



## Town of Boylston Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: **Monday, January 28, 2008**  
Location: Town Hall, 221 Main Street  
Time: 7:00 PM — 10:30 PM  
Members Present: Chairman James Stanton, Ken Sydow  
Members Absent: Roger Deal  
Others Present: Suzanne Olsen, Town Administrator; Lori Esposito, Administrative Assistant;  
others as listed on sign-in sheet

Financial warrants were signed in approval prior to the meeting.  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Affordable Housing:** Michael Borsuk (Chair) and Warren Leach were present to discuss possible revisions to over-55 By-law necessary (for Sewall Street subdivision).

- JIM STANTON: current affordable housing we have will lose its status in 2010?
- MIKE: if owners choose not to re-enter into HUD agreement for another term.
- JIM: Can the committee work with that? -- would like them to. Also, can Affordable Housing Committee come up with a proposal to establish a Housing Authority in turn? Would like Affordable Housing Committee direction to get it started.
- MIKE: 1213 spells out guidelines. Needs to be certified by Secretary of State; Section 16 of By-Law states money can be used by Housing Authority; By-Law needs to be rewritten.
- JIM: Questioned whether having this done by May is sufficient time?
- MIKE: Yes. The Town doesn't have financial responsibility until the units are established.
- JIM: Yes, if they want to do that at the same time.
- Mike is to submit information the week before February 25 for Board of Selectmen's review.

**Parks & Recreation Gym Use:**

- SUE: The gym is left a mess with trash, vandalism of bathrooms, etc. This past weekend, someone saw kids standing on the rail. Sue feels Parks & Recreation needs to hire a monitor during events. Also, no money is expended by P&R toward heat/lights, etc. Sue has had several conversations with Parks & Recreation about this.
- KEN SYDOW: There are liability issues to the Town as well as utility costs. A process should be followed to insure programs are monitored.

**Madera Court/Sylvan Lane:** Ken Sydow made a motion to approve a first vote to lay out *Sylvan Lane*, and to lay out *Madera Court*, both as shown on a plan entitled "Road Acceptance Plan of Madera Court & Sylvan Lane, located in Boylston, MA," dated March 5, 2007 and prepared by Land Planning, Inc. and to forward to the Planning Board for their vote; motion seconded and voted all in favor.

**210 Shrewsbury St:** Sign authorization of 1/14/08 vote – 210 Shrewsbury Street – 61A – right of first refusal.

**Dog Complaint:** MGL c. 140, Section 157. Attorney Madaus: Board has to act on the complaint and is obligated to investigate. Dog officer will be at 8:45 P.M. hearing

**Town Administrator Applications:** Continued to next meeting to discuss with Roger Deal.

**School Committee/Finance Committee (7:30 P.M.):** Superintendent Joe Connelly: Deliberation process needs assessment and inventory; made effort not to include "lump sums" in budget; all itemized.

Budget (“Draft 1 Preliminary Budget”) requests are basic needs to maintain services of this year. No additional staff or improvements.

**Elementary School Budget Presented:**

FY’09 total: \$3,234,560 -- 3.1% less than last year’s budget Represents:

- Substantial decrease in special ed tuition
- Detail of increased/decreased lines presented
- Special Ed account down \$214K (Down 20%) No contingency money included
- JIM: Is circuit breaker money needed next year? JOE: Yes.
- \$25K in unemployment removed; if there is a need for it, will put it back

**Tahanto Budget:**

Total budget FY’09: \$6,791,376 Increase of \$372,046 – 5.78% more than FY’08

- Budget offsets (revenue) expected to decrease by \$36,103
- Total net with budget and reduced revenues: \$408,149 (>9.44%)
- Detail of significant line changes provided.
- Special Ed increase net + \$10K – Total budget 20.2% of entire budget (\$1,371,474) – State average = 20%
- Teacher salaries up \$204,012. (New Elementary teacher (mandated); new long-term preschool program salary deficit, etc.)
- Instructional materials increased by 123.4%. Most new text books, technology replacement (equipment over five years old).
- Professional Development: \$362,500 (down 10%).
- Heat and utilities are level-funded.
- Tuition School Choice (Charter up 19.8% = \$58,823
- Chart (Joe’s initial chart):

