

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 8, 2007**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Rand, Chairman
William Pantazis, Vice Chairman
Leslie Rutan, Clerk
Jeff Amberson
Fran Bakstran

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the December 11, 2006 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 20, 2006 SPECIAL MEETING

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the December 20, 2006 Special Meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - JUNE DAVID-FORS – FYS SERVICES DIRECTOR

Introduction of New Director.

Mr. Brenner introduced June David-Fors as the new Family & Youth Services Director. Ms. David-Fors thanked the Town staff and the members of the community for their warm welcome.

7:05 p.m. - MARK LEAHY – POLICE CHIEF

Retirement of Police Sergeant

Police Chief Mark Leahy announced the retirement of Sergeant Frank Mueller effective December 31, 2006 after over 30 years of service. Sergeant Mueller, his family, co-workers and friends were present.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to acknowledge the retirement of Police Sergeant Frank Mueller effective December 31, 2006; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Appointment of Special Police Officer

Police Chief Mark Leahy requested that the Board consider appointing Frank Mueller as a Special Police Officer.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Frank Mueller as a Special Police Officer for the purpose of detail work exclusive of regular patrol duties, subject to the condition that free and complete medical clearance is received prior to any assignment; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER CONT. . .

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to allow Frank Mueller to retain the rank of Sergeant in his role as Special Police Officer; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Appointment of Police Sergeant

Chief Leahy recommended that the Board appoint Acting Sergeant Demosthenes Agiomavritis as a permanent Police Sergeant. Officer Demosthenes has served as Acting Sergeant since October 26, 2006. Sergeant Agiomavritis, his family, co-workers and friends were present.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Police Officer Demosthenes Agiomavritis as Police Sergeant effective retroactive to October 26, 2006; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Appointment of Police Officer

Chief Leahy recommended that the Board appoint Nathan W.S. Fiske, Sr, as a Police Officer effective January 29, 2007. Chief Leahy informed the Board that Mr. Fiske was not able to be here tonight due to his having to attend a mandatory Academy Orientation Class.

Chief Leahy informed the Board that Mr. Fiske would fill the vacancy created by Sergeant Mueller's retirement and Police Officer Agiomavritis' promotion. Mr. Fiske is a Northborough resident. He graduated from the part-time Police Officer's Academy at Boylston in 2004 and has been employed by the Berlin Police Department. He has a confirmed seat in the full-time Police Officer's Academy Class at Boylston beginning on January 29, 2007. He will serve a one-year probation as a new Police Officer.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Nathan Fiske as Police Officer effective January 29, 2007; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:20 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING – Continued from December 11, 2006

- To consider the application of the Comfort Inn for one Billiard Table at premises located at 115 Lawrence Street/Rout 9.
- To consider the application of the Comfort Inn for one Automatic Amusement Device at the same address.

Mr. Brenner recommended that this Public Hearing be continued to the Board's regularly scheduled meeting on January 22, 2007 in order to allow the applicant additional time to submit plans to the Building Inspector.

Chairman Rand asked if there were any members in the audience who wished to make a comment. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to continue the Public Hearing on the application of Jayesh Patel d/b/a The Comfort Inn to keep and operate a billiard table and an automatic amusement device for premises located at 115 Lawrence Street/Route 9 to January 22, 2007; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application from C&C Motors to increase the number of vehicles stored at 7 Belmont Street (Route 9) for their Class II Used Car Dealer's License.

Mr. Brenner reviewed the application from Stephen Christopher requesting that the number of allowable vehicles be increased by 15 additional vehicles for a total of 26 per the plan dated December 2006 and submitted with the application.

Mr. Christopher was present to explain his request. In answer to questions from Selectmen Rutan and Bakstran, Mr. Christopher stated that he does not see that snow removal operations would be a problem. He also stated that The Village Gun Shoppe is closed to retail businesses and has been for a couple of years.

The application and the parking lot plan have both received a favorable review from the Police, Fire and Building Departments.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the application of C&C Motors to increase the number of vehicles stored at 7 Belmont Street (Route 9) for the Class II Used Car Dealer's License from 11 vehicles to 26 vehicles, with 9 of the 26 vehicles to be stored on the abutting lot, subject to the condition that, in the event the permission of Mr. Peter Dowd, who owns the abutting lot for the storage of the 9 vehicles is revoked, the total number of allowed vehicles will automatically be reduced from 26 to 17; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:25 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application from George Borey for a Transportation License for premises located at 87 Pleasant Street.

George Borey was present and stated that he has been a resident of Northborough for over 20 years. He will be conducting the administrative part of his business out of his home at 87 Pleasant Street. One taxi or livery vehicle will be stored inside a barn located on-site. Any maintenance or washing of the vehicle will be done off-site. Mr. Borey introduced his son who will be one of the drivers.

A background check performed by Detective Sergeant Bill Lyver brought forward no concerns as to Mr. Borey's character and suitability.

HEARING CONT. . .

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the application of George Borey of 87 Pleasant Street for a Transportation License subject to the condition that not more than one (1) taxi or livery vehicle be parked at 87 Pleasant Street; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:28 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application for a Change of Manager for the Wine & Malt Beverages Restaurant License of Replays located inside Teamworks at 185 Otis Street.

Owner of Indoor Sports Management Thomas McLaughlin introduced Kevin O'Connell as the new Manager of the Replay's Lounge. He informed the Board that the previous manager has been reassigned to a different location. Mr. O'Connell is TIPS certified.

A background check performed by Detective Sergeant Bill Lyver brought forward no concerns as to Mr. O'Connell's character and suitability.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the application for Replays located inside Teamworks at 185 Otis Street to change the manager from Amanda Parker to Kevin O'Connell for the Wine & Malt Beverages Restaurant License; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:30 p.m. - DAVID DURGIN, FIRE CHIEF

Request to establish Ambulance Rates for 2007.

Fire Chief David Durgin was present to request that the Board establish new ambulance rates for 2007. This request is necessitated due to the fact that the 2007 Medicare rate is lower than the 2006 approved rates currently being charged. Previously, the Board authorized an ambulance rate at 25% above the rate established by Medicare. By continuing to follow this directive, the 2007 rate with the 25% added will result in a net loss of revenue.

Chief Durgin recommended that the Board provide a fee structure of the current rates plus 10%. This rate increase will insure the continued appropriate collection of ambulance fees so that the department may continue its day-to-day and capital ambulance and rescue programs.

Chairman Rand informed the Board that she met with Chief Durgin and is very comfortable that revenue from these fees will go directly toward EMS and ambulance services.

Chairman Rand requested an update on the defibrillators for the police cruisers that were approved at the 2006 Annual Town Meeting. The Police Chief acknowledged that the responsibility for this sits squarely on his desk. He informed the Board that due to the multitude of personnel changes that his department has experienced during the last seven or eight months, he made an administrative decision to hold off on anything that could

AMBULANCE RATES CONT. . .

have affected the collective bargaining agreements in regards to police personnel taking on new duties. Now that his department has had an opportunity to stabilize, he will move forward with this project.

Selectman Rutan move the Board vote to establish Ambulance Rates for 2007 as recommended by the Fire Chief which would provide a fee structure of the current rates plus 10%; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTSBarry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Noted that the Winter Ball will be held at the White Cliff's on January 27th.

William Pantazis, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Town Hall painting project by the students of Assabet Valley looks great.
- Questioned what can be done to address cracked sidewalks in Town, especially on Route 135. Mr. Brenner stated that the DPW Department will be able to correct these issues in the Spring.
- Requested that a police officer be placed at the entrance to the High School to help alleviate the traffic congestion there in the morning hours. Chief Leahy stated that if the students used the school bus as their transportation to and from school, this problem would go away. He agreed that there is definitely traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon hours, but noted that the center of town is a bigger priority at this time, because that is where accidents tend to occur.
- Attended the recent tour of the High School. Extended his appreciation to the Fire Department, the Fire Chief and the Building Inspector for their role in keeping the school safe during the renovations.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Noted that the Library Board of Trustees and their fundraising committee will be sponsoring a Comedy Night at Guiseppe's Grille on January 20th at 7:30 p.m.
- Received a calendar from Sheriff Glodis showing some of the work done in the area communities by inmate work crews. She acknowledged that we have used their service in the past and asked if there were any plans to use it again. Mr. Brenner noted that if an appropriate project arises, their services will again be requested.
- Noted that the State Legislature approved the five additional liquor licenses for the Loop project.

Jeff Amberson

- Reminded residents to keep nearby sidewalks and fire hydrants clear of snow – in the event that snow happens.

Fran Bakstran

- The Home Safety Network has invited interested citizens to attend their meeting on January 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the High School to discuss awareness of drug and alcohol use at the teenage level.
- Noted that she is looking forward to the Comedy Night on January 20th.
- Noted that she will be meeting with the ninth grade social studies group to talk about local government.
- Announced that there are programs available through the Senior Center to those elders who are having trouble paying ambulance and/or other medical/insurance bills.

