

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES - JANUARY 26, 2009**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Rand, Chairman  
Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman  
Fran Bakstran  
William Pantazis

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Leslie Rutan, Clerk

\*Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2009 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the January 12, 2009 Regular Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. - VERIZON – ADAM DeFILIPPO, JILL REDDISH  
& ELLEN CUMMINGS**  
Update on PEG Access Channels.

Adam DeFilippo, Jill Reddish and Ellen Cummings were present to provide an update on the status of the PEG Access Channels.

Town Administrator John Coderre informed the Verizon representatives that the Board of Selectmen and Town staff has received numerous complaints from residents that claim to have been told by Verizon employees that the PEG channels are currently available, when in fact they are not. This information has caused a significant amount of frustration for the residents who signed up for Verizon service. Mr. Coderre added that the Board of Selectmen was told at a public hearing with Verizon on July 21, 2008, that it would take two-to-three months to connect the PEG channels. He expressed his disappointment with the lack of communication from Verizon on this issue.

Ms. Cummings apologized for the delay in getting the PEG Access Channels up and running and assured the Board that customers would have this service within the next week. In the event that they encounter any problems, it would be no later than two weeks. She also informed the Board that the issue of false representation by Verizon employees will be corrected.

Following comments from members of the Board, including a request from Selectman Pantazis that Verizon customers receive a credit on their accounts for not having this service as promised, Mr. Coderre thanked the representatives of Verizon for coming here this evening. Mr. Coderre reiterated that based on the conversation this evening, he expects that Verizon will have the PEG Access Channels available to their customers within the next two weeks. If not, they can expect to be back before the Board at their February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**7:05 p.m. - BRENDON PROPERTIES – KEVIN GIBLIN**

Update on the Loop Project.

Kevin Giblin informed the Board that despite the economy, the Loop Project is moving forward. The site work is just about completed. He expects to have commitments with three major tenants by March of this year, which will guarantee that 512,000 of the total 625,000 square feet is committed. Restaurants will be the last component of the plan. He expects that the grand opening of the Loop project will take place in October 2010, with the single largest tenant, which he was not at liberty to reveal publicly, planning to open in February 2011.

A few comments were heard by members of the Board. The Board thanked Mr. Giblin for his update this evening.

**7:15 p.m. - FRED LITCHFIELD, TOWN ENGINEER**

Follow-up on Solid Waste Committee Report.

Mr. Litchfield presented his comments on the Solid Waste Committee Report that was presented to the Board on September 29, 2008. He addressed the Committee's suggestion to obtain proposals on a toter based solid waste collection system and a single stream recycling system prior to the end of the current contract for solid waste and recycling collection services. See attached for detailed information.

Following a few comments by members of the Board, Mr. Coderre laid out the critical timeline for making any changes to the solid waste collection system. He informed the Board that at about this time next year, this conversation will take place again with updated information based on the changing market.

Mr. Litchfield added that the current contract requires that the Town provide the contractor with a sixty day notice prior to the end of the contract, which would be May 1, 2010. He will plan to receive bids by February 1, 2010 in order to allow adequate time for proper review and a decision by the Board of Selectmen in April 2010.

Mr. Litchfield will continue to come before the Board with periodic updates.

**7:25 p.m. - HEARING**

To consider action against the Class II License issued to Heritage Auto Sales at 360 Southwest Cutoff pursuant to MGL, Chapter 140, Section 58 – Bonding Requirements.

Chairman Rand stated that this Public Hearing would be passed over due to the applicant having met the bonding requirements pursuant to MGL, Chapter 140, Section 58.

## REPORTS

### William Pantazis

- Received a number of complaints on a large bump in the road on Route 20 eastbound near Dunkin Donuts. Mr. Coderre stated that he will notify Mass Highway to see if this can be addressed in the Spring.
- Asked for and received clarification that the Downtown Traffic Redesign Project will include plans to update the opticom system, allowing public safety officials to control the lights for safe passage during an emergency.

### Fran Bakstran

- Noted that Selectman Rand and herself met with the four founding members of the Wind Committee. Noted that applications are being accepted through January 30<sup>th</sup> for the remaining three citizen openings.
- Announced that the Northborough Democratic Town Committee will be hosting a public forum where Lt. Governor Tim Murray will speak about the commuter rail in central Massachusetts. The event will take place on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Romaine's.

### Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Community Preservation Committee has begun to hear proposals for CPC funds from various individuals and/or groups. Another hearing will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>. All meetings are open to the public.
- Noted that the Police Department has received a total of \$62,300 in grant funding to be used for community policing, training and public safety.
- Noted that the Winter Ball will be held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at the White cliffs.

### Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Announced that the Friends of the Northborough Senior Center will be holding their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Spectacular event on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Whitney Place.

### John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Announced his recent appointment of Kimberly Hood as the Assistant Town Administrator.
- Reminded the Board that warrant articles are due to his office by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## WESTSIDE GRILL – AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICES

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the application from Westside Grill at 45 Belmont Street for three automatic amusement devices; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**ECONO LODGE – COMMON VICTUALLER & INNHOLDERS LICENSES**

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the applications from Econo Lodge at 380 Southwest Cutoff for a Common Victualler License and an Innholders License with the condition that carbon monoxide detectors be installed on or before June 30, 2009 per the “Order of Notice” dated December 8, 2008 from the Fire Chief; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**APPOINTMENT OF JUNE HUBBARD-WARD AS TAX TITLE CUSTODIAN**

Mr. Coderre requested that the Board appoint the Treasurer/Collector, June Hubbard-Ward, as the custodian of property acquired by foreclosure of tax titles. The purpose of this designation is to allow the Town to sell at public auction properties that have been acquired by foreclosure of tax titles.

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that the Town currently has two such properties: 38 King Street, which was previously authorized for surplus by Town Meeting; and 3 East Main Street which was just recently acquired.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to appoint Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward as the custodian of property acquired by foreclosure of tax titles; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that once proposals are received from auctioneers, it would be about a six week process to market and hold the auction. He hopes to surplus these parcels and receive the revenues during this fiscal year in order to help fund some of the mid-year cuts in State Aid for FY09.

**TRANSFER OF CEMETERY DEED A791**

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to transfer Cemetery Deed A791 as requested by the original owner of the Deed; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A798**

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A798; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Coderre shared his thoughts on the Governor’s recent speech regarding State Aid. He informed the Board that with what the Governor said and without further detailed information, he anticipates a FY09 mid-year cut in State Aid of about 9.4%, which amounts to \$135,000.

Mr. Coderre advised the Board that the Governor also spoke of a 7.1% decrease in State Aid for FY10. Considering these cuts, the Town should anticipate a total decrease in State Aid moving from FY09 to FY10 of at least \$233,000. He stressed that it will take an incredible effort to bring forth a budget for FY10 that will include the level of programs and services that the citizens of Northborough have come to expect. The

specific FY10 State Aid cuts will not be known until the Governor's budget is submitted on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen