

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 15, 2011

Chairman Laura Powers called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Powers, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Eldon Goodhue and Ken Vogel. 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, Tri-Town Transcript Reporter Suzanne Snell, Police Chief Evan Haglund, Police Officer Michael Balsley, and Boy Scout Troop 81 members Patrick and Andrew Granata.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Powers announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss strategy with respect to Firefighter and Reserve Police collective bargaining and would not return to Open Session.

Chairman Powers announced that *Concerts on the Common Series* continue Sundays from 4PM – 6PM through Sept 4th. August 21st will feature **Chris Marino Sings**, August 28th will feature **the Renowns** and **The Joe Macey Project** will play on September 4th.

Selectman Gandt reported that the mandatory water ban has been lifted due to the rain that has increased water flow in the Ipswich River.

Selectman Goodhue reported that the Library has 4 different E-Readers available to patrons for use at the library: the Kindle DX, Nook, Sony Reader, and iPad.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Unemployment Compensation Management Services: Selectman Goodhue made a motion to award a contract to Unemployment Tax Management Corporation of Wakefield, MA in the amount of \$1,960 for management of the Town's unemployment claims and related services as specified in the attached Agreement, the term of said contract to be one year commencing on August 16, 2011; and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

New Business

Appointment of Police Officer: Chief Haglund introduced Michael Balsley to the Board, stating the position was to backfill Jack Hayward who was recently promoted to Sergeant to backfill Gerald Harrison who recently retired. Mr. Balsley expressed his excitement to be a Topsfield Police Officer. He stated that he self-sponsored himself to attend the Plymouth Police Academy and graduated 5th in his class. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint present reserve Police Officer Michael Balsley to the position of probationary Regular Police Officer for a period of one year effective Tuesday August 16, 2011, to expire June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0. Chief Haglund invited the Board and citizens to attend the swearing in ceremony on Thursday, August 18th at 4PM

Foliage Classic Road Race: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Rotary Club's 32nd annual Fall Foliage Classic Road Race to be held on October 16th with event activities starting at Proctor School, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a banner to be erected October 6th – 16th in front of Proctor School next to Town Hall for the Rotary Club's 32nd Annual Fall Foliage Classic Road Race, second by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Fair Parade: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Essex Agricultural Society parade for Saturday, October 1, 2011 for the Topsfield Fair, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

Coast to Cure Bike Ride: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Neurofibromatosis, Northeast Coast to the Cure Bike Ride to be held on Saturday, September 10th beginning at 7AM and traveling through Topsfield, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Sunday Licenses for the Fair: Selectman Goodhue made a motion to approve Dean & Flynn, Inc. D/B/A Fiesta Shows request for Amusement Rides and Amusement Games Licenses on two Sundays, October 2nd and 9th at the Topsfield Fair Grounds during the Topsfield Fair, seconded by Selectman Morrison. There was a discussion regarding the hour stated on the license: 12PM to 11PM, Selectman Gandt stated that state law does not allow such activity prior to 1PM on Sunday's. Therefore, the original motion was amended by Selectman Gandt such that the license states the time to begin at 1PM, which is consistent with State Law, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0. Ms. Wilder would contact Dean & Flynn to discuss the conflicting hour appearing on the license. The main Motion however was tabled until the August 29th meeting.

Selectman Gandt then raised the issue of an email from a citizen expressing opposition on having the fair open after 10PM on school nights. There was a discussion relative to the issue, ending with Selectman Gandt stating his willingness to poll the neighbors to validate the complaint. Selectman Goodhue stated that the complaint should be directed to the Fair for them to handle.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Vogel congratulated Neal Hovey for graduating from the Reading Police Academy with the highest GPA in his class.

Selectman Morrison reported that the Boiler at Town Hall project is underway, the bidders conference was held last Monday, August 8th, Selectman Gandt was in attendance.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Update on One-Day Liquor License: the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee has been requested to review the Town's Rules and Regulations to ensure they are in compliance
- Reported that Bill Whiting, Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer of the Cable TV/Website Committee have been issued Identification tags as volunteer members.
- Rail Trail Update: all items related to the Enforcement Order have been completed.
- Association of Town Finance Committees has invited the Board to attend their annual meeting which will focus on town budgeting processes.
- Beacon publication has reported on new legislation regarding double poles and the removal of the old one within 90 days.
- Beacon publication also announced MMPA web Based Salary Survey is fully up and operational for FY12 and Al Wallace of the Personnel Advisory Committee has inputted Topsfield's data successfully.
- Distributed proposed emergency regulations regarding the new Municipal Health Insurance that will be in effect for 3 months.
- MMA announced Annual Town Reports should be sent in for the annual contest; Topsfield has already submitted the FY11 report.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Mass Remembers – Voices of Hope: The Worcester Cultural Coalition announced that they would be hosting a statewide commemorative event on September 11, 2011 at 2PM at Institute Park, Worcester MA honoring those that died September 11, 2001.

Congratulatory Note: Police Chief sent a letter to Officer Hovey congratulating him on his achievements and graduation from the 16th MPTC Reading Police Academy.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 329,265.56**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY12:	
13T	\$ 81,429.36
14	\$ 247,836.20

At 8:12 PM, Selectmen Morrison made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Firefighter and Reserve Police collective bargaining; seconded by Selectman Vogel. 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 August 29, 2011 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

<p>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.</p>
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