richen is not a spokesman's for my family or the town of Stafford. I am opposed to the concept of reducing our Police force. We moved to Stafford four years ago when we purchased our first home. We just had our first child and want to have more children. We plan on staying in Stafford, only if it remains safe for my family. I don't understand how having less police this will be accomplished. It appears as the group that is opposing the police are older, where their families had the benefits of having a full police force. Now that they don't have children they are abandoning the community by reducing the police force to save a few dollars. Its my understanding that we cut a Trooper's position a few years ago.

A safe community is a happy community.

Heather and Jay Fagan

Beth Dadalt

From: Todd Whitehouse
Sent: Wednesday, September 10, 2014 1:48 PM
To: Beth Dadalt
Subject: Public Safety Department - Budget

To Whom It May Concern,

As a local business and taxpayer I would like to take a moment to express my concerns over some of the recent budget cuts verbally proposed. 24hr Automatic Carwash has been providing the motoring public with a quality service to the residents and businesses of Stafford and neighboring towns alike for 7 years. Within that time frame we have had only two issues of vandalism complaints which we have been in need of the services of our local Police Department and Resident Troopers. During these encounters we have been able to identify and apprehend the perpetrators in a combined effort to enhance and protect the safety of other businesses and the residents of Stafford. In helping to insure the devotion of our public safety officials and the safety of the public we have also assisted in other investigations with our surveillance cameras footage which may not occur in the future if budget cuts or constraints are implemented to the Public Safety Departments.

If the Town of Stafford decides to cut or eliminate the dedication of these public safety officials, this will have a direct impact on existing businesses and residents alike, along with future businesses looking for a new or relocation areas to conduct their every day operations for years to come. At this time, I am in support of *not* reducing the budget for our Public Safety Department including our Resident Troopers and Stafford Police Department.

I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my brief concerns and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
Todd Whitehouse

**LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT
COMBINED UTILITY EXTENSION AND REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
TOWN OF STAFFORD**

I. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Luchs Consulting Engineers, LLC, with our prime Subconsultant DYMAR, INC., will be available to assist the Town of Stafford with the provision of Professional Consulting and Engineering Services in support of the Stafford Combined Utility Extension and Redevelopment Project. We will provide this work under the direction of Town staff and available to perform such preliminary services as:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Master Planning | Surveying |
| Capacity Analysis | Project Meetings |
| Cost Estimating | |

II. FEE PROPOSAL

Luchs will perform this work at the following hourly rates in effect for 2014:

Principal-in-Charge (Ronald Nault)	\$175.00
Senior Project Manager (Mark Lancor)	\$145.00
Senior Engineer	\$135.00
Project Engineer	\$120.00
Senior Technician	\$ 85.00
Technician	\$ 70.00
Senior Construction Inspector	\$115.00
Construction Inspector	\$ 85.00
Inspector	\$ 80.00
Clerical I	\$ 85.00
Clerical II	\$ 60.00

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Mark Lancor

The Hourly Rates are effective through December 2014 and are subject to negotiations and written agreement thereafter. Expenses will be billed at cost plus 10%. Total billings under this agreement shall not exceed Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) without written approval from the Town.

Agreed and Accepted by the Town of Stafford

Name/Date

