

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 20, 2008**

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

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

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the September 29, 2008 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

BOMB THREAT INCIDENT AT ALGONQUIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Chief Leahy and Chief Durgin provided the Board with an update on a bomb threat that was received at the high school at 10:30 a.m. today. Evacuation of staff and students went smoothly with no injuries. Southborough police and fire departments, Shrewsbury and Westborough police departments, as well as three members of the State police were present to provide assistance. It has been confirmed that a juvenile suspect generated a note and admitted that it was a hoax. Cooperation was tremendous from the school administration, staff and students.

Members of the Board thanked the Police and Fire Chief for their efforts.

7:10 p.m. - HEARING

Consideration of Class II License Application submitted by Mohamed Bayou – Carlux, Inc. for premises located at 1C Belmont Street.

Mr. Bayou was present to request a Class II License for premises located at 1C Belmont Street. He is requesting permission to park 25 vehicles for display purposes and 5 for customer parking.

The application and a parking plan have been reviewed by the Police Chief and Fire Chief. Both indicated that they have no objections or concerns with the license.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to grant a Class II License to Carlux, Inc. for premises located at 1C Belmont Street with the following conditions:

- The license will allow for a total of 30 vehicles to be parked on the premise (25 for display purposes and 5 for customer parking) per the parking plan submitted with the application.
- Proof of \$25,000 Bond must be submitted prior to the granting of said license.

Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - JUNE HUBBARD-WARD, TREASURER/COLLECTOR
Approval/Execution of Bond Anticipation Notes

Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward was present to request the Board's approval for the issuance of \$1,663,000 million in bond anticipation notes for the Haistma Land Acquisition. The one-year notes will be issued on October 24, 2008 and will mature on October 23, 2009. The net interest costs will be paid entirely by the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$1,663,000 dated October 24, 2008, together with the required supporting documents; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:10 p.m. - APPOINTMENT OF TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Town Administrator John Coderre informed the Board that since the retirement of the former Town Accountant, the position has been widely advertised in the newspapers, financial publications and on the Town's website. Following extensive outreach and discussions with numerous municipal officials, it has been clear that the Town Accountant position is one of the most difficult jobs to fill due to a shortage of qualified applicants.

Mr. Coderre recommended to the Board that they consider appointing Jason Little, an "internal" candidate, who has been employed as the Financial Coordinator for the Northborough-Southborough Regional School District. Mr. Little has been with the School Department since 2001. He has a BS in Mathematics and is scheduled to complete his Masters Degree in Public Administration at Framingham State College in May of 2009.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Jason Little to the position of Town Accountant subject to a mutually agreed upon start date; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTS

William Pantazis

- Thanked Selectman Bakstran and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for their time and effort in exploring the alternatives for the Town's solid waste program. Appreciates the positive message this has sent out to the public.
- Urged the public to vote on November 4, 2008.

Fran Bakstran

- Noted a recent article in the Boston Globe regarding waste and recycling. The article validated some of the recent research done by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. She will make copies for members of the Board.
- Attended the recent Open House at the Fire Station, which was very well attended.

- Attended the Court of Honor Eagle Scout Ceremony for Tyler Clausen and Daniel Polanowicz. Offered her congratulations to them.
- Noted that a second public hearing was held by the Historical Commission pursuant to the Demolition Delay Bylaw for a proposed demolition of a historic building. The homeowners were very cooperative in letting the Historical Commission go in and take photographs and artifacts for preservation.
- Reminded the public that the Library is sponsoring a book sale this week.
- Noted that the Friends of the Senior Center will hold their Country Fair on November 1st.
- Noted that the Rotary Club is again sponsoring a Spelling Bee on November 14th.
- Congratulated Northborough resident Rich Tucker who was sworn in to Judgeship of the Superior Court in Worcester.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Congratulated the Fire Chief on the recent Open House at the Fire Station.
- Congratulated the Fire Chief on the receipt of two State Grants: a Firefighting Equipment Grant in the amount of \$5296; and a Safety Awareness Fire Education Grant in the amount of \$3200.
- Thanked the DPW Department for paving around the tracks on Collins Road. Noted that Collins Road is due to receive its final resurfacing next spring.
- Noted that she is thrilled to see recycling bins at the Route 135 fields.

Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- Attended the Northborough High School Alumni Reunion Dinner.
- Noted that the Rotary Club will be holding its "Turn up the Heat" Auction at the White Cliffs on Saturday, October 25th.
- Reminded people to keep their nearby fire hydrants free of snow and debris this winter.
- Congratulated Nicholas Michaels Spa on their recent grand opening event.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Noted that Cultural Council Member Marjorie Hurwitz has completed her second term. Requested that the Board send her a letter of appreciation.
- Attended the Northborough High School Alumni Luncheon. Noted that next year the Alumni Association will be celebrating its last class of 1959, after which time it became Algonquin Regional High School.
- Noted that the Lions Club under the sponsorship of St. Mary's Credit Union will be holding their Annual Senior Harvest Dinner. Extended an invitation to members of the Board, as well as any member of the community. It will be held on November 12th at the High School and is being provided at no charge by the Northborough Lions Club.
- Announced that the Election Poles will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 4th.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Provided an update on the final resurfacing of Collins Road. The construction work to complete the looping of the area's water service will be completed in the Spring, assuming CSX Railroad approves the permit to do the work under the tracks. A complete resurface of Collins road will take place in the Spring. A notice will be sent to the residents of Collins Road notifying them of this schedule.
- Noted that through a collaborative effort between himself, the School Administration and the Southborough Town Administrator, the Town recently entered into a new three-year contract with our electricity supplier that will result in reduced rates over the next three years at approximately 9% lower than the prior three years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO QUESTION #1 ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT – RE: STATE INCOME TAX

Town Administrator John Coderre informed the Board that Senator Chandler is requesting that the Board of Selectmen join her in publicly expressing opposition to Question 1 – an initiative petition referendum that, if passed, would abolish the Massachusetts' income tax.

Following some discussion, and with the exception of Selectman Pantazis, the Board agreed that by taking this action, they are in no way telling people how to vote. They are simply letting the public know (as members of the Board of Selectmen, not as individuals) that if Question #1 passes, it would have devastating effects on the programs and services provided by the Town of Northborough. Selectman Pantazis disagreed, stating that if the Board signs the resolution tonight, he feels that they are taking a certain position and he is not comfortable with doing that.

Chairman Rand confirmed that the resolution before the Board this evening does not urge or recommend voting one way or the other.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the resolution expressing the Board's opposition to Question 1 on the November's General Election Ballot; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion. Vote: 4-1-0 (Selectman Pantazis opposed).

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2008 STATE ELECTION WARRANT

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute the November 4, 2008 State Election Warrant; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

EXECUTION OF DEED ACCEPTANCE FOR 175 BEARFOOT ROAD

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute the Deed Acceptance for 175 Bearfoot Road as authorized by Article 26 at the 2005 Annual Town Meeting; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CORRECTION TO CEMETERY DEED A786

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute the correction to Cemetery Deed A786; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A789

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A789; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7:55 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Subsection 23B, Subsection 3, Collective Bargaining; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Pantazis	“aye”	Rutan	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Bakstran	“aye”		

Chairman Rand announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

8:20 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen