

Selectmen's Minutes  
26 July 1999  
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the chair, George Lagassa at 7:00pm. Those present included Allen Hines (Selectman), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator). Jack Steiner was away on an excused absence.

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hines made the motion to accept the regular minutes of July 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- I. Administration/Business
  - a. Minutes - July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Payroll
  - c. Manifest
  - d. Property Tax abatement (duplicate pmts by property owner & mortgage co.)
  - e. DOT Driveway Permit - John Tillinghast
  - f. Brooks Valuation Associates Appraisal Services Agreement
  - g. Coakely Minutes
  - h. DRA - 1998 Equalization survey

The Board reviewed the Brooks Valuation Associates Appraisal Services Agreement. The general consensus among the Board members was that the agreement needed further refinement in the areas of payment schedule, completion date, and the inclusion of HWW easements during the appraisal process. Mr. Lagassa agreed to rework the language in the agreement to address the shortcomings noted above.

The TA briefed the Board on the cable franchise transfer from Media One to AT&T. The transfer would allow the present terms of the franchise agreement with Media One to be renegotiated with AT&T. The transfer presented a rare opportunity to rework the terms of the agreement. Board members reviewed a letter from the law firm of Donahue Tucker & Ciandella. The letter offered the firm's expertise in renegotiating the franchise agreement. Mr. Hines acknowledged the firm's offer, but felt that Town Counsel would be just as able to assist in the negotiations. It was noted that should attorney John Ryan lack the necessary expertise with the issue he would apprise the Board and necessary arrangements would then be made. As a practical matter the legal costs associated with the issue would be far less with town counsel than otherwise. Further work on the issue would depend on final FCC approval of the purchase by AT&T.

### **Selectmen Issues**

#### *Update of PUC Hearing*

Mr. Lagassa provided a brief synopsis of activity associated with the HWW's request for a water rate increase. Water Commissioner Henry Fuller, Town Counsel John Ryan, and the Town Administrator had all attended the PUC's pre-hearing scheduling conference. Both the Town and Henry Fuller, as Water Commissioner, were intervenors in the rate increase hearings. The HWW made a motion to have the PUC deny Henry Fuller intervenor status. The Board supported Henry Fuller in his efforts to be granted intervenor status. A letter was sent to the PUC arguing in support of intervenor status for Henry Fuller. While all PUC hearings are open to the public and comments are regularly accepted from ratepayers, only intervenors may cross-examine, testify and or dispute and request clarification from the supporting data and documentation submitted by HWW as part of the rate increase request. Mr. Lagassa reported that a meeting to discuss the necessity of an expert witness was scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa believed that the Water Commissioners ably represented the Town during the last rate increase and would do so again this

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time through as well. It was noted that it was a matter of routine for the PUC to grant a request for rate increase during the hearing process, but that the recent request by the HWW was denied by the PUC.

**Questions & Comments**

Lucille Ellingwood commented that the road markings on the corners of Atlantic Avenue & Route 1 were very poor.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator