



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AGENDA**

**January 4, 2010**

**6:15 P.M - Call meeting to order**

**Approve Minutes: December 21, 2009**

**Approve Warrants:**

PW # 10-26	\$ 111,917.04
DW #10-24A	\$ 29,906.10
BW #10-27	\$ 677,467.66

**NEEDS ATTENTION**

1. Please sign one-day Special License for Veasey Park – January 17<sup>th</sup> , 2:30-6:30 p.m.
2. I've arranged for the Road Commissioner and Michael Callan to attend our meeting on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Inasmuch as Dr. Jim also wishes to meet with you regarding Johnson's Pond and Bob also needs to be present, I will also schedule Dr. Jim and his lawyer for their presentation that evening, if that's okay with all of you.

**AGENDA APPOINTMENTS**

**6:30 P.M. – Chief Kirmelewicz, Finance Board – open discussion on current and FY '11 Department budgets**

**7:15 P.M. – West Newbury Board of Selectmen – discuss possibility of regional dispatching out of West Newbury for Groveland, Merrimac and West Newbury**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 19th , 2010 @ 6:15 P.M.**

MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

JANUARY 4, 2010

Meeting called to order at 6:20 P.M. at Town Hall.

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the Minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2009, as presented.

**Approval of Warrants**

Moved Greaney, seconded Darke, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve Payroll Warrant #10-26.  
GREANEY, DARKE – “AYE”; GORSKI – “ABSTAIN”

Moved Gorski, seconded Greaney, and it was

**VOTED:** To approve weekly Warrants #BW10-27 and #DW10-24A.

**Approve hiring of Library Page**

At the request of Library Director Deb Hoadley, and upon motion duly made by Gorski, seconded by Greaney, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the hiring of Louise Richardson, Georgetown, Ma as Library Page at the Langley-Adams Library, 6-10 hours weekly at the rate of \$8.32 per hour. Date of hire effective December 15, 2009.

**Police Budget-FY'10 and FY'11**

Chief Kirmelewicz and Deputy Chief Gillen were present to discuss their department's current budget and Fiscal 11's budget needs. Also present were several members of the Finance Board.

Chief Kirmelewicz told the Board that since requesting the agenda appointment he has met with the Finance Director who told him not to worry about the shortfall he will have in this year's budget. The Chief told the Boards that his Other Wage Account has been reduced significantly and with the loss of the Safety Cruiser Account and Community Police Grants he needs an additional \$55,000 - \$60,000 over what he received last year if

they are going to continue to have two men on each shift. Kirmelewicz stated that the Other Wages Account is for training, overtime shifts, and for hiring Reserve Officers. The Chief stated if he doesn't get the funding he will need to cut services.

Finance Director Labrecque told the Board that the Safety Car Revolving Funds were used to make up for the cuts the State made to the Career Incentive 50% reimbursement to the town. Deputy Gillen stated that training needs to be paid for in order to remain in compliance. Kirmelewicz told the Boards that they are utilizing on-line training for certain things and it seems to be working well. Labrecque stated there are too many unknowns to promise anything at this time; that if Pentucket comes for an over ride and two of the towns pass it and Groveland doesn't, we could have a real problem. Labrecque told the Boards that he told all departments to budget for what they need and we'll go from there. The Chief said again that he would need to cut patrols if he doesn't receive the budget he is requesting.

Labrecque told those present that taxes went up this year 4.5 – 5%; that in the last five years the town's budget has increased \$50,000 per year while the school's budget has gone up \$471,000 per year. Finance Chairman Husack stated that the Finance Board is faced with the same concerns all the time from town departments; that every year they are running up against the school's increases and that they have waited for it to happen that the town would be losing services.

Chairman Darke told the Officers that we are in a "wait and see" period and will make our decisions when we know where we stand financially. Chief Kirmelewicz responded that he just wanted to inform everyone early of his concerns.

**West Newbury Board of Selectmen-Discussion on Regionalizing Services**

West Newbury Selectmen Kemper, Cushing and Atwood met with the Board of Selectmen, at West Newbury's request, to discuss the possibility of regionalizing dispatch services for the three towns (Merrimac, Groveland & West Newbury) out of the West Newbury Public Safety Building. West Newbury has been looking into Sheriff Cousins' plan to regionalize Essex County Police Dispatching out of Middleton. Cousins will attend the West Newbury Selectmen's Meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> to answer questions town officials have. Kemper told Groveland Selectmen that they decided to talk with other towns because of costs increasing and state aid decreasing. Groveland had dispatched and held prisoners for West Newbury many years ago and the men wanted to open dialogue to see if the town would be interested in sharing services again.

West Newbury Board members stated that their Chief had concerns that dispatchers from Middleton may not know this area well and felt that regionalizing the three towns might be a better fit. Kemper stated that they are elected to look toward the future not just current needs. Chairman Darke agreed and stated that these types of discussions are relevant at all times.

MINUTES-PAGE #3  
JANUARY 4, 2010

The parties agreed that this early in discussions there are many unknowns but that the idea is worth discussing. They also agreed that there may be other town services that could be looked at such as Inspectors, Board of Health Services, Council on Aging Services, etc. Chief Kirmelewicz expressed concern about what would happen to all the dispatchers, especially where some have worked for years and are getting close to retirement age. Kemper responded that they need to discuss the idea before people are looked at because then it becomes personal/emotional.

The two Boards of Selectmen agreed to have the three Finance Directors talk, look at cost savings and West Newbury will get back to Groveland for further discussion. Finance Director Labrecque stated it's pretty simple to figure out; that if you want a manned station you won't save any money; if you're willing to lock it shut, you will save.

**Adjournment**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn.  
Adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski  
Administrative Assistant