	<b>FY’08</b>	<b>FY’09</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>
Berlin Elementary	\$2,585,920	\$2,716,884	+ \$130,964
Boylston Elementary	\$3,338,066	\$3,234,560	• \$103,506
<b><u>Tahanto</u></b> Boylston Assessment			+ \$269,802
State Aid			\$36,103
Berlin Assessment			\$138,347
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$372,046

K-12 Boylston level service budget	\$166,296
Additional Elementary considerations/needs	129,000
Additional Tahanto considerations/needs	<u>0</u>
Maximum Total:	\$295,296
New available Fy’09 Revenue:	<u>150,000</u>
<b>GAP:</b>	<b>\$145,296</b>

- Chart (after being clarified by Jim last week):  
(Impact of FY'08 Free Cash Transfers)

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>Boylston Elementary</b>	\$3,138,066	\$3,234,560	\$96,494
Free Cash	\$ 200,000		
Total:	\$3,338,066		
<b>Tahanto</b>	\$2,798,968	\$3,168,770	\$369,802
Free Cash	\$ 100,000		
Total:	\$2,898,968		
	Plus Elementary	Consideration	\$129,000
		Total:	\$595,296
		Minus Revenue:	\$150,000

**GAP: \$445,296**

- JIM: Are elementary considerations reoccurring or one-time? JOE: A combination (detail supplied).
- Assessment of Assabet could go up as much as \$75K.
- JOE: E&D and Special Ed offsets could be used to decrease gap but not recurring dollars/long-term solution.
- JIM: Believes Joe did an excellent job “scrubbing numbers.” Only means of making up \$500K is to do an override. Not available this year in free cash.
- Board of Selectmen anticipated an override; numbers presented are not unreasonable. If money is needed, all should be added in (Elementary School considerations).
- Special Town Meeting March 3 and election March 5, as well as ATM.
- VIN Perrone: Additional kindergarten teacher would allow an additional 17 students = \$52K additional revenue.
- KEN: Reasonable budget; it’s their choice to go for a March or the May meeting. Now’s the time to educate.
- VIN: Will need time; the May meeting would be best in order to have the time to educate the public on the need for an override.
- DAVE BUTLER: Agrees the budget is reasonable and very comprehensive.
- REBECCA Dono-Healy: We have tried hard to maintain level services and minimally expanded budget; we listened to the voters last year.
- VIN: How do we get the message to the community?
- DAVE B: Keep it simple.
- JIM: Explain the increase and the need to make up money spent last year (from free cash).
- VIN: We would like one override (\$12K). Would the Board of Selectmen support this?
- JIM: If the committee recommends it, the Board would agree. As soon as they ave a figure the Board of Selectmen will do what we can.
- VIN: John and Joe make an excellent team.

>>>> EXECUTIVE SESSION 8:25PM

**Highway Superintendent (Re: FY'09 Budget) (9:00 P.M.)**

- Foreman and mechanic positions are still open. Possible seasonal help in the future.
- Playground maintenance: costs up \$500 due to fuel costs and equipment repairs.
- Overall highway expense request of \$113,250 up from \$111,400.

- SAND & SALT BUDGET: currently \$11K over FY'08 budget and estimate another \$5K needed before end of season. Overall, \$23K left of \$74K sand and salt budget.
- FY'09: \$108K requested.
- JIM: Number will have to be looked at; not sure of it.
- DON: The budget eventually needs to have realistic numbers, with fuel and cost increases.
- NEW TRUCK: Chapter 90 funds to be applied toward new truck (loader)= \$198K. The \$130K voted last year for a Special Article could be applied toward that.

**Dog Hearing (9:15 P.M.):** Charles Brown (44 Sewall St.) filed a complaint against Sherry and Fred Clinton.

Atty. Steve Madaus advised the complaint needs to be investigated.

