

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 8, 2009**

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

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

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 26, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the May 26, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - **PUBLIC HEARING – Continued from May 26, 2009**

To consider an application to transfer the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License from Tom's Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place to ITS Enterprises, LLC for premises located at 4 West Main Street.

Attorney Michael Edmonds and applicant Joseph Seely were present. Mr. Seely informed the Board that he has been involved in numerous businesses over the past 40 years. This will be his first experience in the restaurant business. Attorney Edmonds added that he has scheduled JBS Professional Services to provide on-premise alcohol training for Mr. Seely and his entire wait staff, regardless of whether or not they are already TIPS certified.

Detective Sergeant Brian Griffin informed the Board that the background check on Mr. Seely came back fine. He did note that during the background investigation, a separate matter did come up, of which the Board is aware of. Mr. Seely added that because he recognizes that he has no experience in the liquor industry, he has also hired JBS Professional Services on a consulting basis to ensure that he and his wait staff are in full compliance with all related laws and regulations.

Selectman Amberson informed Mr. Seely for the record that that his lack of experience will never be accepted as an excuse for a violation of the law.

Mr. Seely informed the Board that he will be at the restaurant on a full-time basis. He does not anticipate making any changes to the current operation of the business.

Chairman Bakstran invited comments from members of the audience. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve the application to transfer the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant and related Licenses from Tom's Gourmet, Inc. d/b/a Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place to ITS Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place for premises located at 4 West Main Street with the following condition: That Mr. Seely schedule an on-premise alcohol training session within 30 days for himself and the entire wait staff at Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place, regardless of whether or not they are already TIPS certified; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:30 p.m. - **RICHARD NOVITCH**

Request to block off Samuel Gamwel Road on Saturday, June 27, 2009 from 11am - 8pm.

Richard Novitch of 34 Samuel Gamwel Road was present to request that the Board grant permission to block off Samuel Gamwel Road from #22 through #34 for a neighborhood block party on Saturday, June 27th. Mr. Novitch informed the Board that those neighbors who will be affected by the road closing have all expressed their support.

Chief Leahy noted that he has met with Mr. Novitch to discuss this request and recommended that the Board grant permission for the closing of Samuel Gamwel Road from #22 through #34 with the below-mentioned conditions. He added that the Fire Chief is in agreement with this recommendation.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to block off Samuel Gamwel Road from #22 through #34 with the following conditions as recommended by the Police Chief:

1. Block off Samuel Gamwel at Claflin Farm Lane and at Thaddeus Mason Road using the folding florescent yellow barricades from the Police Department.
2. Block off from #22 through #34 using a thick row of orange cones across the complete width of the roadway.

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

7:20 p.m. - **KARA BUZANOSKI, DPW DIRECTOR**

Presentation on DPW Operations.

Review FY09 Transfers Needed to Cover Deficit

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that on the expenditure side of the FY09 Municipal Budget, the Public Works Department was hit the hardest due to the extraordinary winter, which included the December 12th ice storm. In total, the winter conditions created an overall DPW Budget deficit of approximately \$210,768.

Mr. Coderre stated that the Appropriations Committee recently approved the transfer of \$75,000 from the FY09 Reserve Account to help off-set the Snow and Ice Budget deficit. He also spoke about the actions being taken to accommodate the general revenue shortfalls and the estimated \$135,768 remaining overage in the Snow and Ice Budget.

Review FY09 Transfers Cont. . .

Mr. Coderre stated that these actions included freezing all capital purchases and other discretionary expenditures, holding several positions vacant, surplusizing tax title properties, and aggressively seeking Federal FEMA Reimbursement for the December 12th ice storm.

Mr. Coderre added that the detail of the other transfers from the unexpended appropriations in other municipal departments will be taken up during a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Appropriations Committee at the Board's June 22nd meeting.

Review Water Division's Administrative Fee

DPW Director Kara Buzanoski responded to recent questions about the new \$50 administrative fee that was included on the most recent water bills. Please see attached memorandum to the Board from Ms. Buzanoski for further details.

Following some discussion, the Board agreed that some of the concerns might have been avoided if the DPW Department had taken steps to educate the public on the newly implemented administrative fee. The Board asked that Ms. Buzanoski place a notice on the Town's website and the local access channel explaining this fee. The Board also asked that they be notified of any future changes to the Water Bills.

Review Cemetery Issues/Concerns

DPW Director Kara Buzanoski responded to recent complaints about the care and maintenance of the cemetery. She first acknowledged the commitment, work ethic and patience of the DPW staff. She noted that the Highway/Parks Department staffing over the years has gone from a high of 20 members in the 80's, 15 members in the 90's and is now down to 8 heavy equipment operators.

Questions and comments were heard from members of the Board. Mr. Coderre reiterated that the Town as a whole is experiencing significant reductions in many key revenue sources, and as a result, the Town will undoubtedly continue to face more difficult decisions about where to spend its limited resources. The options to raise fees, reduce services or look to see if outsourcing is an affordable alternative will require some future discussions.

Also discussed was the use of volunteers to help with the cemetery maintenance during the summer months.

In response to Selectman Rutan's inquiry about updating the cemetery deed listings, Ms. Buzanoski informed the Board that an Eagle Scout, with the help of the DPW administrative staff, has started the project of transferring all of the old cemetery records to the computer.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following residents were present in the audience to express their concerns regarding the cemetery maintenance and the new administrative fee on the water bills.

Richard Kane – 17 Coolidge Circle
John Foreacre – 99 Pleasant Street
Millard Berryman – 24 Morse Circle
James Millar – 1 Maynard Street

REPORTSWilliam Pantazis

- Congratulated the graduating Class of 2009.

Jeff Amberson

- Attended the Relay for Life event at the high school sponsored by the American Cancer Society.
- Congratulated the graduating Class of 2009.
- Thanked Algonquin High School Principal Ned Gallagher for his many years of service and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Congratulated the graduating Class of 2009. Thanked Cable Access Director Kathy Dalglish for broadcasting the ceremony live over the cable access channel.
- Attended the Relay for Life event at the high school sponsored by the American Cancer Society.
- Noted that she has heard from some residents who had missed both the Annual Town Meeting and the Town Election. Requested that reminder notices be posted on the cable access channel and the Town website for important Town events. Selectman Amberson informed the Board that he had been approached by a Eagle Scout who may be interested in installing a sign board at an appropriate location to be used for Town purposes as his Eagle Scout project.
- Requested that the Town Planner provide an Economic Development update.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Announced that the dates for the Annual Applefest Celebration will be changed to September 25, 26 & 27, 2009. Those who wish to get involved with the planning of this annual event can contact Michelle Gillespie.
- Announced that the Annual Senior Center picnic will be held on June 16th at the Marlborough Fish & Game. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center.

Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A809 & A810

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A809 & A810; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen