

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of November 21, 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 and resident Kim Sherwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Powers reported that the Board met on November 16th in a working session regarding a stimulus initiative of the Federal Government concerning Health Insurance.

Chairman Powers reminded citizens that the Holiday Walk would be held on December 3rd beginning at the Proctor School with a concert at 3:30, and festivities to end at 7PM with a bonfire behind Town Hall. Selectman Morrison mentioned that some of the Town's non-profit groups can be seen decorating in and around Town in preparation for the holiday season. Chairman Powers also announced that Wreaths Across America would be at the Topsfield Fair Grounds on December 5th for an hour or so and for all that can attend to show our support. Chairman Powers explained that Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Selectman Goodhue announced that E-Readers are available at the Town Library for residents to use. There is more information listed on the Town Library website.

CITIZEN QUESTIONS & COMMENTS:

Kim Sherwood, resident, addressed the Board asking for clarification regarding how the Town expects to handle the excess override funds voted on at the ballot in May of 2011 and the delta amount voted at Town Meeting as it would relate to the tax levy. The Board collectively tried to assist Ms. Sherwood in understanding the issue.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

AECOM Contract Extension: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve Amendment No.1 to the contract for the Perkins Row Test Well Investigation for engineering services with AECOM of Concord MA to extend the term of the contract through April 30, 2013, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

Design Engineering Services for Water Main Replacement: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a contract for design engineering services for the replacement of portions of water mains on Central Street and Main Street and for a new water main for a portion of Bare Hill Road with Stantec Consulting Services Inc of Westford MA in the amount of \$27,500, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

Town Government Review Committee: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Al Wallace and Janice Ablon to the Town Government Review Committee for a term to expire November 1, 2012, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0. The Board agreed that Chairman Powers would initiate the first meeting of the newly formed committee and facilitate the voting of officers.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Gandt announced that the State had awarded Topsfield \$550,000 to repair the Rowley Bridge Road Bridge under the STRAP program.

Selectman Morrison reminded residents that the Zoning Board of Appeals would meet tomorrow to hold two Public Hearings.

Selectman Morrison reported that the Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee has been working on a plan as to how they will spend the newly awarded grant funds. There was discussion about using a portion of the funds for the lighting retrofit project for town buildings.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Retirement Survey being distributed to employees was reviewed.
- Capital Program status report was provided.
- Attended a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting where Goal setting was the topic of discussion.
- Update on use of Newburyport kennel service.
- Regional Emergency Communication Center status report provided.
- Remote Participation of meetings update provided.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) sent a letter expressing that the Rowley Bridge Road Bridge rehabilitation project was awarded funding in the amount of \$550,000.

Reports

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of October 14, 2011.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ 322,471.75. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY12:	
041T	\$ 83,695.60
042	\$ 238,776.15

At 8:24 PM, Selectmen Goodhue made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Vogel seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as amended at the December 5, 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.