

**Minutes of the BOXFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM #1 & CONFERENCE ROOM #1
December 19, 2011 7:00PM**

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Town Administrator Alan Benson, Kathryn O'Brien, Tri-Town Transcript, and many others

Meeting Called to Order at 7:04PM

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:04PM

Executive Session at 7:05PM

Upon a **MOTION** duly made by **Costello** and seconded by **Galarneau**, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing overall strategy on litigation:

- Selectman v. ZBA (library site plan denial)
- Selectman v. HDC/HC (Library denial of appropriateness)

And declare that an Executive Session is necessary since an open public discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating bargaining or litigating position of the Board of Selectmen, and upon completion of the Executive Session to return to open session and continue with any further business.

Meeting Reopened at 7:30PM:

After closing the Executive Session, Selectmen Chairman Perkins reopened the meeting at 7:30PM, in Conference Room #1.

Letter to Historic District Commission:

- **MOTION** by **Galarneau**, seconded by **Davis**, whereas the application for certificate from the Historic Districts Commission for the renovation, restoration and expansion of the Boxford Town Library was filed on May 18, 2011, and the HDC failed to render a decision within 60 days as required by Mass. General Law Chapter 40C, Section 11, paragraph 4, **MOTION** to authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Chair of the HDC/HC to ask that it vacate its denial of the application for the renovation, restoration and

expansion of the Boxford Library, 10 Elm Street, and immediately issue a Certificate of Hardship due to Failure to Act, as required by statute.

After a brief discussion regarding the possibility of extensions the HDC may have been granted to delay their decision, the motion was approved 4-1, with Nay dissenting.

Announcements:

- **Menorah Lighting Ceremony:** Davis announced that Hanukkah begins December 20 and there will be a Menorah lighting ceremony on Thursday, December 22, 2011, from 6PM-7PM, at the Boxford Community Center, sponsored by Chabad of Merrimack Valley and Chabad of the North Shore.
- **Boxford Police RAD Program:** Nay announced that the Boxford Police is holding a RAD program again this year, with Officer Matthew Dupont leading the program. It is a rape aggression defense system, a program for women, to learn realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course that begins with awareness, risk reduction and risk avoidance. The class will start Monday, January 30. It's a 2-hour class and there are five classes scheduled. If interested, call Officer Dupont at 978-887-8135.

Update on Police Chief Finalists: Selectman Chairman Perkins announced that the Board will not be making a final decision tonight, but will meet on Thursday, December 29, to announce the Board's decision. The three finalists are:

- Deputy Chief Thomas Fowler, Branford, Conn.
- Captain Michael Murphy, Revere, Mass.
- Captain John Stankiewicz, Longmeadow, Mass.

Each Board member summarized their opinions on the candidates. All members chose Deputy Chief Fowler and Captain Murphy as their top two choices.

Chairman Perkins ended the discussion by announcing that the Board would meet in a special meeting on December 29 to announce their decision.

Administrator's Report

- **Acceptance of Deed for Colby Property:** Town Administrator Alan Benson presented a deed for the Colby property for the Board to sign.
- **Far Corner Golf Course Alcoholic Beverages License:** Benson presented an alcoholic beverages license for Far Corner Golf Course for the Board to sign.

- **Proclamation for Chief Gordon Russell:** Benson presented the Board with a proclamation to sign for Chief Gordon Russell.

Minutes Approval: Selectwoman Nay proposed an addition to the Minutes of December 12, 2011, at line 128, to include after the word "disruptions" as follows: "The discussion also included the benefits of keeping the elections at the school, including parking."

- **MOTION by** Davis, seconded by **Costello**, to accept the Minutes of December 12, 2011, as amended. The motion passed 4-1, with Galarneau abstaining.

Treasury Bills:

- **MOTION by** Nay, seconded by **Davis**, to approve accounts payable warrant #12-25, in the amount of \$436,571.59. Approved unanimously.
- **MOTION by** Nay, seconded by **Davis**, to approve accounts payable warrant #12-25S, in the amount of \$60,742.19. Approved unanimously.
- **MOTION by** Nay, seconded by **Davis**, to approve payroll warrant #PY12-24, for non-school payroll, in the amount of \$67,404.21. Approved unanimously.

Adjourn to Meeting Room #1 at 8:08PM

Upon a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, and seconded by **Davis**, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn to Meeting Room #1 at 8:08PM.

Meeting Called to Order in Meeting Room 1:

Chairman Perkins called the meeting to order in Meeting Room 1 at 8:18PM.

Recognition of Retiring Police Chief Gordon Russell:

Chairman Perkins announced that tonight's meeting was to honor retiring Chief Russell and invited anyone in attendance to speak. Selectman Galarneau read a proclamation from the Board of Selectman, proclaiming the week of January 1 - January 8, 2012 as Chief Gordon A. Russell Jr. Week in the Town of Boxford.

Chief Russell thanked the Board and summarized his career. He also asked Officer Joseph Borodawka to join him at the podium to publicly recognize him as an outstanding officer.

Other Speakers:

- **State Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr:** Senator Tarr presented a State Senate Journal Record keepsake to Chief Russell, commemorating

Chief Russell's visit to the Senate Chamber on November 15, 2011, at the invitation of Senator Tarr.

- **State Representative Brad Hill:** Representative Hill read a Resolution, which was adopted unanimously by the State House of Representatives and the State Senate. He presented the framed document to Chief Russell, which was signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Representative Hill also presented Chief Russell with a photograph, commemorating his visit to the State House.
- **Ian Fitch, representing the James L. Melvin Post of the American Legion:** Mr. Fitch announced that the American Legion would be holding a ceremony in February to honor Chief Russell and to thank him for his service to the town as well as his service to his country.
- **John Dold, Superintendent of Boxford Department of Public Works:** Mr. Dold recognized Chief Russell for always working cooperatively with the DPW and making the Police Department available to the DPW whenever needed.

Chairman Perkins closed the meeting by thanking the Chief for his service and announcing there was punch and cookies available for all in attendance.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:16PM

Upon a **MOTION** made by **Costello**, and seconded by **Nay**, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn at 9:16PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. Stickney
Minutes Secretary