FY 2008 BUDGET POLICIES

Mr. Brenner reviewed several factors relative to both revenues and expenditures that determine the allowable percentage increase for the FY 2008 Budget while staying within the confines of Proposition 2½. He informed the Board that considering these factors, and based on the anticipated additional State Aid, the FY 2008 Budgets for Municipal, K-8 Schools and the Regional High School Assessment can be increased 4.5% and remain within the limits of Proposition 2½.

Mr. Brenner stated that in terms of the Municipal Budget, a 4.5 % increase would represent a little over \$600,000. Mr. Brenner reviewed the financial needs of the Municipal portion of the FY 2008 Budget, including the need to finance the new positions that were authorized by the Board for this current fiscal year at a full twelve months for FY 2008. The same goes for the financing of the Department of Family & Youth Services. Also discussed was the anticipated increase of 10-14% in premiums for health insurance and the likeliness that Northborough will not receive much of an increase over last fiscal year in State Aid.

Mr. Brenner indicated that, in order to prepare a Municipal Budget for FY 2008 within the limits of Proposition 2½, he would not be able to include any new positions for FY 2008 although there remained many unfulfilled requests from Departments that were presented to the Board last year.

Chairman Rand endorsed Mr. Brenner's proposal to prepare the FY 2008 Budget within the confines of Proposition 2½.

Selectman Amberson stated that he would support Mr. Brenner's proposal if the current level of services and programs can be maintained. Mr. Brenner answered that this could be done.

Selectman Bakstran noted that if State Aid is received over and above what was expected, she would like to see that that additional funding be used towards offsetting the amount of Free Cash that is used. Mr. Brenner stated that if this is the case, the amount of Free Cash used can be modified at Town Meeting.

Selectman Rutan stated that in past years she has wanted to see what the municipal needs were first and to then plan the budget around that. This year she will support Mr. Brenner's proposal to stay within the confines of Proposition 2½, but admitted that she

FY 2008 BUDGET POLICIES CONT. . .

does appreciate the staffing needs of the various departments. She supports the conservative approach now with the hopes that the increase in revenue from Avalon Bay and the Loop project will allow us some flexibility to increase staff in the future.

Selectman Pantazis stated that he agrees with the need to eventually wean ourselves from using Free Cash, but understands that at this time it is a difficult thing to do. He supports Mr. Brenner's proposal to keep the increase in the FY 2008 Budget at 4.5%.

By agreement, the Board supported Mr. Brenner's proposal to prepare the FY 2008 Budget within the confines of Proposition 2½.

ZONING STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

Selectman Bakstran provided a status report on the efforts of the Zoning Study Subcommittee. Their efforts are still a work in progress. The Subcommittee will start scheduling public meetings at different times and venues in order to help educate the public prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Chairman Rand noted her concern with the proposed amendments to the parking requirements for future buildings, specifically not allowing their parking lots to be located in front of the building. She is worried that this would create a disservice to the businesses who want to build in Town. Selectman Bakstran stated that the subcommittee is proposing this amendment in an attempt to provide a better view from the street.

Selectman Pantazis agreed with Chairman Rand, noting his concern that this could hurt a new business and would actually make it more difficult in trying to bring new businesses to Town.

Selectman Rand also raised her concern with the requirements being placed on bicycle racks. She does not see many people riding their bicycles to businesses and because of this does not see the need to regulate bicycle parking.

Selectman Amberson asked that the Police Chief share his thoughts on the whether or not parking lots are better being placed in the front of the building rather than on the side or in the back. Chief Leahy stated that although he hasn't really given this any thought, he agreed that there will be pros and cons to both sides of the argument.

Selectman Bakstran stated that she will bring these comments back to the Subcommittee at their next meeting.

PROCLAMATION – GOVERNOR JOHN DAVIS DAY

Mr. Brenner provided some history about John Davis, including that fact that he was born in Northborough on January 13, 1787. He was a lawyer and politician, elected to Congress in 1824, and was re-elected for four succeeding terms. He was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1834. At the conclusion of his term as Governor he was sent to the U.S. Senate and served from December 1835 through January 1841, at which time he resigned to accept the Governorship a second time. He was again elected U.S.

GOVERNOR JOHN DAVIS DAY CONT. . .

Senator and served from March 1845 through March 1853, but declined a re-election and died suddenly at his home on April 19, 1854.

The Proclamation proclaiming January 13th as Governor John Davis Day is in recognition of the 220th anniversary of John Davis' birth here in Northborough.

Chairman Rand noted that the request to proclaim January 13th as Governor John Davis Day was received from resident Kevin Carroll.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the Proclamation proclaiming January 13, 2007 as Governor John Davis Day; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A730

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A730; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen