

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SEPTEMBER 14, 2009

Meeting called to order at 6:15 P.M. at Town Hall.

**Present** Elizabeth A. Gorski, Donald N. Greaney, Chairman William H. Darke.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved Greaney, seconded Gorski, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of the Open meeting held September 1, 2009, as presented.

Moved Greaney, seconded Darke, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 1, 2009, as presented.

DARKE, GREANEY – “AYE”; GORSKI – “ABSTAIN”

**Approval of Warrants**

Moved Greaney, seconded Darke, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Payroll Warrant #10-10..

DARKE, GREANEY – “AYE”; GORSKI – “ABSTAIN”

Moved Greaney, seconded Gorski, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve weekly Warrants #10-08A and #10-11.

Selectman Gorski announced to the viewing audience that she did not sit in on the Executive Session because it was a Police Department matter and she has a son on the force, stating further that she also abstains from approving payroll warrants and other matters relating to police.

**Appointment of Probationary Firefighters**

At the request of Chief Clement and upon motion duly made by Greaney, seconded by Gorski, it was

**VOTED:** To appoint on probationary status the following residents to serve as firefighters, said appointments effective immediately through June 30, 2010:

**Request to adopt a traffic island**

Resident Doreen Nicosia requested permission to adopt a traffic island in town which she would care for by weeding and planting if she could be allowed to place a small business sign thereon. The Board discussed the request with Finance Director Labrecque pointing out there really aren't many islands in town that are in areas with heavy traffic; that the island in Elm Park Square is cared for by the Mortgage Company; that one of the islands near the Tea Garden is cared for by the Garden Club. Labrecque stated that both of these islands will be removed with the bridge project and the reconstruction of Salem/School Streets.

The Selectmen approved Ms. Nicosia's request provided she keep her sign approximately 16" x 16" square and does not block driver's sight with the sign or plantings she installs and that she inform the Assistant which traffic island she chooses to care for.

**Essex County Retirement Funds**

Finance Director Labrecque updated the Selectmen on the local towns efforts to turn over the county retirement funds to PRIT for investing. Labrecque advised the Board that if they wished this to occur they would need to vote and send a letter to ESRB informing them of the Board's request. Selectman Gorski asked how the change would affect our retirees and Labrecque stated that it wouldn't have any affect on the town's retirees. Chairman Darke asked Labrecque what he would do and Labrecque stated he would go with PRIT because overall they have had a better return for their investments.

Moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To authorize the Finance Director to send a letter to Essex County Retirement Board informing them that the Selectmen has chosen to have the town's retirement funds go to PRIT.

**Bridge Reconstruction**

Selectman Gorski updated her fellow members on a meeting she attended with Finance Director Labrecque, Representative Harriett Stanley and Senator Bruce Tarr and their Aides, and Bridge and Square Committee member Greg Stark. Gorski told her Board that the Senator and Representative think the town should touch base with the owner of the property currently housing the Getty Station and Post Office and attempt to purchase that property. The Board will send a letter to the owner requesting permission for the town to have an appraisal done and ask that the owner respond within 5 days of receipt of their request. Chairman Darke will be the contact person if the appraisal is conducted.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Finance Board members Husack, Minichiello, Kowalski, Lawrence, Cook and Callahan met with the Selectmen to make their recommendations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

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Moved Greaney, seconded Gorski, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To recommend favorable action on Articles 1 – 8 of the  
October 5, 2009 Special Town Meeting.

Finance Board members informed the Board that they had voted earlier to recommend favorable action on Articles 1 – 4 and no recommendations for Articles 5 – 8.

The Boards discussed the cuts by the State and that the town is operating at approximately \$300,000 less than five years ago in 2004 and their feelings that the school district needs to be looked at inasmuch as their budget has increased during the same period by \$1.3 million. Chairman Darke informed those present that the town has gotten through these bad times without touching its reserves. Darke also informed the Finance Board that they took the Finance Director's recommendation to move retirement investments to the State from ECRB.

Moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To sign the Warrant for Special Town Meeting on  
October 5, 2009 at the Bagnall School.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn.  
Adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski  
Administrative Assistant