

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting, July 18, 2012**

Present: Selectmen: Carolyn Shores Ness, Elizabeth Clarke, Absent: Mark Gilmore
Town Administrator: Bernie Kubiak

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. at town offices, 8 Conway Street.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting.

Public Comments: none

Selectmen's Comments/ Announcements: Ms. Ness reported that she had just arrived back from Washington D.C. where the Agriculture bill is about to be debated on the floor of the House. She is hopeful that a 230 million dollar amendment for watershed work can be added. This could be important to the Deerfield watershed area. She thanked legislators McGovern and Keating for their efforts in bringing this bill forward.

Board of Health Comments/ Announcements: People are advised to be mindful of the heat. The Senior Center is open as a cooling center.

Appearances before the Board:

Veteran's Memorials: Present: Doug Tierney, chairman of the Memorial Day Committee, Kathy Belanger, mother of Greg Belanger (KIA), Betty Hollingsworth, and John Cycz.

Mr. Tierney said there are 99 flags that fly along the Memorial Day parade route put up by the fire department each year. He then asked Mrs. Belanger to tell why she has donated \$2,000 for flags for Memorial Day. She told an anecdote about a time in Greenfield when there seemed to be a problem with the lights that illuminate the flag at Poet's Seat. Turned out there was no problem with the light, just a young man turning out the bulbs to provide a little privacy. Everyone seemed to enjoy the story.

Mr. Tierney advised that this generous donation will provide flags for several years. He said others can contribute to the flag fund, as well. Another expense is about \$200.00 spent each year for medallions on the graves of newly deceased veterans.

Betty Hollingsworth and John Cycz joined Mr. Tierney to unveil the newest project to place signs on the streets where veterans who gave their lives once lived. At this time, 18 veterans have been identified as KIA (killed in action). Seven signs have been purchased to date. The committee's goal is to have all 18 signs up by Veteran's Day in November. Because it is thought that there may be more KIA's that should be recognized Mr. Tierney estimated \$2,100 would be needed to complete the sign project. Ms. Hollingsworth told a story about one young man and said she wants to discover the story behind all of the veterans. She thought this could become a great subject for a local interest FCAT program. The local Veteran's Post, lead by Roland Kinsman said the Post supports the project; it will pay for two of the signs.

Piggery – Present: Robert Kier, and Leo Cycz from the meadows Condo Association

Mr. Kier reported that on May 23rd the Board issued a site assignment to Mr. Romanowski for his piggery. He pointed out there is a regulation regarding fencing which has been violated more than once. On one occasion, 18 pigs crossed the road. Mr. Cycz later said he was the person who called 911 to report the situation. He felt there had been no response.

On May 30th a sow and 7 piglets crossed the road onto Mr. Kier's property, doing significant damage. He had photos in support of this. He said previous requests for compensation have been unsuccessful. This time Mr. Romanowski attempted to make some repairs. However, the real concern is that the sow attacked a woman walking a dog on Meadow Oak Lane.

Ms. Clarke asked a number of questions about possible citations that may have been issued, the number of times these reported violations have occurred, what has happened, and actions taken to resolve the problem. She was told that Mr. Romanowski had been taken to court and, as he put it, "the pigs won". Mr. Kier said the issue at the moment is containment of the animals that reportedly trespass, about five times a year (he thought). It is a public safety issue.

Ms. Ness said there is a plan for a large animal control officer to manage other farm animals. She said there are penalties in the form of fees for animals that are rounded up in a kenneling system. The Board would look into the fencing matter.

Mr. Cycz then spoke of the matter that terms of the agreement specify that waste is supposed to be managed by a licensed hauler. This is not happening. When he learned that there had been a public hearing prior to the renewing of the site assignment, both he and Mr. Kier said they were not aware of the hearing.

Ms. Clarke said she would look into enforcement of the terms of the agreement and the fencing. She has requested that whenever there is something on the agenda that affects abutters, that all interested parties be directly notified. Ms. Ness thanked the gentlemen for coming to report that there continues to be issues. (Add to open items list)

Discussion/Decision Items:

Reorganization of the Board: No action taken

Franklin Land Trust: A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and unanimously voted to approve a one day beer/wine permit for a fundraising event, with the fee waived. The license is for the event to be held August 17 – 20.

Highway Department Matters: Present: Mr. Patterson

Equipment Operator - A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, to hire Michael Kolakoski for the available full-time equipment operator position. Mr. Kolakoski has been a part-time employee of the department.

Unexpected Retirement - Mr. Patterson announced that Dennis Welcome has submitted retirement papers. He is retiring due to injuries, some of them work related. Mr. Patterson would like to post the position. Kevin Kolakoski is filling in temporarily.

Reorganization - Mr. Patterson presented his plans for reorganization of the department. He began to explain how he would do this. Ms. Ness was interested in making sure that training would be provided where needed. Mr. Kubiak explained that this plan creates a new position and a new pay grade. It should be approved by the Personnel Board and then brought back to the Board.

OPM - Stating that Mr. Patterson was probably the person most vested in the success of this project, Ms. Ness made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, that Mr. Patterson be appointed the OPM for the Public Works Department Building project and that he be compensated, in accordance with state law. The Board thanked Mr. Patterson for his willingness to take on this added responsibility, saving the Town a significant amount of money in doing so.

Police Department Appointments - To correct an oversight when making earlier appointments, a motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted, to appoint Joseph F. Mieczkowski, III, as Special Police Officer/ Assistant Dog Officer, beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

A second motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, to appoint Brian Ravish as Special Police Officer/ Assistant Dog Officer, beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Mr. Ravish previously served as an officer of the department.

Memo to Town Accountant - A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted, to sign a memo to the Accountant verifying that a bonus of \$1,500 has been approved for the Town Administrator for FY'13. The memo was then initialed.

Franklin County Regional Dog Kennel - Ms. Ness has offered to be the contact person, as has Mr. Gilmore. Mr. Gilmore will serve as the alternate contact should Ms. Ness not be available. Mr. Kubiak said the Police Department has a \$9,000 budget item for animal care. He thought a portion of that can be used for the dog expense. [It needs to be quantified how much is available for veterinary care, as the dues to the Kennel also need to come out of these funds.]

MassReady website – Mr. Kubiak will bring a proposed listing to the Board for discussion and amendment at the next meeting.

FDA Food Inspection Grant – Ms. Ness reported that the Town is enrolled in the program, but has elected not to set standards until it has met with Greenfield and Montague to organize a protocol for handling a possible food born illness outbreak.

Letter of support – Olive Street parking garage - The Board approved a letter of support for a parking garage grant requested by Eric Twarog, from the Town of Deefield.

Draft Open Items list - Ms. Clarke asked if it would be possible to have the open items list on the website, where persons with a password could add to it. Mr. Kubiak said he thought it could. He will talk with Virtual Town Hall to find out.

Permit process for events - Recently, an unpermitted lacrosse event was held. The problem is that the promoter deliberately did not get the permits that should have been obtained. Ms. Clarke thought the Town already has the necessary permits in place and does not need to add more requirements. In her opinion, the promoter ought to be fined for not obtaining the permits needed. It should fall under non-criminal dispositions which do need to be a priority for updating and implementing. This is added to the Open Items list.

Sewer abatements - The Treasurer has requested that several accounts be abated where faulty meter readings have led to overcharging. Names mentioned were: Barker Steel, Oxford, Brown, and Red Roof Inn. **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, to abate the sewer bills as requested by the Treasurer.**

Warrant for Primary Elections on September 6, 2012. The Board signed the warrant notifying of the Primary elections to be held on September 6, 2012.

A motion was made by Ms. Clarke that the Board go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

The vote: Clarke – y, Ness – y.

The public portion of the meeting thus concluded.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps