

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - April 13, 2009**

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

*Chairman Rand requested a moment of silence for Mark Fidyrich.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 23, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the March 23, 2009 Regular Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion. Vote 4-0-1 (Selectman Rutan abstained).

7:00 p.m. - **VIRGINIA SIMMS GEORGE & LOUISE HOULE –
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMM. & WOMAN'S CLUB**
Presentation on Town Clean-up Day.

Ms. Simms George acknowledged Ms. Houle was heading up the Clean-up Day again for the 24th year. This time it is on Saturday, April 25th from 8 a.m. – 12 Noon at the Melican Middle School on Lincoln Street. Ms. Houle indicated all volunteers need to sign in with her so maps and a specific area can be assigned. A cookout follows at Ellsworth McAfee Field on Rt. 135 from 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Last year, there were over 150 volunteers participating. She suggested volunteers can clean on Friday or Sunday if Saturday is not workable, but she needs to know so the bags can be picked up on Monday.

The Board thanked Ms. Houle for her many years of spearheading this event.

7:05 p.m. - **JUNE HUBBARD-WARD**
Approval/Execution of Bond Anticipation Notes.

Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward was present to request the Board's approval for the issuance of \$9,743,000 in 20 year Bonds which will be issued on May 1, 2009 to retire temporary Bond Anticipation Notes that will mature on that date. She was pleased to report that the Town retained Moody's Investors Service Aa3 bond rating. She noted the Bonds, with an average interest rate of 3.54%, include funds for the Library Construction Project, Sewer Construction and Water Enterprise projects.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the sale of the \$9,743,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2009 Bonds of the Town dated May 1, 2009 (the "Bonds"), to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. at the price of \$9,824,373.25 and accrued interest is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on May 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates as

TREASURER/COLLECTOR CONT...

indicated in the documents presented; Selectman Rutan seconded; all members voted in favor.

Ms. Hubbard-Ward also requested the Board's approval for the issuance of \$9,223,362 Bond Anticipation Notes which included borrowing authorization approved at the April 2006, 2007 and 2008 Annual Town Meetings. Borrowings were, in part, for the Senior Center Construction, 119 Colburn Street Remediation, and Town Water Wells. They will be issued on May 1, 2009 to mature on April 30, 2010 at a net interest cost of 0.5794%.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve the sale of a \$9,223,362 General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note of the Town dated May 1, 2009, and payable April 30, 2010 (the "Note"), to Jefferies & Company, Inc. at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$84,671.00; Selectman Amberson seconded; all members voted in favor.

Chairman Rand thanked Ms. Hubbard-Ward and Mr. Coderre for their efforts in retaining the bond rating for the Town and the municipality's fiscal stability.

Mr. Coderre referred to an article in the Board's packet on municipal bonds where Moody assigned a negative outlook to all municipalities for the first time. However, they were specifically interested in Northborough's approach regarding state aid cuts and reduction in health insurance costs. The Town's approach has paid off maintaining the stability of the Town and keeping the Town solvent.

7:20 p.m. – **COMMUNITY PRESERATION COMMITTEE**
JOHN CAMPBELL, CHAIRMAN
Presentation on Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

Mr. Campbell referred to a sheet with CPC Funding Recommendations for Town Meeting that the Board had received, noting the "highlights" which the CPC believes are good initiatives.

He noted the approved articles were divided between affordable housing, historical preservation and open space/recreation as they must be according to the Community Preservation Act. He made specific note of the needs analysis for professional help for the housing partnership, along with the preservation of the Town Hall building.

Selectman Amberson complimented the Committee on all the hard work behind the scenes and the countless hours put in.

Selectman Rutan asked if the Committee was stricter in enforcing the requests received, noting she did not find any unique problems. Mr. Campbell said the Committee felt everything fell into the guidelines, and reminded everyone that citizens are welcome to come to the meetings and tell the Committee how they think the money should be spent.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE CONT...

She inquired further if what the Committee had approved fit into what they thought or hoped they would receive. Selectman Rutan's preference was to see things approved that will last, and conforms to goals that are set.

Chairman Rand asked about the State's matching funds. Mr. Campbell indicated that matching funds will decline over the years. Towns who adopted a 3% surcharge on their property bills will receive higher matching funds than those with a lower percentage. Northborough has a 1.5% surcharge, and this year we received 65% matching funds instead of 100%. He noted that some funds can be left in uncommitted reserves (this year is \$100,000) as long as 10% of the funds is distributed into the three categories mentioned earlier.

7:35 p.m. - **ALLISON LANE, RECREATION DIRECTOR**
MICHELLE GILLESPIE, ROTARY CLUB
Update on the Status of Applefest.

John Coderre stated Allie Lane was sick and could not attend tonight, but stated that after last year's Applefest, fund raising posed significant problems. Applefest is funded by donations and not tax dollars, but donations were low. There were no fireworks last year, and there will likely be no fireworks this year. He expressed the need to reach out aggressively to the community. He didn't like the appearance of Town departments seeking donations, and besides that, they can't do it all themselves anymore, except in a general support role. He appreciated the willingness of the Rotary to help out, and the many links to other civic organizations they have. The Recreation Department would still be the primary department for coordinating the involvement of other departments.

Michelle Gillespie introduced other Rotarians that were present. She indicated the subject of Applefest was brought back to the board at which time it was discussed and decided that the Rotary would spearhead the event with other clubs and organizations. She and other members have been talking to people, such as the Friends of the Senior Center, Lions, Community Affairs, Northborough, Jr. Woman's Club, Garden Club and Knights of Columbus. They are all thinking of ways to assist and fundraise. During their meetings in May through August, she will talk to Kathy Joubert who spearheaded Applefest for many years, and Allie Lane to coordinate. The Rotary will also coordinate the streetfair. Their sponsor for Applefest this year will be Lowe's.

Chairman Rand was appreciative to the Rotary for taking on this event. Selectman Rutan said this will broaden how the community views Applefest and where volunteers are coming from. Selectman Bakstran asked who was on the new Applefest Committee. Ms. Gillespie indicated she had asked all the various groups to be on the Committee, and to come to 1 of the 4 meetings that will be held and share their knowledge and expertise.

Selectman Amberson expressed his support of the new approach, and hoped Applefest would now be better and bigger than ever.

APPLEFEST CONT...

Selectman Pantazis liked the approach of this being a community and civic endeavor. Selectman Rutan suggested all information be kept in a binder for future groups. Ms. Gillespie said she had a CD of everything, and again, could not compliment Kathy and Allie for everything they did in previous years.

REPORTSBill Pantazis

- No report.

Fran Bakstran

- Before the meeting, she and Chairman Rand interviewed two people for vacancies on two committees. Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to appoint Barbara Virgil to the Board of Library Trustees for a three-year term; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor. Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to appoint Matthew Turo for a three-year term as the CMRPC representative; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.
- Stated that the Wind Committee was meeting this coming Wednesday, the 15th at 7:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to Browns TV for their re-opening in the Northborough Shopping Plaza.
- The group, People Who Play With Pups, were having a “doggie awareness day” on Saturday, April 18th at 10 a.m. at Ellsworth McAfee field.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Asked Mr. Coderre about the commitment made by JJ's in December/January to submit a written report by March 31st. Mr. Coderre said he would follow up on that.
- Thanked Rick Leif and Kathy Joubert for the many community forums that were held on the proposed zoning bylaw.
- Noted the new Trails webpage on the Town's website, indicating Josh Richardson had done a lot of work on it. She asked Mr. Coderre about a new main page on the website. Mr. Coderre stated that the entire webpage is slated for a full redesign this summer.

Jeff Amberson, Vice Chairman

- This past Thursday, the 9th, he went to the 103rd birthday celebration of Rose Decoteau at Whitney Place. He said it was a great event with 4 generations there, as well as Senator Eldridge and Representative Naughton.
- Also noted the opening of Browns TV, and encouraged residents to come and see the old and new businesses there, including Dawn's School of Dance.
- Reminded residents of the Annual Town Meeting beginning on April 27th at the Algonquin Regional High School.
- Noted the Town Election on May 11th stating there were contested races.

REPORTS CONT...**Dawn Rand, Chairman**

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Stated the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the printed Annual Town Reports are available at Town Hall and the Library. The Warrant was previously made available on the Town webpage.
- Asked if the Board could agree by consensus to send a communication to the Regional School Committee to clarify their intentions with regard to Article 25. This was agreed by consensus.
- Indicated that the health insurance plan design has been approved by the K-8 teachers' union and the cafeteria union. Approximately 87% of the employees have agreed to the plan design, and he extended his appreciation to all the employees. He is cautiously optimistic the plan will be accepted by most employees. Chairman Rand thanked Mr. Coderre for all the work he has done on this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ASSIGNMENT OF TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Chairman Rand asked the members if they would be comfortable making motions at Town Meeting for the following articles:

- 1, 3 – Chairman Rand
- 2, 9 – Selectman Bakstran
- 10, 30, 42 – Selectman Amberson
- 19, 20, 21 – Selectman Rutan
- 26, 27, 43 – Selectman Pantazis

The Board was agreeable to the above.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to reappoint those individuals who appear on the "2009 Reappointment List" to the corresponding Boards, Committees and Commissions; Selectman Bakstran seconded; all members voted in favor. Selectman Rutan thanked all those individuals who want to remain involved and are happy to want to do it. The Board agreed.

REQUEST OF THE NORTHBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve the request of the Northborough Garden Club to hold their Annual Plant Sale on May 16, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon at the corner of Main and Blake Streets; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A-802, A-803 & A-804; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY DEED

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to transfer Cemetery Deed A-195 as requested by the original owner of the deed; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. J. Fredette, Executive Assistant
to the Board of Selectmen and
Town Administrator