

Date: December 22, 2008

Date Minutes Approved: January 5, 2009

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

Present: Jon Witten, Chair; Elizabeth Sullivan, Vice-Chair, and Andre Martecchini, Clerk.

Absent: No members were absent.

Staff: Richard MacDonald, Town Manager; and Barbara Ripley, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

OPEN FORUM

No items were discussed.

INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 53 & WINTER STREET

Present were:

Bob Gregory, *District Projects Engineer, MassHighway District 5*
Mr. John W. Diaz, P.E., *Assistant Vice-President, Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.*
Mr. Joe Shea, *Highway Safety Committee Chairman*
Mr. Peter Buttkus, *DPW Director*
State Representative Daniel Webster

Mr. Gregory explained that this intersection has been under study by MassHighway for a number of years. There is not a great deal of traffic there, compared to many other intersections with State roads, but for the amount of traffic, the rate of accidents is very high. Initially, installation of a traffic signal was planned. However, further study showed that a roundabout would be a better solution. He said that roundabouts are more aesthetically pleasing, and have lower accident rates than signalized intersections. He introduced Mr. John Diaz, whose firm will be doing the engineering work for the project.

Mr. Diaz explained that the accident rate at this site is 0.83 accidents per million entering vehicles. The statewide average is 0.66. For MassHighway District 5, the rate is .59. This is why the intersection has attracted the State's attention.

The State considers a number of criteria, called "warrants", when deciding whether to signalize an intersection. While the intersection satisfies some of these warrants, several of the warrants are not met. This is largely because of the low overall traffic volume. Mr. Diaz confirmed that a roundabout is a better solution than signalization.

Mr. Diaz said that the State's right-of-way at the intersection is big enough to accommodate the roundabout layout. However, some easements or takings may be in order to allow enough room for servicing and maintaining the road. Some trees within the right-of-way may have to be removed. It is expected that some overhead lighting will be installed. A couple of driveways may need to be adjusted also.

Ms. Sullivan asked about signage for the roundabout. She said that the signage at the Lincoln Street/Route 14 roundabout is very objectionable. Mr. Diaz indicated that a minimum of eight signs would be required: four yield signs and four one-way arrows. Additional signs that warn of the upcoming roundabout might be able to be removed once people become more accustomed to the new layout. Mr. Gregory and Mr. Diaz said that

they would work closely with the Town to reduce objectionable signage, while making sure that safety standards are met.

In response to Mr. Witten's question, Mr. Gregory said that the entire project would be funded by the State. However, the overhead lighting expenses would belong to the Town. When it was explained that the Town has just eliminated the budget for street lighting, Mr. Diaz said that overhead lighting for this intersection may not be a requirement. The project is on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list for 2010. Twenty-five percent of the design will be completed by March 2009. In July or August of 2009, public hearings will be scheduled.

Representative Webster offered to speak about the history of the project. Rep. Webster co-sponsored a bill with Representative Tom O'Brien. It was earmarked in the budget two years ago.

Mr. Martecchini agreed that a roundabout is the best solution for this type of intersection. He asked whether there was any information about drainage. Mr. Diaz said that there do not appear to be significant drainage issues. However, more information will become available as the engineers get into the design more deeply.

Mr. Joe Shea, Highway Safety Committee Chairman, said that the Highway Safety Committee strongly endorses this concept for the intersection. He said that this intersection is the most problematic in the Town at this point.

Mr. Martecchini commented that easements or takings must be confirmed at a Town Meeting. A Special Town Meeting in the fall may be required to meet the design and development schedule.

Mr. Diaz's final comment is that the design will want to incorporate the possibility of sidewalks in the future.

CLOSE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

After some discussion, it was concluded that there are 50 articles on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, and 10 on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Ms. Ripley presented the Selectmen with a draft version of both warrants, and explained that refinements to language will occur. The Annual Town Meeting warrant closes tonight, to meet the requirements of the General Bylaws. The Special Town Meeting warrant remains open at this time.

Mr. Martecchini moved that the Board close the warrant for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting with a total of fifty articles. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL: JOHNSON GOLF MANAGEMENT, INC.

Mr. MacDonald explained that Johnson Golf Management's lease of the North Hill Country Club will expire on December 31, 2008. A Request for Proposals has been issued, but the new manager has not been selected yet. We have an opinion from Town Counsel that, since Johnson Golf Management will not have control of the premises as of January 1, 2009, that the Board cannot approve their application for a liquor license renewal.

Mr. Martecchini moved that the Board disapprove the 2009 liquor license renewal application of Johnson Golf Management, Inc. for the North Hill Country Club. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.

TOWN MANAGER BRIEF

- 1) **Tarkiln Building**: Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hinkley have made a donation of \$300.00 to assist in asbestos removal. Mr. Martecchini moved that the Board accept, with gratitude, the gift of \$300.00 by Mr. and Mrs. Hinkley for asbestos removal at the Tarkiln Building.
- 2) **Census**: The US Census Bureau is looking for census workers. They will hold informational and recruitment sessions at the Duxbury Senior Center on January 7 and January 14 at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM.
- 3) **Jaycox Tree Farm**: Over 200 trees were sold this year. Revenue was over \$15,000.00. This money will be placed in the Jaycox Tree Farm revolving fund.
- 4) **Weekend Storm**: Mr. MacDonald commended the DPW and public safety departments for their excellent service during the weekend's snow storms.
- 5) **Town Hall Holiday Hours**: Christmas Holiday: Town Hall will close at noon on Wednesday, December 24, and re-open on Monday, December 29 at 8:00 AM. New Year Holiday: Town Hall will close at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31 and re-open at 8:00 AM on Monday, January 5.
- 6) **Cancellation**: The December 29, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting has been cancelled.
- 7) **New Start Time**: Beginning January 5, 2009, Selectmen meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board accept the minutes of December 15, 2008 as written. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board accept the Executive Session minutes of December 15, 2008, pending correction of one typographical error, with the contents to remain sealed until the need for confidentiality has passed. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

BONUS SHELLFISH SEASON

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board declare a Bonus Shellfish Season for the commercial harvesting of soft shell clams, for the commercial harvesting of quahog clams, and for the recreational harvesting of Soft Shell clams for the month of January, per the regulations contained in a memorandum from the Harbormaster dated December 15, 2008. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.

REGIONAL DISPATCH SERVICES

Mr. Martecchini mentioned that the Selectmen received a letter from the Town of Halifax about exploring the possibility of regionalizing dispatch services. Mr. MacDonald agreed to participate in the discussions. It was noted that the entire state of Texas only has 28 dispatch centers. In Massachusetts each of the 351 cities and towns has at least one dispatch center (sometimes two, if fire and police dispatch are separated). This could lead to potential cost savings.

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ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board enter Executive Session in order to discuss Labor Negotiations, and to re-convene in Open Session afterward, for the purpose of adjournment only. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Sullivan---aye; Mr. Martecchini---aye; Mr. Witten---aye.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved for adjournment of the meeting. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.