

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dawn Rand

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 11, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the February 11, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - STATE REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD NAUGHTON
State Legislative Update

State Representative Harold Naughton was present along with his newly appointed Chief of Staff, Susan Templeton.

Representative Naughton provided the Board with a Legislative Update. He invited members of the Board to several upcoming meetings relative to economic development. He also invited members of the Board to tour the Town of Clinton's proposed senior center project.

Representative Naughton's presentation included an update on the Speaker of the House's Budget for FY 2009. The goal is to balance the budget, keep local aid promises, fulfill Chapter 70 promises, maintain essential services and preserve fiscal responsibility. The proposal will include budget cuts, enhanced State revenue collections, altered corporate taxes over a three-year period, an immediate freeze on the unemployment insurance rate and an increase in the cigarette tax to be dedicated to health care.

Following Representative Naughton's presentation, several comments and questions were heard by members of the Board. Mr. Brenner then stressed the two most important priorities of the Town of Northborough: 1) that the level of Chapter 70 State Aid be increased as proposed by the Governor for FY 2009; and 2) that the level of the State Lottery for FY 2009 be maintained at the same level as that of the current fiscal year and that all cities and towns be held harmless based on the current level of State Lottery Aid.

Representative Naughton thanked the Town officials for their positive relationship with the corporate citizens in Town, specifically National Grid. Their customer care center located on Bearfoot Road will not be relocated out of town as feared. Representative Naughton believes that the positive relationship between this corporation and Town officials was crucial in their decision to stay.

Following his presentation, Representative Naughton informed the Board of his idea to locate a satellite District Office here in Town to be staffed at a minimum of one day per week. As he moves forward with this idea, he asked the members of the Board to offer their suggestions or comments.

REPORTS

Jeff Amberson

- Requested that at a future meeting the Board be provided with an update on the Loop and Avalon Bay projects.
- Noted that the Regional High School Addition/Renovation Project State reimbursement issue is still ongoing. The Board is awaiting the decision of the Regional School Committee.
- Noted that the Senior Center can provide help to seniors who are looking for any kind of tax advice. There are also programs to help alleviate some of the tax burden for qualifying seniors. Call the Senior Center at 508-393-5035 for more information.

Fran Bakstran, Clerk

- Noted that seniors must file their taxes in order to apply for the Federal Government's stimulus package. Volunteers at the Senior Center are available to help with this, as well as other services, such as changes to their health insurance programs.
- Noted that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will meet February 28th at 7 pm at the Town Hall. A presentation will be made by Jack Walsh from the Holbrook Environmental Logistical Partnership about the benefits of a regional rail transfer station. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Library's Comedy Night fundraiser will be held on March 8th at Guiseppe's Grille. Tickets are \$30.
- Noted that the CVS project is underway and that the store is scheduled to re-open in the Fall of 2008.
- Offered her congratulations to Judy Sugerman who is retiring after 26 years as the Children's Library Assistant.
- Noted the receipt of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project's 2007 Annual Report. A copy of the report is available at the Library.
- Noted that the Algonquin High School Band Concert has been rescheduled and will now be held on February 26th at 7:30 pm in Auditorium.
- Thanked the members of the DPW Department for their efforts during the many winter storms.

Barry M. Brenner

- Noted that although the Budget for Snow & Ice has been expended, he assured the public that the DPW Department is doing its best to assure public safety regardless of the lack of available funds. Thanked the public for their patience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selectman Amberson reminded the public that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 28, 2008. He stressed the importance of attendance by all interested residents.

Selectman Rutan thanked Chairman Pantazis for including the “public comments” section on each agenda. She stressed the importance of allowing residents the opportunity to be heard.

REVIEW OF DRAFT TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Brenner presented to the Board the draft warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Brenner noted that the deadline for citizens petitions is 4 pm on March 10, 2008. The Board will close the Warrant at their regularly scheduled meeting that evening.

Following Mr. Brenner’s review of each warrant article, several comments and questions were heard from members of the Board.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A766 & A767

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A766 and A767; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant
to the Board of Selectmen