

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - NOVEMBER 24, 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 – NOVEMBER 10, 2008 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING WITH BOARD OF ASSESSORS

For the purpose of discussing the valuation of each class of property; the minimum residential factor and the allocation of the tax burden among the four classes of real property: residential, open space, commercial and industrial, and of personal property.

Following a brief introduction by Mr. Coderre, Principal Assessor Diane O'Connor and Board of Assessors Member Arthur Holmes made a presentation on the estimated tax rate for FY 2009, which is subject to final approval by the Massachusetts State Department of Revenue. See attached document dated November 24, 2008 for detailed information.

The Board of Assessors unanimously recommended that the Town of Northborough continue with a single tax rate. The projected tax rate for FY 2009 would increase from \$13.28 to \$13.76 per \$1,000 of assessed value for all property classes if a single tax rate is maintained. This results in an increase of \$218 or 3.9% over the FY 2008 average tax bill (excluding the Community Preservation Act surcharge).

Barbara Clifford, Executive Director of the Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce was present in the audience. Letters were received from both the Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Commission strongly supporting the continuation of a single tax classification. Several comments in support of the single tax rate were made from members of the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Rand closed the Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to maintain a uniform tax rate for all classes of property at a factor of one; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to oppose the implementation of a residential exemption; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to oppose the implementation of a small commercial exemption; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING

Consideration of Application for one Billiard Table as submitted by Northborough Indoor Sports, LLC d/b/a Teamworks for premises located at 185 Otis Street.

During the license renewal process, it was discovered that Teamworks had unknowingly had a billiard table without the proper license. A letter was sent to the Manager Kevin O'Connell notifying him of this and he promptly responded with an application. The Fire Chief, Police Chief and Building Inspector have reviewed the application and corresponding plan and all have indicated that the plan is acceptable.

Mr. O'Connell of Teamworks was present to request the Board's consideration of the above-mentioned application for one billiard table.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the application for one billiard table as submitted by Northborough Indoor Sports, LLC d/b/a Teamworks for premises located at 185 Otis Street; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:20 p.m. - ROB THEVE, FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPTAIN

Presentation on Fire Department Collection for "Toys For Tots" Program.

Fire Captain Rob Theve announced that the Northborough Fire Department is again an official drop-off site for the USMC Toys for Tots Collection Program. An additional drop-off site is located at the Northborough Town Hall. Toys can be dropped off at either location on or before December 18, 2008.

7:25 p.m. - FRED LITCHFIELD, TOWN ENGINEER

Conservation Restriction at 301 Bartlett Street.

Town Engineer Fred Litchfield introduced Scott Weiss from the Gutierrez Company. Mr. Weiss informed the Board that this Conservation Restriction is for the Bartlett @ 495 Center and is part of the mitigation required by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). The NHESP staff determined that the project would result in impacts to the habitat of blue-spotted salamander and four-toed salamander and the issuance of a Conservation and Management Permit is needed for development of the site.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the acceptance by the Northborough Conservation Commission, of a conservation restriction from Trustees of Northborough Land Realty Trust, restricting certain property located off and near Bartlett Street, for conservation purposes; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTS

William Pantazis

- No report.

Fran Bakstran

- Announced that O'Briens will be holding their pre-holiday sale at the Saint Rose of Lima Church.
- Noted the recent resignation of Historical Commission Member Philip Gott.
- Announced that the Board of Health will hold a public hearing on December 10th to discuss new bylaws regarding private water wells.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Requested that the telephone numbers for the disposal of appliances such as television sets be updated on the Recycling Brochure. Noted that she was unsuccessful in reaching the businesses listed on the brochure. Added that Vin's TV on Route 9 in Shrewsbury will take single televisions for \$25.

Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- Attended the recent Spelling Bee sponsored by the Rotary Club. Thanked the Rotary Club for all the good causes that they support.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Thanked the spouses of the Board of Selectmen members who participated in the recent Spelling Bee.
- Noted the resignation of Richard Tucker from the Library Trustees. Requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to him on behalf of the Board.
- Noted the retirement of Lyman Maccabee from his position as custodian at the Northborough Free Library and the Senior Center.
- Requested that a discussion be scheduled on a future meeting agenda as to whether or not the Board wishes to move to a new toter-based solid waste removal system.
- Noted that Mr. Coderre has suggested that the Northborough "Working Group" meet to discuss the new compromise that has been proposed by the Regional School Committee regarding the reimbursement issue. He added that when the Northborough "Working Group" has agreed on what questions to ask of the Regional School Committee, and those questions have been answered, the "Working Group" can then meet with representatives from Southborough. He would like see this issue resolved before the close of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In response to Selectman Rutan's report on the recycling brochure, Chief Leahy noted that the Trinity Church is holding an Electronic Appliance Collection Day on December 6th from 9am-1pm, where electronic appliances can be dropped off for a fee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONT. . .

Also in response to a question from Selectman Rutan, Chief Leahy informed the Board that he and DPW Director Kara Buzanoski have been working together to improve the visibility of crosswalks throughout Town. They have erected a couple of new signs that are now being seen as three signs using the traditional pedestrian logo with both an arrow and the “yield to pedestrians” below it. These seem to be much more visible at night and in other low visibility conditions. This project continues to be a work in progress. Chief Leahy added that the manpower is being supplied by the DPW Department and that the signs have been purchased through the State Community Policing Grant.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY DEED #A62

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to transfer Cemetery Deed A692; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen