

Date: February 22, 2010

Date Minutes Approved: March 1, 2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

Present: Elizabeth Sullivan, Chair; Christopher Donato, Vice-Chair, and Jon Witten, Clerk.

Absent: No members were absent.

Staff: Richard MacDonald, Town Manager; John Madden, Finance Director; and Barbara Ripley, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

VOTE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

(Mr. Madden was not present for the Executive Session)

At 6:34 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board enter Executive Session, to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property since such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body, and to reconvene in Open Session in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23b. Second by Mr. Witten. Roll call vote: Mr. Witten—aye; Mr. Donato—aye; Ms. Sullivan—aye.

END EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:11 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board end Executive Session, and re-convene in Open Session. Second by Mr. Witten. Roll call vote: Mr. Witten—aye; Mr. Donato—aye; Ms. Sullivan—aye.

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Debbie Gallagher, resident of Keene Street, announced that she is employed by the U.S. Census Bureau, and is currently recruiting for census takers. These jobs pay approximately \$18.00 per hour. The work week is approximately 20-40 hours. Interested parties are invited to call 1-866-861-2010, or to visit www.2010censusjobs.gov.

LIBRARY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ms. Elaine Winqvist, Library Director, stated that library usage is way up. This is largely attributable to the current economic downturn. Citizens often turn to libraries for low-cost leisure opportunities during recessions. The FY11 Duxbury Free Library operating budget calls for a 1.06% increase over FY10 levels. In order to accomplish this, and still meet contractual salary increase obligations, several cuts have been made. These include opening for only twenty Sundays per year, and sharing custodial services with other Town buildings. In the future, Ms. Winqvist hopes to restore regular Monday hours, to be open for at least 32 Sundays, to restore professional hours in the Technical Services Department, and to implement a materials flow system with security features. Mr. Ted Flynn, Chairman of the Library Trustees, thanked the Town Manager and Selectmen for their support of the

Duxbury Free Library. He said that many communities have drastically cut library funding, resulting in loss of certification in some cases. Ms. Sullivan said that thanks also goes to Town Meeting, which votes money for the library every year.

SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Ms. Susan Skeiber, School Superintendent, presented an FY11 operating budget which calls for a 1.08% increase over FY10 amounts. Achieving such a small increase involved eliminating a number of items from the preliminary budget. Some of these reductions included: funding for additional athletic trainer hours, a consultant for the accreditation process, printing of student handbooks, some textbooks, MCAS tutoring, and three instructional assistants. There was an effort to emphasize cuts that are most removed from students and academic learning, and avoid cuts that are most important to students and academic learning.

Ms. Skeiber also reviewed the FY11 School Capital Budget. Capital budget items include: Technology, carpet replacement, classroom furniture, and white marker boards. Ms. Sullivan asked why technology was not included in the operating budget. Ms. Skeiber explained that there simply is not any room in the operating budget for technology items.

Ms. Sullivan thanked Ms. Skeiber for her service as Duxbury Schools Superintendent, since she will be leaving the position on June 30, 2010.

MEETING OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONERS: FEE HEARING

At approximately 7:45 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board adjourn as Selectmen and reconvene as Water & Sewer Commissioners. Second by Mr. Witten. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Buttkus was present to discuss proposed changes in water rates. He said that there has been concern that rates are not covering costs. Rates have not been adjusted since 2004. The Town hired Mr. Michael Daley, a consultant with Financial Advisory Associates, Inc. for a water rate study.

Taking into account the results of the study, Mr. Buttkus proposed the following scenario:

CURRENT RATES:

Semi-Annual Base Rates: Full Rate (\$32.72) Senior Rate (\$16.36)

0 – 60,000 Gallons	\$4.37 Per Thousand Gallons
61,000 to 120,000 Gallons	\$5.80 Per Thousand Gallons
121,000+ Gallons	\$7.16 Per Thousand Gallons

PROPOSED RATES:

Semi-Annual Base Rates: Full Rate (\$40.00) Senior Rate (\$20.00)

0 – 20,000 Gallons	\$4.55 Per Thousand Gallons
21,000 to 60,000 Gallons	\$5.83 Per Thousand Gallons
61,000 to 120,000 Gallons	\$6.70 Per Thousand Gallons
121,000+ Gallons	\$8.05 Per Thousand Gallons

Mr. Will Zachman, resident of Standish Street, asked what the total revenue will be, if the new rates are adopted. Mr. Daley said that the total revenue is estimated to be \$2.3 million with the new rates. The increase will be 20.7% for a user of 90,000 gallons annually.

Mr. Witten said that he agrees with the proposed rate changes. However, he would also like to have seen an increase in new hook-ups for developers. He said that people who profit from the Town should pay a greater share of the Town's operating costs.

Mr. Frank Mangione, Chairman of the Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC), said that the FAC voted to support the proposed water rates.

