

**Minutes of the BOXFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM #1
December 5, 2011 7:30PM**

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Present: Chairman Perkins, Preston Galarneau, Chuck Costello, Stephen Davis, Mary Anne Nay

Absent: None

Others Present: Alan Benson, Town Administrator; Kathryn O'Brien, Tri-Town Transcript; Samantha Mercier; Peter Morbeck, Lakes Ponds Streams Committee; Mark Mitsch, Lakes Ponds Streams Committee; Brooks Tingle, Chairman of the Lakes Ponds Streams Committee; Ross Povenmire, Conservation Administrator; Christine Northrup, and others

Meeting Called to Order:

Selectmen Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:33PM.

Announcements:

- **Council on Aging Holiday Luncheon:** Selectwoman Nay announced that the Council on Aging is holding their annual holiday luncheon on December 14 at the Family Life Center of the First Church. Call the Council on Aging for reservations.
- **Remember Our Firefighters and Police Officers:** Selectwoman Nay reminded residents to put a red light in your window to honor our firefighters and a blue light to honor our police officers, when decorating for the holidays.
- **Special Election:** Selectman Galarneau announced that the Town will hold a special election on December 13, from 7am-8pm, at Spofford Pond School, to vote on funding for two projects at the Spofford Pond School.

Tax Classification Hearing:

- 44 • **Davis** made a **MOTION** to open the hearing for the Tax Classification for the
Town of Boxford for FY 2012 and to immediately adjourn the hearing until a time
46 certain, namely, Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:35PM. The motion was
seconded by **Costello** and passed unanimously.

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Report of Police Chief Screening Committee:

50 Chief Mazzie, Chairman of the committee, appeared before the Board of Selectmen
with a report from the Police Chief Screening Committee. They have recently wrapped
52 up work and they have three finalists, all with over 25 years of law enforcement
experience. Mazzie noted they are thoughtful, articulate, and reasonable to deal with.
54 All have been to top law enforcement schools. The finalists are:

- Deputy Chief Thomas Fowler, Branford, CT Police Department
- 56 • Captain Mike Murphy, Everett, MA Police Department
- Deputy Chief Stankiewicz, Longmeadow, MA Police Department

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Mazzie reported that the next hurdle for the finalists will be the assessment center,
60 where each will be evaluated on various management skills by a selected group of area
police chiefs. They will have mock interviews, which will be videotaped. Benson added
62 that the interviews for the Board of Selectmen will be later this month, at a date to be
determined, with a community function where residents can meet the candidates at
64 6PM.

66 Chairman Perkins thanked all applicants for applying, as well as the Search Committee
and Chief Mazzie for all their work.

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Interview for Candidates for Various Volunteer Committees:

- 70 • **Anna Barbieri:** Candidate for the Boxford Cultural Council, Anna Barbieri, was
72 not in attendance. The Board will interview her at a later date.
- 74 • **Samantha Mercier:** Candidate for the Ackerman Playground Committee,
Samantha Mercier, appeared before the Board of Selectmen, to express her
76 interest in volunteering on the committee, along with her husband, Marc Mercier,
who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Samantha is a lifelong resident of
78 Boxford.

80 Alan Benson explained the function of the committee and that the DPW can help
with some of the maintenance.

- 82 ○ **MOTION** by **Costello**, seconded by **Galarneau**, to appoint Mark and
Samantha Mercier to the Ackerman Playground Committee for a term
84 ending June 30, 2014. The MOTION passed unanimously by a roll call
vote.
- 86 • **Christine Northrup**: Candidate for the Council on Aging, Christine Northrup,
appeared before the Board to express her interest in volunteering on the Council
88 on Aging. She has lived here 15 years.
- **MOTION** by **Davis**, seconded by **Nay**, to appoint Christine Northrup to an
90 open slot on the Council on Aging for a term ending 6/30/2015. The
motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.
- 92 • **Denise Galligan**: Candidate for Boxford Cultural Council, Denise Galligan, was
not in attendance. The Board will interview her at a later date.

