

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of February 17, 2009

Clerk Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Richard Gandt were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Karen Dow. Chairman Jackson was absent. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder was in attendance. Board Secretary Donna Rich was absent. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Gandt announced that the Chairman of the Board was absent due to illness and that the Board would be going into executive session at the end of the open session to discuss the Call Firefighter contract and Reserve Police contract and would not return to open session.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of January 28, 2009; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 3-1-0, Selectman Dow abstained due to departing the meeting prior to the votes being cast. Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the amended minutes of February 2, 2009; seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted 4-0. Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Executive Session of February 2, 2009 and to hold until all matters are resolved; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Trench Permit: Clerk Gandt stated that changes have been made to the permit that was presented at the February 2nd meeting and that will go into effect on March 1st. Additional changes were made to the permit at this meeting. Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the permit as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison: so voted: 4-0.

Truck for Park & Cemetery: Clerk Gandt explained that the purchasing of the truck was tabled at the previous Board meeting and then revisited by the Park & Cemetery Commissioners regarding funding. The Commissioners decided to fund the new truck using only cemetery funds. As a result, the new truck will be dedicated to cemetery use and will not be available for town purposes. This funding approach would also enable \$14,000 to be turned back to the town to help cover the FY09 9C cuts to the FY09 budget. Selectman Morrison made a motion to enter into a contract with Liberty Chevrolet of Wakefield, MA to purchase a 2009 Chevrolet c-3500h.d. truck for the sum of \$25,463, which fulfilled all specifications, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 4-0.

New Business

Updating of Commercial & Other Valuations for FY2010: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a contract to update the valuations of Commercial, Industrial, Large Multi-Family Residential, Mixed Use and certain exempt property for fiscal 2010 to Vision Appraisals Technology, Inc. of Northboro, MA in the amount of \$22,900, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- 9C Cuts-Turn Backs are in the process of being reviewed by each Department.
- Attended Meetings: MMA and North Shore Coalition.
- Distribution of a revised list of Warrant Articles and Town Report.
- Downtown Strategic Planning Meeting Review.

- Federal Census is still looking for people to help out.
- Town Clerk has numerous census reports that have not been completed and dog licenses outstanding.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Pine Grove Cemetery Headstone Survey: Historical Society was informed by the Mass Historical Commission Survey & Planning Grant Funds that the pre-application sent for the Pine Grove Cemetery Headstone survey has been rejected. However, Selectman Morrison stated that the project was noted as a worthy one and that the Historical Society was reviewing another program. Many thanks were given to Joyce Bergsten, Jack Long and Norm Isler for their research and development of the grant application.

Earth Hour to be celebrated: Proctor School students sent a letter requesting that March 28th from 8:30-9:30PM citizens not use electricity in observance of Earth Hour.

Rainbow Seafood: Kopelman & Paige has provided their opinion on the issuance of a special permit.

Reports

Conservation Commission monthly report for January was submitted.

Planning Board submitted Minutes of January 6, 14, & 20, 2009, along with Legal Notice for 422 Boston St to be held on February 17, 2009.

Zoning Board Legal Notice for 104 High Street to be held on February 24, 2009.

Cable TV Advisory Committee submitted Minutes of January 7, 2009.

North Shore Regional Vocational School submitted Minutes of December 11, 2008 and Agenda for February 12, 2009.

Open Space submitted Meeting Notes of December 9, 2008.

Council on Aging submitted Minutes of December 9, 2009 and January 13, 2009.

Police Department monthly report for January was submitted.

Building Inspector submitted several monthly reports.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 196,512.49** . The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:

067T	\$ 79,880.63
068	\$ 116,631.86

At 8:48 PM, Clerk Gandt motioned to go into executive session to discuss the Call Firefighter's contract and Police Reserve contract; seconded by Selectman Dow. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, Selectman Dow and Clerk Gandt. The Board would not return to open session. Virginia Wilder was also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the March 16 , 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.