

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of March 16, 2009

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:33PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Karen Dow. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Dave Bond, Superintendent of Highway, Joe Geller and Roy Baessler of the Rail Trail Committee, George Hall, Chairman, Conservation Commission and Lana Spillman, Conservation Administrator. Conservation Commission representatives arrived at 8:30PM. Jeanine Cunniff, School Committee member arrived at 8:40PM and left 8:50PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Jackson announced that the Board would be going into executive session at the end of open session to discuss union contracts and to discuss a potential litigation issue with the Conservation Commission and would not return to open session. Lamson House: Chairman Jackson announced that the Department of Conservation and Recreation has chosen a Wenham couple, Mark & Ruthann Finn, as curators of the historic Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park under the Historic Curatorship program.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Ipswich Road Reconstruction Project-Dave Bond, Superintendent of Highway, stated that the project is to begin about April 1 and is expected to be completed around July 2010. The project is being funded by the MassHighway in the amount of 3.6 million dollars. The project includes street widening, installation of curbing and replacement of the sidewalk, replacement of drainage under the street and the planting of trees. In conjunction with this project, the town's water department is funding replacement of the water main under the street.

7:50 – Rail Trail – Joe Geller & Roy Baessler, members of the Rail Trail Committee- Mr. Geller stated that the 16 bids have been reviewed. Selectman Luther made a motion to award the contract for the construction of Phase I, Sections A, B, and D of the Topsfield Linear Common ATC [Alternative Transportation Corridor] to K&R Construction Inc., of Boxford, MA in the amount of \$21,840.00, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0. Selectman Gandt noted that construction is to begin mid April and to be completed by June 1, 2009.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the amended minutes of February 17, 2009; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0-1, Chairman Jackson abstained. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of February 25, 2009; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 5-0. Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the amended minutes of March 2, 2009; seconded by Selectman Jackson; so voted 4-0-1, Selectman Luther abstained.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Park & Cemetery New Truck-The Board signed the contract with Liberty Chevrolet of Wakefield, MA to purchase a 2009 Chevrolet c-3500 truck for the Park & Cemetery.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant: There was a general conversation regarding individual articles as written in the Warrant. Clarifying questions were raised and it was determined to hold a Working Session on March 23, 2009 to begin at 5PM to discuss the Warrant further.

New Business

Town & Budget Meeting Process: Selectman Morrison began by explaining that the purpose of the informational sheet was to inform the citizens of the budget process. This will assist in educating the citizens in the event of an override question being placed on the ballot. Selectman Gandt stated that Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee have authored an informational document that addresses the roles of the various groups in the budget process. This document has been made available through a series of medium, including posting it on the Town's web site and distribution to the elementary school parent population.

Holocaust Remembrance Day: Selectman Gandt read portions of a proclamation about the day. Selectman Morrison made a motion to participate in the Holocaust Awareness Week, April 19-25, and for the Chairman to sign the proclamation, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Inspector of Animals Nomination: Selectman Gandt made a motion to nominate Joel Larson as the Town's Inspector of Animals for a term to begin on May 1, 2009 and to expire on April 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Town Hall Exterior Stairs: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the repairs to the treads of the exterior concrete stairs at Town Hall and to authorize Vernon REM LLC of Topsfield, MA to perform said repairs per quote dated February 25, 2009 in the amount of \$1,975, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Green Communities/Alternative Energy Committee: Selectman Morrison addressed this topic stating that a committee should be appointed. If anyone is interested and has background in this area they should contact the Town Administrator or the Board's Secretary.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Downtown survey update
- Town Report for 2008 update: theme is "Challenge, Change, Opportunity".
- Home Rule Petitions and Fees
- Town Meeting Warrant update
- Regional Ambulance Service
- Alternative Energy/Green Initiatives
- Meetings Attended: Finance, Water Commissioners
- Upcoming Meetings: MMA Legislative update breakfast, economic stimulus bill

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Resignation of Part-Time Dispatcher Cynthia Hayward was received from Police Chief.

Regionalization Study of the Elementary Schools grant information was received from Dr. Bernie Creeden, Superintendent of Schools. It was announced that the Tri-town Union school district recently received \$25,000 in grant money to fund this study.

Reports

Elementary School Committee submitted the minutes of January 29, February 5, 2009 and agenda for February 26, 2009.

Zoning Board of Appeals submitted the minutes of November 25, 2008 and a Legal Notice for the Fairgrounds to be held on March 24, 2009.

Planning Board submitted the minutes of February 3rd & 17th, 2009 and a Public Hearing notification for amendments to the Bylaw and to the Planning Board's Rules & Regulations to be held on April 7, 2009.

Conservation Commission submitted the minutes of January 21 and February 11 & 25, 2009 and monthly report for February.

Open Space Committee submitted the notes of January 12, 2009.

Rail Trail Committee submitted the minutes of February 24, 2009.

North Shore Regional Vocation School submitted the agenda for March 12, 2009 and minutes of January 28, 2009.

Surface & Ground Water Study submitted the minutes of February 26, 2009.

Building Inspectional Services has submitted a monthly report for February.

Finance Committee: has submitted the minutes of February 23 & 25 and March 2 & 4, 2009.

Police Department: has submitted a monthly report for February.

Invitations:

MBTA Advisory Board Meeting to be held on March 24, 2009.

Annual State & Local Luncheon to be held on June 5, 2009.

Suburban Coalition Annual Legislative Breakfast to be held on April 14, 2009.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 152,071.43** .
The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:

075T	\$ 81,975.25
076	\$ 70,096.18

At 9:10 PM, Chairman Jackson motioned to go into executive session to discuss union contracts and a potential litigation issue with the Conservation Commission; seconded by Selectman Luther. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Selectman Morrison, Selectman Dow, Selectman Luther, Selectman Gandt and Chairman Jackson. The Board would not return to open session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the March 30, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.