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Meeting with Lakes Ponds & Streams Committee: Brooks Tingle, Chairman of the
96 Committee, and members Mark Mitsch and Peter Morbeck, along with Conservation
Administrator Ross Povenmire, appeared before the Board to discuss the neighborhood
98 concerns about Spofford Pond. Tingle reported on some of the issues the committee
are looking into:

- 100 • **Blocking the Culvert:** This could actually do more damage to the pond than help
save it.
- 102 • **Actions to Take on the Culvert/Dam Issue:** The committee is discussing the
issues involved with the State changing the classification from a culvert to a dam
104 and the implications of both.
- **Connection between Spofford School well and Spofford Pond**
- 106 • **Understanding the area septic systems and their affect on the pond**
- 108 • **Hydrologist attending next week's meeting of the Lakes Ponds & Streams
Committee to address some of the resident's concerns**

Lengthy discussion ensued on the dam/culvert issue. Conservation Administrator
110 Povenmire advised that the Conservation Commission has issued a general permit to
the DPW to maintain culverts in town. Any alterations to the culvert, such as adding a
112 weir board, would not only require an application and permit for the alteration, but would
also require a new permit from the Conservation Commission in order to maintain it.

114 Two residents who live on the pond, at 339 Ipswich Road, were in attendance to
express their dismay at the dying pond and the town's unwillingness to save it.
116 Chairman Perkins recommended that the Lakes Ponds Streams Committee continue
meeting with the residents and experts to find a solution and to report back to the Board
118 of Selectmen when they have any news.

120 **Report of the Town Administrator**

- **Liquor License Approval for Far Corners Golf Course:**

122 ○ **MOTION** by **Davis** to approve the renewal of the liquor license for Far
Corners Golf Course, second by **Galarneau**. The motion passed
124 unanimously.

- **Masconomet Regional School District Preliminary FY13 Budget:** Alan
126 Benson explained that discussions are underway to develop a budget for FY13.
He presented a thumbnail sketch of the initial numbers, as provided by the
128 Masconomet School Committee.

- **Special Town Counsel for Zoning Board of Appeals:** Benson reported that
130 the Zoning Board of Appeals has selected Blatman, Bobrowski and Mead to
represent them in defense of the appeal on the Special Permit Site Plan denial of
132 the library project.

- **MOTION** by **Galarneau**, seconded by **Davis**, to appoint Blatman,
134 Bobrowski and Mead LLC as Special Town Counsel for the Zoning Board
of Appeals in defense of the appeal on the Special Permit Site Plan denial
136 of the Library project. The motion passed 4-1 by a roll call vote:

- **Galarneau: yes**
- 138 ▪ **Davis: yes**
- **Costello: no**
- 140 ▪ **Nay: yes**
- **Perkins: yes**

- **Salt Study I-95 Corridor:** Benson reported that an agreement has finally been
142 reached between the Boxford Task Force and MassDOT on a scope of work for
144 the salt study plan for the investigation of salt contamination of private water
wells in the I-95 corridor in Boxford. The document has gone out to five
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148 companies and selection of the firm will take place January 6, 2012, and then the
150 study will commence. MassDOT has budgeted \$1M for the project.

150 Costello publicly thanked Barbara Jessel, Karen Hartel, John Antczak, of the Salt
152 Study Committee, and Alan Benson, as well as Senator Bruce Tarr,
Representative Hill, Representative Lyons and Representative Barbara L'Italien
for their tireless efforts to get to this point.

- 154 • **Statement of Energy Performance:** Alan Benson notified the Board that John
156 Dold, PE, has submitted certification to the EPA, for Energy Star compliancy for
the second year in a row. Certifications were submitted for:
 - 158 ○ Spofford Pond School
 - Harry Lee Cole School
- 160 • **Shed Replaced at Boy Scout Park:** Benson made the Board aware of the shed
162 that the DPW replaced at Boy Scout Park, using funds from a warrant article to
replace it. A solar collector was installed on it to power the interior lights. Benson
presented a photo of the new shed.
- 164 • **Damage to Town Tennis Courts:** Benson presented photos of the damage the
166 town tennis courts sustained from the October 29 storm.

