

TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 22, 2006

MINUTES

1. Meeting Convened at 7:30 p.m., Deerfield Municipal Offices.  
Present: Carolyn Shores Ness (Chair), M. Gilmore, J.P. Paciorek, B. Kubiak.  
  
Also in Attendance: Lili Dwight, Cynthia Burrell, Stanley Romanowski
2. There were no minutes for review and decision.
3. There were no public comments.
4. C.S. Ness announced that P. O'Bryan will teach the ICS-200 and ICS-300 courses required to comply with emergency management regulations. Employees must attend each course, as testing is administered at the end of the training session. Courses are 16 hours in length each. She then requested a vacation schedule from employees slated to take these courses in order to set up a date for the training.
5. The Board discussed/voted the following items:
  - A. A. Hermann and D. White both requested abatements on sewer bills. J.P. Paciorek motioned to abate \$675.82, a double billing error; C.S. Ness seconded, unan. approved (2-0-0). B. Kubiak explained that D. White requested abatement for a historical bill of \$146.94. J.P. Paciorek motioned to abate the specified amount, C.S. Ness seconded; motion unan. carried (2-0-0). J.P. Paciorek confirmed that the double-billing error would be corrected in future.
  - B. J.P. Paciorek motioned to approve the annual Dog Restrain Notice; C.S. Ness seconded; unan. approved (2-0-0). The notice was read into the record and will be posted in 5 places in town and advertised, as per Town Code.
  - C. J.P. Paciore motioned to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant at 7:40 pm, February 22, 2006; C.S. Ness seconded; motion unan.

approved (2-0-0). J.P. Paciorek motioned to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on March 8, 2006 at 3:00 pm; C.S. Ness seconded; unan. approved (2-0-0).

- D. On the subject of the Adult Entertainment Zoning Article submitted for Annual Town Meeting consideration, B. Kubiak advised the Board that past practice was to send a change of this type to the Planning Board for review prior to acceptance on the Warrant. C.S. Ness motioned to refer the article to the Planning Board for action; J.P. Paciorek seconded; unan. approved. B. Kubiak noted that the Planning Board planned a public hearing on the subject on March 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm.
- E. C.S. Ness advised the public that while the Bird Flu has not been found in the U.S., people should be cautious, stockpile food, medication and other items in the event that they are advised to remain in their homes during a pandemic situation. She further reminded everyone that hand-washing was the single best method to protect oneself from spreading germs that lead to any type of flu strain.
- F. The Board of Selectmen, acting in their capacity as the Board of Health, opened the Public Hearing on 97 Stillwater Road. S. Romanowski was not in attendance at the time the hearing opened. B. Kubiak noted that though the office has received a opinion from DEP, Department of Agricultural Resources has not submitted information on the situation. He advised that the Board of Health continue the hearing until April 19, 2006 at 7:30 pm, in anticipation of an opinion from Department of Agricultural Resources as well as an appearance in District Court on the matter. J.P. Paciorek motioned to continue the hearing; M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).
- G. The Selectmen invited the Chair and Co-Chair of Senior Housing Ad Hoc Committee—Lili Dwight and Cynthia Burrell, respectively—to update them on the work the Committee has accomplished in the past several months. L. Dwight informed everyone that the Committee has been working diligently with Rural Development, Inc. to investigate possible sites on which to build. Rural Development, Inc. has signed Purchase and Sale Agreements on land located behind the South Deerfield Post Office as well as land owned by Ralph Olszewski on Thayer Street. RDI suggested building an energy efficient structure (called a “green” structure), so as to access certain grants. The

Committee feels that there is no *one* answer to the housing issues in Deerfield. The Committee members and the Board further discussed whether a follow-up survey should be mailed out to residents. There are funds in the amount of \$1,296.15 available in an article for use by Senior Housing Ad Hoc Committee. L. Dwight also noted that there has been no decision by the Legislature required to set up the non-profit corporation proposed to administer the project.

