

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 9, 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 – MARCH 26, 2007 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the March 26, 2007 Regular Meeting as amended; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. - JUNE HUBBARD-WARD, TREASURER/COLLECTOR**

Approval/Execution of Assabet River Wastewater Consortium  
Continuation Loan from State Water Pollution Abatement Trust.

Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard Ward was present to request the Board's approval and execution of a \$137,353 Continuation Loan from the Water Pollution Abatement Trust for the Assabet River Consortium.

The Assabet River Consortium was formed to leverage resources and to implement a study to prepare a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report and is comprised of the seven communities that each discharge effluent from wastewater treatment facilities into the Assabet River.

The total amount of the loan (\$500,000) was authorized at the April 2000 Annual Town Meeting. The Water Pollution Abatement Trust refinanced the original loan to reflect the amount previously expended. This continuation loan will allow Northborough to complete our share of this project.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve and execute the documents for the Assabet River Wastewater Consortium Continuation Loan in the amount of \$137,353 from the State Water Pollution Abatement Trust; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**REPORTS**

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- Provided information on the new local option for property tax exemptions for seniors known as Clause 41C½. See below for further discussion.
- Requested that the DPW Director provide an update on the Assabet River Consortium Project. See below for update.

Barry M. Brenner Report Cont. . .

- Provided information on the Governor's proposed Budget for State Aid for FY 2008 and its impact on the proposed override amount needed by the Northborough K-8 Schools. See below for further discussion.
- Noted that tentative dates for the joint meeting between the Northborough and Southborough Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees are April 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Encouraged residents to attend.
- Noted that the Northborough Community Chorus will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Requested that the Board issue a Proclamation to recognize the event. The Board agreed.
- Noted that the Appropriations Committee Chairman has requested a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the Town's financial well-being. Requested that Mr. Brenner schedule this meeting.
- Congratulated James Kowal and Howard Sleeper who are members of the St. John's Ski Team and recently won the State Ski Champion Alpine Downhill Contest.

William Pantazis, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Encouraged residents to attend.
- Noted that the Annual Town Election will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Encouraged residents to get out and vote.
- In response to a recent newspaper article and comments about the new street signs, he advised the public that a Federal Mandate is forcing cities and towns to replace their street signs per certain specifications by the year 2012. Although this is a Federal Mandate it is not funded by the Federal Government.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Noted that according to a recent newspaper article, the Town of Hudson is selling their old Street signs for additional revenue. Requested that Mr. Brenner look into instituting a similar program here in Northborough.
- Announced the vacancies on the various Boards, Committees and Commissions.
- Congratulated Chief Durgin on his receipt of several grants, specifically the grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a Bullard TMX 3 Thermal Imaging camera.
- Noted that Chief Durgin will also be attending training to take care of five departments for Homeland Security.
- Welcomed Michael Ryan, a local Boy Scout who was in the audience.

Jeff Amberson

- Announced that the Town website has valuable information on the proposed new Senior Center.
- Noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Encouraged residents to attend.

Fran Bakstran

- Congratulated Chief Durgin for receiving several grants totaling \$18,000 that will be used to help purchase equipment that will benefit the department and the community.
- Noted that the Senior Center will hold a slideshow presentation on the proposed Senior Center Project on April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.
- Announced that the Annual Town Meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CLAUSE 41C½ - PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SENIORS**

Under his report, Mr. Brenner provided information on the new local option for property tax exemptions for seniors known as Clause 41C½. The new exemption has been reviewed by the Board of Assessors, the Treasurer/Collector, the Senior Center Director and the Elderly & Disabled Taxation Fund Committee, who all DO NOT recommend its adoption by the Town. It was determined that while this new Exemption may benefit some elderly residents, it may also result in some elderly residents receiving reduced financial assistance. The new Exemption will be reviewed by the Council on Aging for their recommendation as well.

Following several comments from members of the Board it was determined that the new exemption does not direct the assistance to the neediest people and that the exemptions currently allowed offer the most needy people the most money.

