

**Minutes of the BOXFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN
BOXFORD TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM #1
January 25, 2016 7:00PM**

Present: Chuck Costello (Acting Chair), Mary Anne Nay, Bill Cargill, Al Vaz

Absent: Peter Perkins

Others Present: Town Administrator Alan Benson, Minutes Sec'y Judi Stickney, Charlie Killam, Kathy O'Brien, Richard O'Brien, Paula Fitzsimmons, Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Jim Lyons, Representative Len Mirra, Debbie Casey, Superintendent Bernie Creeden, Daniel Volchuk, Superintendent Kevin Lyons, and others.

7:00PM PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

7:02PM ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dog Licenses:** Selectman Cargill announced that dog license applications are available online at www.town.boxford.ma.us and are due no later than January 31, 2016.
- **Presidential Primary:** Selectwoman Nay announced that there will be a Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7AM-8PM, at Boxford Town Hall.
- **Chief Geiger's Graduation:** Selectwoman Nay provided a brief report on Chief Geiger's graduation ceremony today at the Mass. Firefighting Academy in Stow. She added that former Fire Chief Stickney and Police Chief Murphy also attended.
- **MMA Selectmen's Conference:** Selectwoman Nay provided a brief report on the MMA Selectmen's Conference held over the weekend. She and Selectman Costello attended. Selectman Costello and Town Administrator Alan Benson added to the report.

7:09PM MEETING WITH CHARLES KILLAM

- **Statement of Intent on Four Mile Pond Dam:** Killam met with the Board to provide information on his intentions with the Four Mile Pond dam. He provided a brief history on the dam at Four Mile Pond and its relationship to the Lowe Pond dam, as well as his involvement with the dams' maintenance. He estimates that he has spent approximately \$40,000 on the dam over the years, with no benefit to him. He has looked into removing the dam permanently and, as of April 2, he will start the process with the state agency to do that. There ensued a brief discussion. Debbie Casey, 22 Fieldstone Way, reported that the residents around the pond are in the process of forming an association to buy and maintain the dam.

7:27PM CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY COMPACT

- **Elementary School Input:** Superintendent Bernie Creeden met with the Board to provide information on the elementary schools' plans for the Community Compact. They are looking into how best to address the question of being able to stabilize certain special education expenses. They are also looking into upgrading the software they use to structure, update and maintain their annual operating budget.
- **Masconomet Regional District Input:** Masconomet Regional District School Committee members Paula Fitzsimmons and Dan Volchuk met with the Board to discuss their plans for inclusion in the Community Compact. They advised that they were gathering information at this meeting to bring before the Regional District School Committee. They were not prepared with any options yet, as they have not yet discussed it as a Board with the other towns in the district.

There ensued a lengthy discussion on best practices and what the Commonwealth can do to assist the towns and cities. Discussion turned to Boxford's options for Best Practices to submit to the Commonwealth for approval. The Board decided on March 1 as the date by which they will have some viable options that they will refine to submit to the state.

7:51PM REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Alan J. Benson, Town Administrator, present

- **Update: Boxford Common Project:** Benson provided an update on the activities that have taken place this past week on site.
- **Common Victualler: Far Corner Golf Farm**
On a **MOTION** made by **Cargill**, second by **Nay**, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED** unanimously to issue a Common Victualler License to Far Corner Farm Golf Course, expiring December 31, 2016.
- **Election Warrant Presidential Primary:** Benson provided the Board with the Warrant for the Presidential Primary, which will be posted by the Constables in East and West Parishes. Included were copies of the official ballots.
- **Update on Recycling Center:** Benson advised that the gate, jersey barriers and camera have been installed. Prior to the camera being installed, the Recycling Committee checked the site to see if the signs were deterring any unpaid dumping. They noted that in one week, two televisions, one computer, and four tires were left – about \$85 worth of recyclables.
- **Update: Facilities Efficiency Study Committee:** Selectman Vaz provided a brief update on the most recent meeting of the committee. He noted that they will be meeting with the consultant next week to incorporate all their findings into a preliminary plan.