- H. S. Romanowski arrived at this point. C.S. Ness informed him that the Board had continued the hearing until April 19, 2006 at 7:30 pm. S. Romanowski explained that he would probably be late due to a commitment to drive his brother to dialysis. They can request an earlier dialysis time, but not until much closer to the hearing date. C.S. Ness told him that they can reschedule the time, simply to confirm with the office what works for him. B. Kubiak gave S. Romanowski a copy of DEP's letter. The Board thanked him for coming to the meeting.
- I. J.P. Paciorek requested clarification of the recommendations from the Insurance Subcommittee. C.S. Ness informed the members that there are problems regarding employees that receive salary for a 10 month period, yet have insurance coverage for 12 months. The Board requested an opinion from Counsel on the issue. J.P. Paciorek then motioned that for Fiscal Year 2007, that the Town reimburse 65% of the cost of the HMO insurance; M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0). B. Kubiak explained that effectively, these people are not employed for two months and are not part of the teachers' contract; therefore it is questionable whether they are entitled to coverage during that time. The Board discussed charging them for 12 months of coverage in 10 months. J.P. Paciorek motioned that employees working for less than 1 year may purchase health insurance at 100% of the cost of that fiscal year's premium; no second. Motion died. The Board discussed the merits of sending Issue #2 back to the subcommittee for further review. B. Kubiak suggested that the Board determine how many people any decision on health care costs would affect. The Selectmen decided to revote the issue after the Insurance Subcommittee provides further information.
- J. Discussion on Highway/Sewer Superintendent's budgets began.
- It was noted that General Highway Salaries decreased by 6/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent (↓ \$12,966.40), to \$295,324.39 by charging any

sewer work performed by the Highway crew to the WWTP budget. Highway Overtime increased by 1.5%. The members discussed inequities in the Classification and Compensation Plan, which does not allow for “merit” raises. Employees that have reached the last Step in a Grade classification only receive Cost of Living Allowances. M. Gilmore would like to see some mechanism to award additional increases by merit. J.P. Paciorek disagrees, stating that the Town does pay an equitable wage, considering that two members of the Highway Department receive approximately \$40,000 plus benefits amounting to another \$50,000. M. Gilmore questioned awarding Step increases automatically, noting that these increases were designed to be awarded upon exceptional performance. M. Gilmore is concerned that if these problems are not dealt with, knowing that 4 people are eligible for retirement, replacement would be difficult as the Classification and Compensation Plan stands. J.P. Paciorek reminded everyone that the Board itself had not completed evaluations.

- J.P. Paciorek motioned to accept Line Item # 49, Highway Expenses, in the amount of \$190,916.00; M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).
- The Board briefly discussed possible cost-saving measures at the Transfer Station. It was noted that new technology will be available soon to encourage recycling efforts and decrease tipping fees. The Selectboard is concerned that the high cost of the Bulky Item box is driving the Town’s funding of the Transfer Station. M. Gilmore suggested increased enforcement in that area. C.S. Ness brought up possibly fining residents that do not obtain Transfer Station stickers in a timely fashion. Further information is required. Budget for FY 2007 has increased due to increased monitoring requirements at the Landfill, as well. M. Gilmore motioned to accept Line Item #51 as revised; C.S. Ness seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).
- J.P. Paciorek motioned to approved Line Item # 50 (Transfer Station Salaries); M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).
- J.P. Paciorek motioned to approve Line Item #52, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management assessment, in the amount of \$11,355.00; M. Gilmore seconded, unan. approved (3-0-0).

- B. Kubiak informed the Board that due to increases in the cost of electricity, the Street Lights budget went up approx. 10%. At the end of this calendar year, once the Town joins the Hampshire Council of Governments electricity purchasing program, we may receive a rebate on electricity usage. J.P. Paciorek motioned to approve Line Item # 53; M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).
  
- The Selectmen tabled Line Item #54, the Board of Health budget, pending further review.

K. After brief discussion, J.P. Paciorek motioned to accept Line Item #49 (Highway Expenses) for \$190,916.00; M. Gilmore seconded; unan. approved (3-0-0).

4. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayce D. Warren  
 Administrative Assistant

Approved                       Not approved

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Corrections: \_\_\_\_\_  
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