

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of January 31, 2011

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Gandt, were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Laura Powers. Eldon Goodhue was absent. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Topsfield Cable Evelyn Hammond, Tri-Town Transcript Kathy O'Brien, Library Trustee Audrey Iarocci, and Library Director Dana Mastroinni.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss the Fire Chief Contract and would not return to Open Session.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – New Library Director Introduction: Library Trustee member Audrey Iarocci introduced the Library's new Director Dana Mastroinni. Dana thanked the Trustees for selecting her and expressed her pleasure at having inherited such a great staff and that she looks forward to meeting Town residents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued): Chairman Gandt thanked the Road Commissioners for the continued fine job of plowing the town's roads. He also reported that the FY 2011 appropriation of the snow and ice budget has been exceeded. Selectman Luther reminded citizens to clear the catch basins as well as the fire hydrants that are located near their homes to help in the clean-up. Chairman Gandt announced that the Town Clerk wanted to remind residents that Census are due as are dog licenses. Late dog licenses do carry a late fee. In addition, nomination papers are ready to be picked up for the various Town elected positions for the May 5th election. The papers are due back March 17th. Chairman Gandt read the positions that are available.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Stormwater Management Committee Appointments: Selectman Luther recused herself due to her husband's name being among the appointees. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint members to the Stormwater Management Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2011 as voted at the May 2010 Town Meeting. The nominees were for Board of Road Commissioner, Joe Gibbons; for the Board of Water Commissioners, Greg Krom; for the Conservation Commission, Holger Luther; for the Planning Board, Jonathon Young; Storm Water Officers Highway Superintendent Dave Bond and Inspector of Building Glenn Clohecy, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 3-0. Chairman Gandt noted that the Board of Health's decision as to their appointment to the committee will be decided at a future date.

Warrant Articles: Chairman Gandt announced that the Warrant closes Friday, February 4th at noon; this includes all Citizen Petitions as well as Town Committee/Departments submissions. Ms. Wilder distributed a revised list of articles. There was a brief discussion on new articles added to date.

Liaison Reports

Rail Trail: Chairman Gandt reported that a letter has been sent to the MBTA for permission to build a storage shed on the property.

MMA Conference: Chairman Gandt and Selectman Powers attended the two days Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference the previous weekend and provided a review of the events that took place.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Regional Emergency Management Services update. Towns involved are Ipswich, Georgetown and Topsfield and they are looking at a possible ambulance shared services contract.
- Regional Health group update provided.
- Regional Emergency Call Center (RECC) update provided. There are six towns signed up with a total population of 78,000, therefore it is considered a viable project, with a cost of \$16.26 per capita. The time line of events was discussed.
- MIIA Rewards have been approved and Topsfield has been awarded \$1,852.

Selectmen Minutes:

Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of December 13, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 4-0. (Selectman Goodhue was absent.) Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of December 14, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 4-0. (Selectman Goodhue was absent.)

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Nuisance Claims: Kopelman & Paige sent a memorandum explaining the Supreme Judicial Court’s recent decision on nuisance claims against municipalities.

Water Withdrawal Permit: Department of Environmental Protection sent a revised interim Water Withdrawal permit date of Feb 4, 2013.

Solar Trailer: Atlantic Green Energy sent a letter explaining why they cannot fulfill their contract with the Town.

Kudos to Greg Krom: Department of Conservation and Recreation sent a letter expressing their thanks for the work Greg Krom did regarding the Water Meter Replacements and Monthly Water Billing for the Ipswich River Targeted Watershed Grant.

End of Driveway Snow: Dorothy Wass sent a letter to the Highway Department and Board of Selectmen requesting snow plowers to go down Perkins Lane the correct way so that snow would not end up at the end of her driveway (pictures were sent also).

Authorization of Bonds and Notes: Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District sent a letter with the vote that authorized the borrowing of \$133,770,000 to pay costs of constructing a new District High School.

Siting Solar & Wind Energy: Kopelman & Paige sent a letter addressing the applicability of the State Zoning Act, G.L. c.40A, to solar and wind energy facilities and the Green Communities Act’s by-right zoning requirement for eligibility as a Green Community.

Form 500: Comcast submitted its Form 500 for year 2010.

Proposed Pheasant Lane Land Swap: A Letter to the O’Malley’s from the Conservation Commission describing a plan of action to rectify an encroachment issue was received.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **255,938.53**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY11:	
063T	\$ 80,211.26
064	\$ 175,727.27

At 8:41PM, Selectmen Powers made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief contract; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the May 23, 2011 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

<p>Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.</p>
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