

Special Town Meeting January 5, 2011

Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room of Town Hall.

Mr. Marconi announced that the first order of business was to hear nominations for a Moderator.

Di Masters moved, Kevin Tappe, 360 Florida Hill Rd. seconded to appoint Ed Tyrell, 17 Pond Rd., as Moderator.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and Mr. Tyrell was elected Moderator.

The Moderator asked for a motion to appoint Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk, as Secretary of the meeting. Andy Bodner moved, Di Masters seconded to appoint Barbara Serfilippi as Secretary.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and Barbara Serfilippi was appointed Secretary.

Mr. Tyrell read the call of the meeting that appears on page 298, to act on a proposed lease of Town of Ridgefield-owned property on Halpin Lane to the Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Dept.

The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the lease. Andy Bodner moved, Di Masters seconded to approve the lease. The Moderator then opened the floor for discussion.

The First Selectman explained that the building was built at the bottom of Halpin Lane, behind the Guild of Artists and across the street from the Workshop of Performing Arts. It contains 2,400 sq. ft. The Volunteer Fire Dept. never had a lease, because it was a part of the Town of Ridgefield; however, they are a separate entity. As a result of them going to the bank to get money to finance a water and sewer line, etc., the bank wants to see a lease before they lend them money.

Di Masters, Selectman, brought up the issues of co-mingle parking with the Guild of Artists and the ATV used by the Volunteers that is housed in the building. Mr. Marconi explained that when the Guild of Artists or Theatre Barn have an event, the parking has a tendency to fill up everything available in the area, including in front of the Volunteer Fire Dept. garage. In emergency situations, the equipment housed in the building must be available, and that is why a chain has been put up to prevent cars from blocking the entrance to the Volunteer building.. The Guild of Artists has asked if there is any way the Volunteers could accommodate them by not having the chain up, or so posted, so that they can have access to the building. Mike Gabinelli, 87 New St., Asst. Chief of the Volunteer Fire Dept., explained that they put the chain up, because one day when they had to get into the building, they could not get into the barn, because of the way people

were parking. When the ATV parked in the barn needs to come out, they need as much space as possible to do so.

Andy Bodner, Selectman, inquired about liability insurance. Mr. Marconi replied that the Town's insurance covers the Volunteer building, and the Guild and Theatre Barn have their own, as part of their lease.

Di Masters suggested finding a way to mutually collaborate to accommodate all parties. A discussion followed on ways to resolve the problem and how to get the ATV out. It was decided that when there is a major event, the Guild and Theatre Barn should contact the Fire Dept. and Fire Chief to be aware of the event, so they can move the ATV out or put up the chain.

When discussion ended, the Moderator asked for a vote on the motion to accept the lease.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and the lease to the Volunteer Fire Dept. was approved.

Andy Bodner moved, Di Masters seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: "Aye" votes unanimous, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Serfilippi, Town Clerk