

March 17, 2008

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Odabashian with all members in attendance.

#### PUBLIC HEARING – Water Rate Review

Mrs. Odabashian read the public hearing notice.

Mr. DiMartino stated he did not receive any written comments from individuals who could not attend tonight's hearing.

Mr. DiMartino requested a 3% rate increase. He stated FY2009 costs have increased by about 18% due, in most part, to the addition in borrowing costs for the Pulaski Blvd. Water System Rehab and Grove St. Standpipe Rehab projects. He went on to explain that the Town now has 8 month's of revenue records under the new rate structure with an increase of 15% in the FY2008 revenue projections. The 3% increase Mr. DiMartino recommended should be sufficient to provide revenue equal to expenses in FY2009.

Mr. Picard and Mr. Martinelli felt the water rates should not be increased. Mr. Goodnow, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Odabashian felt the increase is needed to cover FY2009 expenses.

Mrs. Odabashian asked if there was anyone present who wanted to speak on this matter. Rolande Gentes expressed concern over a large increase in her last water bill. Mr. DiMartino recommended that Ms. Gentes contact the DPW to review this matter.

On a Goodnow/Davies motion, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing. On a Goodnow/Davies motion, the Board voted to increase the water rates by 3% as recommended by Mr. DiMartino, effective July 1, 2008. Mr. Picard and Mr. Martinelli opposed. The motion passed on a 3-2 vote.

Mr. Picard suggested the Town look into instituting a water capital fund.

On a Picard/Davies motion, the Board unanimously voted that Contract 2007-10 Road Improvements Hartford Avenue (Route 126) be awarded to the low bidder Aggregate Industries of Saugus, MA, contingent upon receipt of funds for the private portion of this project.

Minutes of March 17, 2008

Page 2

#### Board of Health Vacancies

Mr. Vincent Forte and Mrs. Louise Arnold were interviewed for the Board of Health vacancies.

Mr. Forte stated he has held a position on the Board of Health for the past 13 years and would like to continue to protect the health and welfare of the residents of Bellingham. He has 34 years of experience in the field of biology, health and safety. He holds certificates in Title V, soils, food safety, wetland science and septic system installation.

Mrs. Arnold has experience in the following: Mass. Emergency Management Agency, Citizen Emergency Management Planning Corp.,

Mass Bay Red Cross, Bristol County Emergency Preparedness Coalition, Rhode Island Red Cross, to name a few.

Mr. Oakley, who had interviewed for the Board of Health position at the Selectmen's February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, also expressed his desire to be appointed. He is knowledgeable about septic systems, both residential and non-residential.

On a Picard/Davies motion, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Mr. Forte to the Board of Health (3 year appointment).

On a Martinelli/Davies motion, the Board voted to appoint Louise Arnold to fill Walter DePaolo's unexpired term. Mr. Goodnow and Mr. Picard opposed. The motion passed on a 3-2 vote.

On a Martinelli/Picard motion, the Board unanimously voted to accept the minutes of March 3<sup>rd</sup> as submitted.

On a Picard/Martinelli motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve water abatements in the amount of \$438.78.

On a Picard/Martinelli motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Appointed Positions presented this evening with the exception of the Commission on Disability and the ZBA.

(Mr. Martinelli left the meeting at this time.)

On a Picard/Goodnow motion, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Mr. Martinelli to the Commission on Disability.

(Mr. Martinelli returned to the meeting.)

On a Picard/Martinelli motion, the Board unanimously voted to ratify the reappointments approved by Mr. Fraine.

On a Davies/Picard motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the 2008 Poll Worker Appointments as submitted by Town Clerk, Kathleen Harvey.

Minutes of March 17, 2008

Page 3

On a Martinelli/Goodnow motion, the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Dr. Mary Ambler to the Board of Registrars, Republican Member.

On a Martinelli/Goodnow motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following license renewals: New England Country Club – Seasonal Restaurant All Alcohol, Common Victualler; Chowder Bowl – Seasonal Restaurant All Alcohol, Common Victualler; Rosewood Restaurant – Common Victualler and AutoBrite – Class II.

On a Goodnow/Davies motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline A. Bokoski  
Administrative Assistant