168 **Approval of Minutes**

- 170 • **MOTION** by **Davis**, seconded by **Nay**, to approve the Minutes of November
14, 2011, as printed. Approved unanimously.
- 172 • **MOTION** by **Davis**, seconded by **Nay**, to approve the Minutes of November
21, 2011, as printed. Approved unanimously.
- 174 • After discussing amendments to the minutes, **MOTION** by **Galarneau**,
176 seconded by **Costello**, to approve the Minutes of November 28, as amended.
Approved unanimously.

182 **Treasury Warrants:**

- 184 • **MOTION** by **Nay**, seconded by **Costello**, to approve payment of accounts payable warrant #12-23, in the amount of \$397,047.66. The motion passed unanimously.
- 186 • **MOTION** by **Nay**, seconded by **Davis**, to approve payment for school vendors warrant #12-23S, in the amount of \$72,783.78. The motion passed unanimously.
- 188 • **MOTION** by **Nay**, seconded by **Costello**, to approve payment for accounts payable payroll warrant #PY1222, for non-school payroll, in the amount of
190 \$80,665.12. The motion passed unanimously.

192 **Other Business:**

- 194 • **Winterfest Was a Success:** Nay reported that the Winterfest, held on Saturday, was a great success, thanks to the efforts of the West Boxford Improvement Society. There was also a special tribute and ribbon-cutting for the new gazebo, behind the Morse Library. All in all, it was very successful.
- 198 • **Town Hall Needs Maintenance:** Davis remarked that the front doors of the Town Hall are in very bad condition. The finish has worn off and they look like they're unstained. They need to be refurbished. Selectman Chairman Perkins asked the Town Administrator to contact the DPW Superintendent and the Permanent Building Committee.
- 202 • **Morse Library Needs Maintenance:** Chairman Perkins noted that the paint on the Morse Library is peeling and it is pretty bad condition, as viewed from the street. Again, Perkins asked the Town Administrator to notify the DPW Superintendent about it and have him take a look at it and report back to the Selectmen at a future meeting.
- 208 • **East Library Update:** Galarneau reported to the Board that Chuck Adam, of the Permanent Building Committee, will have the necessary paperwork to the Historic District Commission by December 9.

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- **Outstanding Vacancies:** Davis reported that there are still several vacancies on town boards and committees. The vacancies are:

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- Agricultural Commission, 1 vacancy (commercial farmer)

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- Border to Boston Trail Committee, 1 vacancy

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- Council on Aging, 1 vacancy

- Cultural Council, 1 vacancy

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- Cable Television Advisory Committee, 3 vacancies

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- Computer Management Committee, 2 vacancies

- Friends of the Ackerman Playground, 3 vacancies

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- Haynes Land Committee, 1 vacancy

- Historic Districts/Historic Commission, 1 vacancy for an alternate

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- Lakes Ponds & Streams, 1 vacancy

- Recreation Committee, 2 vacancies

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- Recycling Committee, 2 vacancies

- Zoning Board of Appeals, 3 vacancies for alternates

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236 **Executive Session at 9:19PM:**

238 Upon a **MOTION** duly made by **Chairman Perkins** and seconded by **Davis**, the Board
238 of Selectmen voted by unanimous roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the
240 purpose of discussing overall strategy on employment contract negotiations with
240 represented and non-represented employees and declare that an Executive Session is
242 necessary since an open public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the
242 negotiating, bargaining or litigating position of the Board of Selectmen, and upon
244 completion of the Executive Session to return to open session and immediately adjourn
244 without conducting any further business.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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250 *Judith A. Stickney*

Minutes Secretary