

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 23, 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 – MARCH 9, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Regular Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion. Vote 3-0-1 (Chairman Rand abstained).

7:00 p.m. - **PUBLIC HEARING**

To consider the layout and acceptance of Galahad Road as a public way.

Town Engineer Fred Litchfield informed the Board that Galahad Road was constructed in accordance with the subdivision approval granted by the Planning Board on June 25, 2001. Access to this five (5) lot residential subdivision is off of Camelot Drive via North Street in Shrewsbury and West Street in Northborough.

There were no comments from members of the audience. The public hearing was closed.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the layout and acceptance of Galahad Road as a Public Way; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:10 p.m. - **PUBLIC HEARING**

To consider an application to transfer a Wine & Malt Package Store License from Michael DeChellis d/b/a C & J Beer & Wine to Reliance Beer & Wine, Inc. for premises located at 293 West Main Street.

Attorney Douglas Rowe was present along with the applicant Nakula Patel. Ms. Patel will be the owner and manager of record for Reliance Beer & Wine, Inc. She and her husband own and operate a 7-11 franchise in Marlborough. Although Ms. Patel does not have experience in the alcohol industry, she has managed their 7-11 franchise for the past 12 years. Ms. Patel and her husband are scheduled to attend an Alcohol Server Training Seminar sponsored by the Massachusetts Package Stores Association on March 24, 2009.

PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .

Mr. DeChellis was present in the audience and informed the Board that he has agreed to assist Ms. Patel during the transition process.

In answer to a question from Selectman Bakstran, Ms. Patel confirmed that the Reliance Beer & Wine package store will be her full-time responsibility.

There were no comments from members of the audience. The public hearing was closed.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the application to transfer a Wine & Malt Package Store License from Michael DeChellis d/b/a C & J Beer & Wine to Reliance Beer & Wine, Inc. on premises located at 293 West Main Street; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application for a One-Day Special License for the sale of Wine & Malt Beverages pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 138, Section 14, as submitted by Saint Bernadette's Church for premises located at 266 Main Street.

Alexis Fettig and Margaret Lellman were present to request a One Day Special License for the sale of Wine & Malt Beverages for a Late Nite Catechism Event. The event will be held in the Charbonneau Activity Center at the Church on Saturday, April 4, 2009.

The Fire Chief, Police Chief and Building Inspector have reviewed the application and all recommend approval.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the application for a One-Day Special License for the sale of Wine & Malt Beverages as submitted by St. Bernadette's Parish for Saturday, April 4, 2009 between the hours of 6:00-11:00 pm for premises located at 266 Main Street; and further that the license fee be waived; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:20 p.m. - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FY 2010 Proposed Budget**

Present for the Appropriations Committee were Chairman Elaine Kelly and members Richard Nieber, Robert D'Amico and Dan McInnis.

Chairman Kelly called the meeting of the Appropriations Committee to order.

Mr. Coderre made a presentation to the Board that included a brief update on the FY09 Budget; a review of the goals and assumptions for the FY10 Budget; a general overview of the key budget highlights for the FY10 Municipal Budget and a review of the proposed plan design changes to health insurance.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .

Following his presentation, Mr. Coderre reiterated that the budget presented this evening assumes the health insurance savings of \$400,000 for the proposed plan design changes, which are currently under negotiations with all municipal unions. He stressed the fact that if the plan design changes are not implemented, this amount will have to be cut from the Town and School K-8 Budgets. He is encouraged by the cooperation to date of the various unions and their willingness to consider these changes.

Mr. Coderre assured the Board that leading up to the Annual Town Meeting, he will continue to work on implementing the plan design changes in health insurance. He will also continue to identify potential cost savings and efficiencies, monitor key revenue sources (especially state aid), advocate for legislative priorities and continue to seek solutions that will preserve core municipal services.

Following some questions/comments from members of the Board, Mr. Coderre was commended for his efforts and for his presentation this evening.

Appropriations Committee Chair Elaine Kelly stated that the Appropriations Committee recognizes the concerted efforts of Mr. Coderre and his department heads, adding that Mr. Coderre is doing an excellent job keeping up with the ever changing numbers, especially in state aid.

Mr. Coderre noted that the strong partnership between Town staff and the community played an important role in being able to maintain our core mission and in keeping core services intact.

At 8:10 p.m., Appropriations Committee Member Robert D'Amico moved the Committee vote to adjourn; Member Dan McInnis seconded the motion; all members of the Appropriations Committee vote in favor.

8:10 p.m. - **JUNE HUBBARD-WARD, TREASURER/COLLECTOR**
AND KEN LOMBARDI, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
SPECIALIST FROM EBS FORAN

- Discussion of MGL 32B, Sections 18 & 18A.
- Vote on Senior Health Plan Cost Sharing.

The Town's Employee Benefits Specialist Ken Lombardi of EBS Foran made a presentation to the Board that included detailed information on Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 18 and its impact on retired employees if accepted. Section 18 would require that all Medicare eligible retirees enroll in Medicare and enroll in a senior plan.

Mr. Lombardi also presented information on the proposed plan to expand the menu of senior health plan options available to retirees by offering Fallon Senior Plan, Tufts Medicare Preferred HMO Prime and Tufts Medicare Complement, as well as MEDEX.

PRESENTATION CONT. . .

Following Mr. Lombardi's presentation, he recommended adoption of Section 18 as it would generate the most savings to both the Town and the retired employees. He also recommended that the Board establish a 70% town contribution toward the premium of the new HMO Senior Plans being offered to Medicare eligible retired employees effective July 1, 2009. Again, this cost-sharing method provides significant savings to both the Town and the retired employees.

Mr. Coderre wrapped up the presentation by reiterating that the recommendations made this evening are a critical piece to the Town's long-term approach to controlling the cost of our health insurance.

Several comments were heard from members of the Board.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to recommend the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 18; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to establish a 70% town contribution toward the premium of the HMO Senior Plans offered to Medicare eligible retired employees effective July 1, 2009; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTSWilliam Pantazis

- Noted the recent passing of Charles Clarke, a former Selectman and a former long-time member of the Fire Department.
- Attended the Rotary's Pancake Breakfast.
- Announced that Brown's TV is planning to re-open soon.

Fran Bakstran

- Attended the Library's grand opening. Thanked all who helped to raise funds for this project, especially Stacey Incorvaia.
- Noted that the community outreach and informational meetings on the proposed zoning bylaw changes continue. Next meeting will be held on March 26th at the Zeh School.

Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- Attended the Library's grand opening.
- Attended the Rotary's Pancake Breakfast.
- Reminded residents that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 27th.

Dawn Rand, Chairman

- Announced that a Tax Title Auction will be held on March 26th to sell town-owned properties located at 3 East Main Street and 38 King Street.
- Announced that the Annual Town Cleanup Date will be held on April 25th.
- Announced that Northborough was recently honored at the State House with the E-Government Award for making the workings of government more transparent by posting information online.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Noted that the MIS Department is working diligently to completely redesign the entire Town website. He is hopeful that this work will be completed by the end of the summer.
- On behalf of the Town Clerk, announced that March 28th is Passport Day in the USA. Notified the public that the Town Clerk's Office will be open from 9am to 12Noon on that day.
- Noted that he recently sent a letter to the Lt. Governor providing compiled information on the shovel-ready projects for which Northborough is seeking federal stimulus funding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVE/EXECUTE WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVE/EXECUTE WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute the Warrant for the Annual Town Election; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

SET MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MAY – AUGUST

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to set the meeting schedule for May through August as follows:

May 12th
June 8th & 22nd
July 20th
August 17th

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

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8:45 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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

9:05 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson 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