Mr. Donato moved that the Water & Sewer Commissioners adopt the new rates as presented in a memorandum from the Water Department, dated January 14, 2010, such rates to be effective as of March 1, 2010. Second by Mr. Witten. Vote: 3:0:0.

At approximately 8:00 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board adjourn their meeting as Water & Sewer Commissioners, and re-convene as Selectmen. Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.

FEE HEARING: PERCY WALKER POOL

Mr. Gordon Cushing, Recreation Director, was present to describe the proposed rate structure for the renovated Percy Walker Pool, which is expected to open this Spring. He explained that it will cost approximately \$377,000 per year to operate the pool. If all of the proposed rates are adopted, the estimated revenue should be \$380,000.

Mr. Cushing explained that the new rates were developed in conjunction with Pool staff and the Recreation Activities Committee. Three goals were kept in mind when proposing the rates: 1) Fees should be within the market rates for what comparable pools are charging; 2) Rates for residents should be lower than for non-residents; and 3) Fees should equal costs to run the pool.

Mr. Cushing added that the Town does not intend to charge for use by the Duxbury High School swim team and the fourth grade Physical Education swim class.

Mr. Witten said that, on balance, he supports the proposed fees, although he would like to see a greater spread between resident and non-resident rates. After all, he said, residents are paying for the building with their tax dollars.

Mr. Frank Mangione, Chairman of the Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC), said that the FAC voted to support the proposed rates for the Percy Walker Pool.

Mr. Witten moved that the Board of Selectmen approve fees for the Percy Walker Pool, effective March 1, 2010, as presented by the Recreation Director, in his memorandum of January 13, 2010.

FEE HEARING: TARKILN BUILDING RENTAL

Mr. Tag Carpenter, Chairman of the Tarkiln Committee, was present. He emphasized that it is important to establish rates at this time, so that the Committee can begin to answer questions about which groups might use the building.

After discussion, Mr. Witten moved that the Board approve the following rates, to be effective March 1, 2010, with the stipulation that the kitchen not be rented until kitchen appliances are installed:

LOCATION	UP TO 3 HOURS	EACH HOUR AFTER 3 HRS.
North Hall (Small Room)	\$35.00	\$10.00
North Hall (Large Room)	\$35.00	\$10.00
South Hall	\$35.00	\$10.00
Kitchen	\$35.00	\$10.00
Full Building	\$105.00	\$30.00
Outside Area	\$35.00	\$10.00

Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.

FEE HEARING: SEASONAL LIQUOR LICENSES

Ms. Ripley explained that the board does not have an established fee for seasonal restaurant liquor licenses. She recommended, along with the Town Manager, that the Selectmen continue the practice of charging 50% of the amount for the same type of license in its year-round, or "annual" version.

After discussion, Mr. Witten moved that the Board approve the following fees for seasonal (from April 15 through January 15 of the following year, or as determined by the local licensing authority) on-premise liquor licenses :

Seasonal All-Alcoholic Restaurant: \$1,000.00
Seasonal Wine & Malt Restaurant: \$500.00

Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) **Seawalls:** DPW Director Peter Buttkus, successfully applied for a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for a full conditions survey of the Gurnet Road area seawalls.
- 2) **Grant:** Conservation Agent, Joe Grady, successfully applied for a \$120,515.00 Coastal Pollution Remediation Grant from the Coastal Zone Management Agency. This will be used for reconstruction of roadway drainage on Crescent Street.
- 3) **Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** There have been significant enhancements to the Town's GIS system. Please visit the Assessing Department, on the Town's website, to see the new applications.
- 4) **Council-on-Aging:** Mr. MacDonald recognized Ms. Karen Grisdale, home-delivered meals coordinator. She had been unable to reach a client. She followed up and found the client in a helpless state at home. Without Ms. Grisdale's compassionate service, this client may not have been saved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Sullivan read the following announcements:

1. **Congratulations to Duxbury's Olympian, Michael Morse, for making it into the finals and finishing 15th in the mogul completion at the Vancouver Olympic Games.**
2. **We also want to applaud, Dr. Joseph F. "Skip" Zabilski, a Duxbury resident and orthopedic surgeon at Plymouth's Jordan's Hospital, for his role as the team physician for the US Olympic figure skaters.**
3. **Annual Town Meeting begins on Saturday, March 13th at 9:00 AM at the Duxbury Schools' Performing Arts Center, 73 Alden ST. Please come and participate in the purest form of democracy.**

MINUTES

Mr. Witten moved that the Board approve the Open Session minutes of February 8, 2010 as presented. Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Witten moved that the Board approve the Executive Session minutes of February 8, 2010 as presented. Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.

APPOINTMENT

Mr. Donato moved that the Board appoint Dr. Daniel E. Ryan to complete an unexpired term on the Nuclear Advisory Committee, such term to end on June 30, 2012. Second by Mr. Witten. Vote: 3:0:0. Ms. Sullivan noted that Dr. Ryan has a PhD in High Energy Physics.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 PM, Mr. Witten moved for adjournment of the meeting. Second by Mr. Donato. Vote: 3:0:0.