

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of March 15, 2010

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Martha Morrison, were Richard Gandt, Nancy Luther, Karen Dow and Laura Powers. 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 Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Walter Harmer, resident, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Water Commissioners: Phil Knowles, Richard Stone and Bette Cullinan, Water Superintendent Greg Krom, Ken Vogel, resident, Jeanine Cunniff, resident, John Kinhan, Moderator and Ted Speliotis, State Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Morrison expressed that due to heavy rains emergency personnel are out evaluating the roads to ensure the safety of the citizens. Ms. Wilder reported that as of 4:30PM today thirteen roads had been closed. There are only three ways to exit town; and it is expected that this will be a long term event as the rain is not expected to subside until 3AM this morning. The Ipswich River is of great concern as it continues to crest and will cause long term flooding of roads throughout town. Safety precautions driving through town were reviewed.

Chairman Morrison announced that the Ipswich Road Project will resume around April 1st. Work will consist of shoulder sloping, landscaping, capping of the stone walls, planting of trees and final paving on the roadway and sidewalks.

Chairman Morrison announced that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a Public Hearing on March 23rd at 8:00PM for a special permit at 13 Prospect Street.

Chairman Morrison announced that the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on March 16th at the Town Library at 8PM for zoning amendments relative to a revised Bylaw on the town meeting warrant.

Chairman Morrison announced that the Common Cause Massachusetts has awarded the Topsfield website an e-Government Award with distinction.

Selectman Gandt read a message from the Town Clerk stating information regarding nomination papers and registering to vote for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:45 – Water Department FY2011 Budget - Water Commissioners: Phil Knowles, Richard Stone and Bette Cullinan, Greg Krom, Water Superintendent - Mr. Knowles explained that the FY2011 Water Department budget is based on the Finance Committee Guidelines except for chemicals, for which the Department has experienced a large increase in cost. Mr. Knowles also stated that the Finance Committee has approved the budget as presented. Greg Krom explained the capital expense requests.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Water Department Budget for FY2011 as presented, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

8:00 - Potential Local Aid Cuts-Representative Ted Speliotis addressed the Board regarding the potential cuts to local aid for the FY2011 budget. Mr. Speliotis expressed his thoughts on a 5% cut to local aid. Mr. Speliotis stated that the House of Representative would be releasing their numbers before April 19th. There was discussion on health plan design and the need for the legislature to approve changes as requested by towns throughout the Commonwealth.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Energy Audit & Solar Site Assessments for Town Buildings: Contract with Joe Green Home Solutions of Salem, MA is being continued to the next Board of Selectmen meeting due to the exclusion of Steward School and Police Department.

2010 Town Meeting Warrant: Virginia Wilder lead the discussion on the 2010 Warrant, identifying which articles require further work and which ones are acceptable the way they were presented. It was agreed that a Working Session was required to finalize the Warrant, and one was scheduled for Friday, March 19th at 7:30AM.

Charter for the Town Building Study & Master Planning Committee: The Board agreed to postpone discussion of the revised language of the charter until the April 12th meeting.

New Business

Closure of South Common Street: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve the Library's request to close South Common Street on June 18th from 5PM – 8PM for the summer reading kick off event, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Inspector of Animals: Selectman Gandt made a motion to forward to the State Sandra Larson for nomination as Topsfield's Animal Inspector with a term beginning May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Release of Lien: Selectman Luther made a motion to consider \$10,000 in payment to be received from the proceeds related to a police officer and N.E.L. Corporation and for the Chairman to sign, second by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Fire Prevention Software: The Board decided to postpone final acceptance of the grant until clarification of what was being purchased is obtained by the Fire Department.

Child Passenger Safety Grant: Selectman Luther made a motion to accept a Child Passenger Safety Grant of \$560.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Attended MMA Legislative Breakfast with 2 main topics discussed: Health Plan Design and early retirement incentives.
- Essex Regional Retirement Board update. Andrew Maylor was voted chairman of the ERRB.
- Attended Elementary Teachers negotiations and other monthly meetings.
- Thanks were extended to Roberta Knight and Pam Wood for helping to pump water out of the basement due to the rain.

Selectmen Minutes:

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 22, 2010 as presented; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0.

Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of February 22, 2010 as written and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 1, 2010 as amended; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of March 1, 2010 as written and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Department of Housing & Community Development has approved Malgorzat & Henryka Perkowsk’s request to rent their unit while they leave the area for a 12 month period.

Reports

Planning Board has posted Minutes of February 2nd, 23rd 2010 to the web site.

Conservation Commission has submitted a Monthly Report for February 2010.

Emergency Management Director has submitted a report on the storm of February 25-28, 2010.

North Shore Regional Vocational School Minutes of January 14, 2010 and agenda for March 11, 2010 are available upon request

Invitation

First Parish, United Church of Christ invited the Board to their 375 anniversary beginning on May 29th – May 31st, located at 20 High Road, Newbury MA

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ 174,260.74. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
075T	\$ 76,229.12
076	\$ 98,031.62

At 9:41 PM, Selectmen Luther made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Powers seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as amended at the May 24 , 2010 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

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.