8:01PM MEETING WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION

- **Legislative Updates:** Representative James Lyons and Representative Lenny Mirra met with the Board to update them on what they are working on, including the solar legislation, the opiate bill, local aid. They noted some of the issues that the Governor is working on, including the Fiscal Control Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Department of Children and Families.

- **Stream Crossing Standards:** Selectman Costello brought the issue of the changes made recently to the State's regulations on stream crossings to the attention of the state delegation, noting that the definitions have changed in such a way that simple stream crossings are requiring exhaustive and expensive engineering studies. Senator Bruce Tarr suggested that he and Reps. Mirra and Lyons work with the DEP to change the regulations, rather than changing it through legislation.
- **Cities and Towns and Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Outlook:** Senator Tarr provided a copy of the 2017 Budget Outlook to each Board member and summarized its contents, relative to Boxford. He noted that he is not expecting any substantial increases in unrestricted general government aid.
- **Solar Net Cap:** Town Administrator Benson asked Senator Tarr when the committee would be next meeting to discuss the Net Metering Cap. Tarr did not have an answer and expressed his frustration in trying to get something moving. A lengthy discussion ensued on energy issues in general.

9:00PM ROUTINES

- **Appointments:** Selectman Vaz read aloud the list of board and committee vacancies.
- **Review Correspondence:** The Board briefly reviewed the following:
 - **Monthly Report from the Inspector of Buildings**
 - **Year End Report from the Inspector of Buildings**
- **Sign School and Non-School Warrants**
On a **MOTION** made by **Vaz**, second by **Nay**, the Board of Selectman **VOTED** unanimously to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #16-30S, in the amount of \$69.17.

On a **MOTION** made by **Vaz**, second by **Nay**, the Board of Selectman **VOTED** unanimously to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #16-30, in the amount of \$239,984.95, with \$168,052 going to RAD Sports.

On a **MOTION** made by **Vaz**, second by **Nay**, the Board of Selectman **VOTED** unanimously to approve Payroll Warrant #16-15, for non-school payroll in the amount of \$154,734.25, and school payroll in the amount of \$336,563.38, for a total payroll in the amount of \$491,297.63.

9:08PM ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

- **Upcoming Meetings:** Town Administrator Benson reminded the Board that they have two meetings next week: the first on Tuesday, February 2, at 6:30PM, to interview Lt. Riter. Following that they will meet with the Finance Committee and Fire Department to discuss several initiatives the Fire Department is proposing. He added they will be meeting on Wednesday, February 3, at 4PM, in Executive Session, to discuss strategy on litigation with Varsity Wireless.

9:10PM ADJOURN

On a **MOTION** made by **Cargill**, second by **Nay**, the Board of Selectmen **VOTED** unanimously to adjourn at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Minutes Secretary

Documents either distributed to the Board of Selectmen before the meeting in a packet or at the meeting:

1. Agenda: January 25, 2016
2. Announcement: Dog Licenses Available
3. Announcement: Presidential Primary, Tuesday, March 1, 2016
4. E-Mail from Director of Conservation to Town Administrator, Re: Four Mile Pond Timeline, 1/21/16
5. Best Practice Areas
6. Community Compact: Town of North Reading
7. Community Compact: Town of Wenham
8. Community Compact: City of Newburyport
9. Community Compact: Town of Ipswich
10. Community Compact: City of Gloucester
11. Community Compact: Town of Dracut
12. Community Compact: City of Amesbury
13. Common Victualler's License: Far Corner Farm Golf Course, Inc.
14. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Warrant for Presidential Primary
15. Memo from Inspector of Buildings to Board of Selectmen, Re: Monthly Report, 1/6/16
16. Memo from Inspector of Buildings to Board of Selectmen, Re: Year End Report, 1/6/16
17. Memo from Town Administrator to Board of Selectmen, Re: Outstanding Appointments, 1/21/16
18. Cities and Towns and Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Outlook
19. Copy of Letter from the General Court of Massachusetts to Senator Benjamin Downing, Senator Marc Pacheco, Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Brian Dempsey, Representative Thomas Golden, Representative Bradley Jones, Re: H3854, 1/22/16