- Charles Brown (wife Bonnie also present) presented an outline of their concerns. The Clinton's dog lashed out at his dog, Jackson. He would like his dog kept safe. He alleges the Clinton's dog, Riley, attacked his pup. He also suspects the Riley killed his cat. Since January 14, there have been no incidents.
- JIM: Are you asking us to take specific action? CHARLES: No, just would like safety for my dog.
- BONNIE: Would like to ask that Riley not roam the neighborhood.
- FRED CLINTON: There is no leash law. My dog spends a lot of time at the house across from the Browns. He roams the neighborhood. We have never had any problems in the past five years. We have a 3-1/2 and a 1-1/2 year old. We wouldn't have a "vicious dog." The complaint was filed after an attempt to have conversations with the Browns. The dog officer came to Clinton's home to help resolve the matter, etc. The allegations on the complaint are unsubstantiated and there have been no other complaints. Have neighbors present who can attest to Riley's mannerisms.
- SHERRY CLINTON: Had the Browns expressed themselves honestly to her, it could have saved a lot of time and aggravation.
- STEVE GOLAS (Dog Officer): Received notice of the complaint; went to the Clintons to explain. They were shocked. Steve met Riley and the dog came running to him in the house, wanting to play. He feels that Riley probably wanted to play with Jackson (Browns' dog). Labs tend to be very playful. He has come across Riley in the past, observed him with other dogs and doesn't feel he's a threat.
- JIM: What has he done in the past two weeks? FRED: The dog was voluntarily leashed until this hearing.
- CHARLIE: Riley also killed a rabbit and threw it around his yard.
- FRED: Riley's popular; people in condos feed him regularly. They put a rabbit in the same spot they always feed him. Fred spoke with those neighbors, who were sorry and were upset that Riley had been leashed.
- MARY AND BILL SABIN (Browns' neighbors) upset with the complaint. They have been residents for 43+ years; always owned dogs. Brown mentioned in December 2007 he was getting a new puppy. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, she saw dogs "checking each other out," then Riley wanted to play. She presented several photos of dogs she has.
- CURTIS STAKE (Sewall St): Is a plumber and is normally afraid of dogs. He went to Clintons' house; Riley immediately came to him wagging his tail; no threat to him, even as a stranger in the home.
- MICHELLE FELCH: Used to be the nanny for Clintons' kids. Never saw any vicious signs from Riley; amazed at how friendly and well behaved and obedient he is.
- BONNIE BROWN: Dogs can often be different when around other animals.
- JIM STANTON: He has never bit anyone? Response: No. TO THE BROWNS: Was your dog injured? Response: No. (The By-Law specifically cites criteria for taking action.)
- STEVE MADAUS: Chapter 140, Section 157, dog attacking other animal allows for complaint.
- KEN SYDOW: It seems animals need to get to know each other. Looking at the By-Law, there is no apparent violation; no apparent reason to take action. If this is just an issue of a new dog, maybe get everyone on the same page to get them acquainted. Understands the Browns' concern; nothing for the Board to do.

- CHARLIE: This is just a concern, based on what happened in the past.
- SHERRY: Feels the Browns weren't honest.
- MR. SABIN: Saw what happened; Riley wanted to play. Mr. Sabin Feels Charlie mistook Riley's behavior.
- Hearing was concluded without action, per the Browns' request.

**Fire Chief Flanagan (FY'09 budget):**

- Adjustments to salary.
- Need money transferred to cover maintenance costs. Requested from Reserve Fund (\$5K) for unanticipated equipment repairs and fuel.
- Capital Planning requests through FY 2013 outlined.
- Anonymous \$10K donation from Town resident given for purchase of new equipment.
- JIM asked about bulk fuel storage for the Fire, Highway and Police Departments.
- SUE: An above-ground tank? Will get cost estimate.

VOTE: Notify Town Clerk to print ballot (by Stephen Madaus):

“Notify the Town Clerk to print, on a town election ballot, for an election to be held on March 5, 2008, the following question:

‘Shall the Town of Boylston be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2-1/2, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to design, construct, furnish and equip a new public library?’

On Ken's motion, seconded by Jim, voted All in Favor.

>>>> EXECUTIVE SESSION 9:55PM

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori Esposito  
Administrative Assistant