

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 22, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:30 P.M.

Present Selectmen Elizabeth A. Gorski, Joseph R. D'Amore and Chairman Donald N. Greaney

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Warrants

Moved D'Amore, seconded Greaney, and it was

VOTED: To approve Payroll Warrant #14-42

D'Amore, Greaney – "Aye"; Gorski – "Abstain" 2-1

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Bill Warrant # 14-41. 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Bill Warrant # 14-39CC. 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Bill Warrant # 14-39CC. 3-0

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To approve Deduction Warrant #14-40A. 3-0

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Regional Inspectional Services Program

The Board of Health notified the Board of Selectmen that they would like to utilize the MVPC's Regional Inspectional Services Program for restaurant inspections; that they have \$2,000 in their current budget to allow this and request the Selectmen sign the contract with MVPC. Moved Gorski, seconded D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To sign the contract for Inspectional Services for Board of Health restaurant inspections through the MVPC Program. 3-0

Resignation

The Board received a letter of resignation from Youth Services Librarian Susie Lord, said resignation effective May 7, 2014.. Moved Gorski, seconded D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Susie Lord from her position as Youth Services Librarian at Langley-Adams Library, said resignation effective May 7, 2014. 3-0

Surplus Property

Finance Director Dembkoski presented the Board with a request to declare as surplus property 3 items of fire department property. Moved Gorski, second D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To declare as surplus property the following Fire Department property:
50 lengths of hose; a 12' aluminum boat, and Forestry truck owned by State. 3-0

Finance Director Memo-2013 Management Letter

Finance Director Dembkoski presented the Board with the auditor's 2013 Management Letter and a copy of a Memo she prepared regarding same.

Special Event Policy Guidelines Checklist

The Board completed its review of the Special Event Policy Guidelines Checklist and, upon motion duly made by Gorski, seconded by D'Amore, it was

VOTED: To adopt the Special Event Policy Guidelines Checklist effective immediately. 3-0

Police Contract 3 Year Extension

Moved D'Amore, seconded Greaney, and it was

VOTED: To sign the 3 year Contract Renewal of the Groveland Police Department MA Cops Union, said contract effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. 2-1 Gorski Abstained

Water Department – Request for Utility Easement – Town Forest

Moved Gorski, seconded D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To grant the Water Department a Utility Easement from Wood Street to the Water Tower located in Town Forest. 3-0

6:30 P.M. – Jennifer Hauss – Use of Town Property for fundraiser event

Jennifer Hauss met with the Board to provide an update on her fundraiser event in which she received permission to use town property, i.e., front green of town hall and Perry Park. Jennifer told the Board that there will be a 1.1 mile walk starting at Perry Park and the fee to join will be \$20 per person, \$50 for 4 people walking together. She is planning to have a dunk tank, arts and crafts and has one sponsor confirmed to date. Hauss still needs to obtain a Certificate of Insurance naming the town as Additional Insured and needs to contact the Health Department about any foods she plans to have. Jennifer told the Board that she will have a letter from the charity she is raising funds for, MSPCA.

Jennifer told the Board she has opened a bank account that will be used solely for the fees and donations she collects. She asked if the Selectmen had any other questions of her. The Board told her she has done a great job planning her fundraiser and fulfilling the requests the Board made of her. Selectman Gorski asked if she would receive credit at the High School for running this event and Jennifer responded that she would probably get credit for community service.

Moved Gorski, second D'Amore, and it was

VOTED: To approve the Property Use Permit requested by Jennifer Hauss to conduct a fundraiser for MSPCA on the front green of town hall, and to approve the use of Perry Park, King Street.

The Board wished Miss Hauss great success and a great event.

6:45 P.M. – Conservation Chairman Mike Dempsey-Special Liquor Licenses

The Board met with Mike Dempsey to discuss Special One Day Licenses they have been issuing for events at Veasey Park and other town properties. Chairman Greaney told Dempsey that the Board has adopted a Special Events Guideline Policy Checklist which includes insurance requirements if a Special License is applied for; that the town's insurance does not cover allowing alcohol on town property. Dempsey told the Board that events at Veasey are usually 100 or so; that they have 5 weddings booked at this time and receive about \$350-\$400 for the events. Selectman D'Amore told Dempsey that the Board appreciates what they do at Veasey and want to work with him.

Steve Merrill of Groveland Youth Soccer was present and he told the Board that Groveland Day is for the town and alcohol is an important piece of the event; that all the volunteers that help put the Day's events together put in a lot of time.

Mike Dempsey-Center Street property

Mike Dempsey told the Board that he has talked with Jim Bussing and his agents; that according to them they have cleared the title to the Center Street property and are now ready to move forward. Dempsey asked the Board to approve Town Counsel reviewing the title so the town can move forward and purchase the property. Chairman Greaney responded to Dempsey, telling him the town no longer has a P&S Agreement to buy the property. Greaney also told Dempsey that if Bussing wants to pay the town's title searcher to meet with them to confirm that the title is now clear, that would be fine, but the town can't spend any more money on this property. Selectman Gorski agreed saying the town has put out a lot of money and have received nothing for it. Selectman D'Amore stated he agrees with his colleagues.

Dempsey is concerned that town meeting will vote to rescind the appropriation to buy Center Street and D'Amore stated that he is concerned that the town has shown good faith throughout all these months, spending money for town counsel to review paper work, title exams, and other reasons and agrees with Selectman Gorski that we have nothing to show for it. D'Amore stated that he feels the Selectmen should support rescinding the vote to appropriate funds so the money isn't left out there for someone to try to use; that a new negotiation should be started to reach a new deal for the land; that he doesn't want to risk the money being out there so someone hears this and makes a claim to it. Greaney responded that if they enter into another P&S with Bussing, the town will have to vote to accept the terms.

Dempsey told the Board that the town voted to purchase the property at a certain price; that the Board should get the title checked again immediately and proceed with the purchase; that he doesn't know how they can say they will flush this now; that people do this all the time. Chairman Greaney said he's heard that Bussing knew there was a problem. Dempsey

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responded that Bussing spoke to his attorney before entering into a P&S and was told the title was clear.

Selectman D'Amore said the Board doesn't have any authority to reverse a vote of the people; that the Article to revoke the appropriation to purchase Center Street property is already posted on the Town Meeting Warrant. Alex Johnson asked the Board to support him and Mike Dempsey to close the vote to rescind; that the Board will have his cooperation to engage with Bussing to do it again. Alex told the Board that Bussing is moving forward to put houses on the property now if the town doesn't buy it and he and Dempsey are saying they want to buy Bussing's property. Chairman Greaney asked whether Bussing is willing to put up money to review his title with our people? Greaney also told Dempsey and Johnson that if they know at Town Meeting they have clear title then they could ask to remove the Article to rescind the vote.

Open Space members asked the Board to have Attorney Eichman ask Bussing's attorney if they can pay and get the title search reviewed this week to determine if it is clear; that time is of the essence because town meeting is next week.

Adjournment

Moved D'Amore, seconded Gorski, and it was

VOTED: To adjourn.
Adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Lewandowski, Administrative Assistant