

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of December 6, 2010

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Gandt, were Martha Morrison, 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 Topsfield Cable Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss the Fire Chief's Contract, Police Union Contract and the Dispatchers Union Contract and would not return to Open Session.

Chairman Gandt announced that only Christmas trees would be accepted at the compost site on January 8th and 15th from 9-1. There would be no charge for the drop-off.

Selectman Morrison thanked the Recreation Committee for a successful Holiday Walk.

Selectman Powers announced that Joan Panella was awarded the Pillar of the Community Award which is an annual award given in memory of town resident Maryellen McGee. This award recognizes a Topsfield resident who has, for many years, given of their time, talents and energy to make life better for the residents of the town.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Ambulance Billing Agreement: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Ambulance Billing Agreement with Northeast Regional Ambulance and authorized the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Beach Association (TBA): Chairman Gandt stated that the TBA Board has reminded the Board of Selectmen of their vote in March stating the Town should develop a committee and a revolving fund which would result in the Town taking over the operation at Hood Pond. Mr. Gandt further noted that the Board would need to know how TBA wishes to proceed after their license with the Town expires on December 31st. Chairman Gandt stated that insurance is still an outstanding issue that the Board should bring to closure. The Chairman requested that the Board move forward with identifying outstanding issues by forwarding their questions to the Town Administrator in order to schedule a second meeting with representatives of MIIA.

New Business

Renewal of Alcohol Licenses: 1) Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the renewal of Gil's Grocery 2011 Retail Liquor License for the sale of wine and malt liquor, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

2) Selectman Luther made a motion to approve the renewal of ICDT, Inc, dba Main Street Market 2011 Retail Liquor License for the sale of wine and malt liquor, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Town Warrant: Ms. Wilder noted that citizen petition forms would be available at the Board of Selectmen's office and on the website. Selectman Morrison noted that departments wanting to place Warrant Articles should be submitting place holders and working on language for submission. Selectman Powers made a motion to open the warrant for the May 3, 2011 Annual Town Meeting and to close said Warrant on February 4, 2011; so voted: 5-0.

Adopt - A- Street Program: Chairman Gandt explained that a letter was received from Hamilton and Barrett Coke requesting the Board to consider an adopt-a-street litter program as a continuation of their goal to have a litter free Town. Chairman Gandt stated that other town groups have been asked for their input on this suggestion. Selectman Morrison suggested the

recycling committee take a lead on it and Selectman Luther noted that in the early 1990's there was a street sign-up at Town Meeting for citizens interested in adopting and maintaining litter free streets.

Auxiliary Police Officers: Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint the attached list of Auxiliary police officers for a term commencing on Jan 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Morrison reminded the Board of the Open Space letter that remains outstanding.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Goal Development update
- Budget Preparation status provided
- Comcast negotiations status provided

Chairman Gandt reported the Finance Committee met this evening to set the FY12 Budget Guidelines for Masconomet Regional High School. Historically all three (3) towns have voted on joint guidelines and this year all three (3) towns have agreed that for the purposes of the FY 2012 budget, the guideline would be a 1% increase in the operating assessment. Selectman Powers stated that in previous years the guidelines have been based on the total budget, this year it has been placed on the assessment figure.

Correspondence & Reports

Reports

Conservation Commission submitted an Enforcement Order issued to Essex Agricultural Society and a monthly report for November.

Planning Board posted minutes of October 5th and 19th to the website.

Board of Assessors submitted the minutes of November 12th.

Council on Aging submitted the minutes of October 12th and Agenda for November 9th.

Fire Department submitted the monthly report for November.

Kopelman & Paige notified the Board that in the case of Willowdale v. the Town, the Appellate Tax Board rescheduled the hearing from Dec.1 to May 10, 2011.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 356,913.49**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY11:	
047T	\$ 80,335.12
048	\$ 276,578.37

At 8:10 PM, Selectmen Powers made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief contract, Police Union Contract and Dispatchers Union Contract; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the January 18, 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.