

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of May 9, 2011

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Gandt, were Martha Morrison, Ken Vogel, Eldon Goodhue 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 Topsfield Cable Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer, Historical Society President Norm Isler, and resident Kim Sherwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Gandt began by welcoming the newly elected member, Ken Vogel and congratulating re-elected member Martha Morrison. Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss the Police Union Contract and would not return to Open Session.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

Chairman Gandt requested nominations for the Board's Chairman. Selectman Morrison nominated Laura Powers, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 4-0. Chairman Powers abstained.

Chairman Powers requested nominations for the Board's Clerk. Selectman Gandt nominated Eldon Goodhue, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 4-0. Selectman Goodhue abstained. Chairman Powers asked the Board to review the Meeting Schedule for the year and that a vote of acceptance would be requested at the May 23rd meeting.

Chairman Powers asked the Board to review the Liaisons list and that the list would be voted on at the May 23rd meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Selectman Morrison announced that the Spring Household Metals and White Goods pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, Thursday, May 19, and Friday, May 20, 2011. There would be no charge for this collection; items must be at curbside by 7am the same day your trash is picked up. Metal items include anything that contains at least 80% or more of metal. Household white goods include stoves, washers, dryers, micro-waves, dishwashers and dehumidifiers. Items that contain Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners need to be registered with the Board of Selectmen's Office prior to the pick-up date. Please call (978) 887-1500. Selectman Gandt announced that the Town Clean-Up would be held on May 21st from 8AM – Noon. The event would be directed again this year by Peter Sacco, a senior at Masco. Volunteers were needed; sign in and pick a street to clean at the Town Hall parking lot.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Parson Capen House Preservation Project Update - Historical Society President Norm Isler explained the Parson Capen House Preservation project that has been in progress for the past 7 years. A new dwelling would be located behind the Parson Capen House and would be 1,400 square feet. Mr. Isler requested that the Board consider waiving Permitting and Inspections related fees as had been done for the Society's Gould Barn project. There was a discussion on the historical background of the Parson Capen House.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Kim Sherwood was recognized and stated that she had a comment regarding the Masconomet Regional High School assessment figure being \$42,000 less than what was voted at the Ballot.

Selectman Gandt explained that only the amount that was appropriated at Town Meeting would be assessed. The amount was \$149,552

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Town Meeting Review: All Board members offered kudos to the different individuals that contributed to the success of Town Meeting.

Public health Mutual Aid Agreement: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint the Town Administrator as Topsfield's designated "Authorized Representative" under the Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement executed on May 9, 2011, second by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

New Business

Emergency Management Planning Grant: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve an application for a Grant related to Emergency Management Planning for the Town, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

HOME Funds Appropriation: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the allocation of Topsfield's HOME funds for FY2011 in the amount of \$11,505 to Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC) of Salem, MA for use in their tenant-based rental assistance program, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

Solar Irrigation Demonstration Project: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a purchase order with EcoSense Systems LLC of Merrimack, MA for the purchase of a solar powered garden drip irrigation system in the amount of \$1,955 to be installed in connection with a demonstration garden, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Amendment No.1 to Engineering Peer Review for English Commons Septic System: This item was tabled until next meeting.

Antoria Way- Chairman Powers noted that the Board is required to layout and sign the Street Acceptance Plan for Antoria Way, as requested by the Planning Board.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Goodhue announced the Library upcoming events: Saturday, May 21st there is a bookfair at Barnes & Noble, the Library will retain 10% of the sales that day.

Selectman Morrison reminded the Board that the Renewable Energy Committee will be submitting the Green Communities Application on June 10th and that there are items for the Board to vote on prior to that date. Chairman Powers suggested a Working Session so the Board can become knowledgeable before votes are taken.

Selectman Morrison reported that the boiler replacement for Town Hall is moving forward and Selectman Gandt is assisting the Renewable Energy Committee with the project.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Representative Speliotis has been briefed about the Town Meeting votes to move forward with the Home Rule Petition for Health Reform and the land swap on Pheasant Lane.
- Comcast Contract Negotiations: update provided.
- Suburban Coalition Legislature Breakfast distributed a list of unfunded mandates.
- Columbia Pictures will be filming in Topsfield on May 12th, primarily at the Fair Grounds. A description of the filming and checklist has been distributed for the Board's information.
- Meetings Attended: MMA, MIA Rewards, and MAPC.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

72 Hill Street - Kenneth Stowe has copied the Board on a letter sent to Conservation Commission regarding an ongoing flooding issue.

Historic Curatorship Program Lessee's Tax Exemption Eligibility - Kopleman & Paige sent a memorandum explaining the assessment of real estate taxes on lessees of state and municipally owned properties.

Parking Downtown - Dorothy Wass sent a letter requesting the removal of three parking spots in the downtown area.

Bridge Inspection Report - MassDOT sent an underwater inspection report of 3/22/11 for the bridge at Salem Road over the Ipswich River.

Bridge Inspection Report - MassDOT sent an underwater inspection report of 3/22/11 for the bridge at Rowley Bridge Street over the Ipswich River.

Reports

Conservation Commission submitted a monthly Report for April.

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of April 8, 2011.

Fire Department submitted an activity report from March and April.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 123,619.23**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY11:	
091T	\$ 72,896.96
092	\$ 50,722.27

At 8:52 PM, Selectmen Goodhue made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Police Union contract; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Powers, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Gandt, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Vogel. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the , 2011 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.