

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**

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

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

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 10, 2007 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the September 10, 2007 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING

Petition from Massachusetts Electric Company for Manhole and Duct Locations along and across Solomon Pond Road north of intersection of Bearfoot Road and Goddard Road prior to the I-290 Ramps.

Tracy Bolduc from National Grid was present to request the Board's approval of a petition to install new cables within existing conduit along and across Solomon Pond Road. This project does not require any excavation within the paved surface of Solomon Pond Road.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the Petition from Massachusetts Electric Company for Manhole and Duct Locations along and across Solomon Pond Road north of the intersection of Bearfoot Road and Goddard Road prior to the I-290 Ramps, subject to the conditions detailed in the September 19, 2007 Memorandum from the Town Engineer; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:05 p.m. - PROCLAMATION – HOMECOMING DAY FOR
NORTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.**

Richard Sargent was present to inform the Board that the 135th Annual Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2007. The Reunion Homecoming will include the following events:

- Breakfast in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall.
- Luncheon at the Trinity Church at 12 Noon.
- Dinner at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlborough at 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to proclaim October 13, 2007 as Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - PRESENTATION ON HIRING PROCESSES

- Police – Police Chief Mark Leahy
- Fire – Fire Chief David Durgin
- General Government – Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre

Police

Police Chief Mark Leahy reviewed the hiring process for the Northborough Police Department. The current hiring process was approved by the Board of Selectmen in 1988. Chief Leahy also reviewed the salary savings realized by hiring academy-trained police officers.

In response to a question from Selectman Rutan, Chief Leahy stated that he was happy with the current process and testing requirements, other than the fact that he would like to see that a polygraph test be added to the required tests.

In response to a question from Selectman Bakstran, Chief Leahy informed the Board that looking ahead, he anticipates that there will be five openings for police officers in FY 08. Three in association with the Loop Development Project and two due to anticipated retirements within the Department.

Selectman Rand questioned when the hiring for the Loop Development Project would take place? Chief Leahy stated that as soon as the funding is available, the lengthy process of hiring new officers will begin so that they are already in place when the project is complete. Selectman Rand requested that further discussion be scheduled on a future agenda as to the process of how and when the mitigation funds for the Loop Development Project will be received.

Fire

Fire Chief David Durgin reviewed the hiring process for the Northborough Fire Department. See attached documents “*Northborough Fire Department – Firefighter/Paramedic Selection Process*” and “*Northborough Fire Department – Promotional Process*” for detailed information.

General Government

Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre reviewed in general terms the hiring process for General Government. See attached document “*General Government Hiring Process*” for detailed information.

REPORTS

Dawn Rand

- Thanked the DPW, Recreation and Public Safety Departments for all their efforts with Applefest.
- Noted that the Senior Center Building Committee will be meeting with the new architect on September 25th at 11:00am.

Jeff Amberson

- Thanked the Recreation Director and her assistant, and everyone else who participated in Applefest. Also thanked Gigi and Jim Casella for their marching in the parade as the Grand Marshals.
- Announced that the Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on October 27, 2007.

Fran Bakstran, Clerk

- Noted that the Interview Committee interviewed an applicant for the Recycling Committee. See below for appointment.
- Noted that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee held their first meeting and will meet again in October.

Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman

- Noted that a major milestone in career staffing was reached by the Fire Department with the appointment of its sixteenth member. The employment of Scott Reynolds, Jr. brings the total of career firefighter/paramedics to 9.
- Noted that the temporary location of the Library is working out very well. Thanked Jean Langley and her staff for their efforts in keeping the Library up and running as it begins its construction phase.

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

William Pantazis, Chairman

- No report.

APPOINTMENT TO THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to appoint June Stokoe to the Recycling Committee for an indefinite term; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At the request of Elaine Kelly, Selectman Rutan announced that the temporary location of the Library is on Talbot Road on the first floor of the AccuSoft Building.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE - ALLOCATION OF STATE GRANT FOR THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT BETWEEN TOWNS OF NORTHBOROUGH AND SOUTHBOROUGH

Mr. Brenner noted that at the September 10, 2007 Board Meeting the Board established 5 representatives for the Negotiating Committee – Allocation of State Grant for the Regional High School Project between the Towns of Northborough and Southborough. There will be one representative from each of the following Boards: Board of Selectmen, Financial Planning Committee and the Appropriations Committee, as well as the Town Administrator and the Town Treasurer. This information has been communicated to the

Southborough Board of Selectmen, who will be meeting on September 25, 2007 to finalize their appointments.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE CONT. . .

Mr. Brenner reviewed the following options available for consideration by the Board:

1. Maintain Northborough's position, which is to allocate the State Grant according to each community's State Reimbursement Percentage. Northborough's State Reimbursement Percentage is higher than Southborough's.
2. Northborough seeks Court Declaratory Judgment.
3. Consider Southborough's position, which is to allocate the State Grant according to the Regional School District Agreement, which would not credit Northborough for its higher State Reimbursement Percentage.
4. Consider something less than Northborough's position through a compromise agreement with Southborough.
5. Regional School Committee Chair proposal that the dollar difference between the Northborough and Southborough positions be allocated to the Regional School District.

Following Mr. Brenner's review of the above options and a lengthy discussion amongst members of the Board, the Board agreed to support Option #1 – to maintain Northborough's position, which is to allocate the State Grant according to each community's State Reimbursement Percentage.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to nominate Selectman Amberson to act as the Board's representative; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Further discussion ensued as to what the purpose of the October 1st Joint Meeting with the Regional School Committee is and what can be expected. On the recommendation of Selectman Rand, and with the others members of the Board being in agreement, the Town Administrator will draft a letter to the Regional School Committee and the Southborough Board of Selectmen advising them that the Northborough Board of Selectmen sees no reason to be present at the October 1st Joint Meeting. And further that the Board has designated its 5 representatives for the Negotiating Committee and feels that their time would be better spent to have the representatives of the Negotiating Committee meet to discuss this issue.

REAPPOINTMENT OF CECIL ADDERLEY TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to reappoint Cecil Adderley to the Cultural Council for a three-year term; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to proclaim October 5, 6 & 7, 2007 as Knights of Columbus Day for the Handicapped; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Selectman Amberson announced that the benefit for James Millar will be held on October 13, 2007 at 6:00 pm at St. Bernadette's Church.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen