

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Working Session**  
**Minutes of March 25, 2009**

Chairman Boyd Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:42PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Boyd Jackson, were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Karen Dow. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Also present were Bernie Creeden, Steve Greenberg, and Jeff Evaul representing the elementary schools (all departed at 6:25PM), and Holger Luther of the Finance Committee. Mark Lyons, Finance Committee Chairman, arrived at 6:50PM

Chairman Jackson stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2009 Warrant and vote on a final version.

Article 19: Replacement of the Fire Department Pumper Engine #3 and approaches to fund such a replacement were discussed. It was noted that repairs for both the ladder and pumper vehicles are up to \$35,000 for FY2009. Selectman Gandt expressed his concerns with placing this item on an override question in the present economic environment. There was much discussion on the different options for funding this article.

Article 10: Small Town Road Assistance Program was taken up next. It was explained that the state has changed the population criteria for participation in the program and Topsfield is now eligible.

Chairman Jackson addressed the Elementary School representatives present, Bernie Creeden, Superintendent of Schools, Steve Greenberg, Director of Finance and Human Resources, and Jeff Evaul, Chairman of the School Committee. Jeff Evaul began by stating that he would like to offer his support for the Proposition 2 ½ Ballot question. Selectman Dow explained that it would be best if correct information could be circulated and that more trust should be placed in the Finance Committee for the hard work they perform during the budget process. Selectman Morrison suggested that the entire School Committee should attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting of March 30, 2009 to discuss their issues. Mr. Evaul stated he would be in attendance. However, he could not speak for the entire Committee. Chairman Jackson expressed his opinions on how Town elected officials should be cautious of how they present their opinions.

On an Article regarding the Board of Health (BOH) request for a revolving fund, Chairman Jackson reported that he spoke with William Hunt, BOH Chairman, on this issue. Based on that conversation about how the funds would be used, the Board voted to remove the article.

Article 21: The Library Security Project was discussed next. Selectman Dow reported that she had spoken with Sheila Becker, Library Trustee who agreed to removing the article and applying the \$5,000 to the library's operating budget. The Board agreed and article was removed.

Article 22: Perkins Row Test Wellfields were then discussed. A vote was made to change the title of the article to Perkins Row Test Wells.

Article 23: On the Ipswich Road Water Main Project article, wording from bond counsel has still not been received.

Article 24: on the Regional Emergency Communications Center article, Selectman Gandt had made changes and those changes were accepted.

Article 26-31: All Zoning Bylaw Amendments were still under review.

Article 34: On the Demolition Delay Bylaw, Selectman Morrison stated her concern regarding the change from 6 months to 12 months for a waiting time. It was agreed to change it back to 6 months.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept all Articles as discussed today, March 25, 2009, with text of Articles 22, 23, 26-31, 34 and 37, pending revisions and monetary numbers not yet entered, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Other items discussed:

Selectman Gandt would like the Hazardous Waste Collection budget restored.

At 7:08PM, Selectman Gandt moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary  
Selectmen's Office

*Approved as amended at the April 27, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.*