**UPDATE ON ASSABET SEWER CONSORTIUM PROJECT**

Under Mr. Brenner's Report, he asked that the DPW Director Kara Buzanoski provide a brief update on the Assabet Sewer Consortium Project. Ms. Buzanoski informed the Board that Phase 3 of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan will be filed within the next several weeks with MEPA. Phase 3 includes the request to the EPA and DEP that Marlborough and Northborough be afforded additional capacity at the plant. Also included in Phase 3 is the question as to whether the additional effluent can be discharged into the river or whether it needs to be discharged into the groundwater, which was the reason for the purchase of the Haitsma property several years ago. If the additional capacity is allowed the current capacity of 800,000 gallons per day would be increased to 1.5M gallons per day. If this is the case, there would be significant additional costs for the upgrade of the Westerly Plant to accommodate the flow and for the sub-surface disposal. The additional cost would be shared by both Marlborough and Northborough.

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR STATE AID FOR FY 2008**

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that the Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2008 for State Aid for the Regional School District for Chapter 70 and Regional Transportation are at levels of \$210,000 higher than FY 2007, which results in additional State Aid of \$130,625 against Northborough's assessment for the Northborough Regional School District FY 2008.

Mr. Brenner noted that if Northborough's Regional School District Assessment for FY 2008 is reduced by \$130,625, it would allow the Northborough K-8 Schools' Budget for FY 2008 to be increased by the same amount and still allow both the Regional School District Assessment and the Northborough K-8 Schools' Budget to remain within the

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR STATE AID FOR FY 2008 CONT...**  
limits of Proposition 2½. This would virtually eliminate the need for the Northborough K-8 Schools' Budget Override in the amount of \$166,347.

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that he will forward this information to the School Superintendent, the Northborough/Southborough Regional School Committee and the Northborough School Committee suggesting that they take action and vote to reduce the assessments for both Northborough and Southborough for FY 2008 using the Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2008 for State Aid for Chapter 70 and Regional Transportation.

Mr. Brenner recognized the efforts of Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward for conducting an analysis of the Regional School District Budget and determining that they were using the current fiscal year's levels of State Aid.

Several questions and comments were heard from members of the Board.

**PRESENTATION ON MUNICIPALITIES ORGANIZED FOR REGIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (MORE)**

Mr. Brenner provided an overview on the Municipalities Organized for Regional Effectiveness (MORE), which is a voluntary, member driven, non-profit corporation comprised of communities who share geographic proximity and have an interest in addressing common issues with collective action. The program is developed by municipalities and is administered by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). The program's purpose is to promote regionalism through collaborative action among municipalities within the Central Massachusetts Region.

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that the Town has been an invested member of MORE since 1998 and as a member municipality we have access to a flexible, broadly based array of collaborative services such as:

- Joint Purchasing
- Coordination of Services
- Employee Coordination
- Municipal Group Trainings
- Central Repository of Information
- Legislative Coordination

Members of the Board thanked Mr. Brenner for the information and noted their support of the program.

**NORTHBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB – ANNUAL PLANT SALE REQUEST**

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to grant permission to the Northborough Garden Club to hold their Annual Plant Sale in the center of Town on Saturday, May 12, 2007 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**YAMA ZAKURA – APPLICATION FOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE**

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that Yama Zakura at 369 West Main Street has submitted an application for an Entertainment License. They will be hiring a keyboard player for light background music on an occasional Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday night from 7-10 pm.

The application has been reviewed by the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the Building Inspector. All recommend approval of the application.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the application for an Entertainment License for Yama Zakura at 369 West Main Street; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**ASSIGNMENT OF TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES**

Members of the Board agreed on which Warrant Articles each of them would present at the Annual Town Meeting.

**REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to reappoint those individuals who appear on the 2007 “Reappointment List” to the corresponding Boards, Committees and Commissions; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A734 & A735**

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A734 & A735; Selectman Amberson 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 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen