

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Minutes of May 10, 2010**

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Morrison, were Richard Gandt, Nancy Luther, 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 Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, residents: Michael Massaro, Jeanine Cunniff, Steve & Judith Lais, Scott McGaunn and son Joseph, Bridgett & Tim O'Malley of 19 Pheasant Lane, and Kim Sherwood, President Topsfield Beach Association.

Chairman Martha Morrison opened the meeting and welcomed Eldon Goodhue as a new Board member.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Selectman Luther nominated Selectman Gandt to serve as Board Chairman, Selectman Powers seconded the nomination; so voted: 4-0. Chairman Gandt abstained.

Selectman Luther nominated Selectman Powers to be Clerk, Selectman Morrison seconded the nomination; so voted: 4-0. Selectman Powers abstained.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule as presented from May 10, 2010 through May 9, 2011, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

**Board Liaisons:** Chairman Gandt has requested the Board review the liaison list and send input for final distribution to be at the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Selectman Morrison announced that there is an error on the recycling postcard; recycling was last week and will be again the week of May 19<sup>th</sup> and every other week thereafter. A new calendar is to be distributed by the end of June for FY2011.
- Selectman Morrison announced that Household Metals and White Goods pick-up is scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, Thursday, May 20, and Friday, May 21, 2010. There is no charge for this collection; items must be 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. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners that contain Freon need to be registered with the Board of Selectmen Office prior to the pick up date. Please call (978) 887-1500.
- Chairman Gandt explained that there will be a Planning Board Public Hearing held on May 18, 2010 at the Library beginning at 8PM to consider the application of Edward Labrecque for a special permit at 431 Boston Street.
- Selectman Morrison announced that the Memorial Day Parade will begin at 9AM on May 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be a ceremony on the Veterans Memorial Green; from there the group will proceed to Pine Grove Cemetery for the concluding ceremonies.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Old Business**

**Town Meeting:** Chairman Gandt began by stating that Town Meeting went two nights due to lack of a quorum late the first night. The meeting successfully finished its business the second

night. There was discussion regarding questions that were brought up at Town Meeting. They are as follows:

- Reserve Fund Transfers: Chairman Gandt provided clarification on how the funds are requested and expended, in addition the amounts appropriated and spent for FY09 and FY10 were reviewed.
- Monitoring costs for the Land Fill: Chairman Gandt explained that an enterprise fund was established at the time of closure and that fund supports the monitoring each year.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**7:50PM – Barn Encroachment on Conservation Town Land** – Tim & Bridgett O’Malley came forward. Tim O’Malley gave a brief history from his perspective of events relating to the barn. His comments are summarized as:

In 2005 a barn was erected however there was no foundation inspection performed. In March 2009 he received a letter from Conservation Commission, with a Google map, noting that the barn was encroaching on conservation land by what appears to be less than 100 square feet.

Conservation Commission is seeking clarification of the boundary line by contracting a professional surveyor. Who will pay for the survey is being debated.

Following the presentation by Mr. O’Malley, the Board felt that more information regarding the survey was needed to make a decision on possible sharing of the survey cost and if it is in fact required. They asked the O’Malley’s to follow-up with the Conservation Commission.

**New Business**

GASB-45 Post-Employment Benefit Liability Study: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve a contract for GASB-45 Bi-Annual Post-Employment Benefit Valuation for actuarial services with ANGELL Pension Group, Inc of Providence RI in the amount of \$8,500 for FY10 services with additional pending amount in the sum of \$8,500 for FY12 services subject to appropriation, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Chapter 90 Request Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve Chapter 90 request in the amount of \$71,500 to provide funding for the projects contained in the request which included the resurfacing of 3 streets in conjunction with the Ipswich Road Project, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Solar Harvester Contract: Selectman Morrison noted that the request is for the use of grant funds to procure a model of a “solar harvester” to use in educating the public, however, there appears to be missing information that the Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee needs to provide. Since committee members were not available at the meeting, Chairman Gandt asked that this issue be tabled until next meeting, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Fiscal Agent for Tri-Town School Union: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve the Town of Boxford as the Fiscal Agent for processing of joint bills for the Tri-Town School Union, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

**Town Administrator’s Report:**

- Attended the Suburban Coalition Legislative Breakfast.
- Attended the North Shore Coalition Meeting.
- Attended the FEMA meeting regarding Essex County Municipal Assistance available.
- Update on the Comcast renewal license negotiations. Advised a Working Session to discuss options with the Board.
- Essex Regional Retirement Board update/review.

- Seasonal Employee update.
- Update on Fire Chief Contract-in its preliminary draft.
- Treasurer/Collector wanted the Board to know that the Moody rating for the Town has moved from an Aa3 to Aa2.
- Salem News has noted Joe Geller as one of a 100 citizens who have made a difference in our future.

**Correspondence & Reports**

Correspondence

Comcast end-of-year documents -- Financial Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenue & Expenses and Statement of Ownership are available upon request.

Senior Care to Recognize Seniors -- Senior Care has sent the annual nomination papers for recognizing those seniors (over 60) who have made a significant contribution in the lives of seniors. Nominations can be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen’s office.

Reports

Board of Library Trustees minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup> are posted on the Library website.

Conservation Commission submitted the Monthly Report for April 2010.

Board of Assessors submitted Minutes of Dec 22, 2009, Jan 8, Feb 5, March 5, 25, & 26, and April 10 & 14, 2010.

Water Department has sent a response to DEP for Order to Complete for Water Management Permit.

**Warrants:** The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **319,642.49**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
091T	\$ 76,298.02
092	\$ 243,344.47

At 8:37 PM, Selectmen Powers made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Luther seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary  
Selectmen’s Office

*Approved as amended at the August 30, 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.