

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 22, 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 – JUNE 8, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the June 8, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - **JOINT MEETING W/ APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**
FY09 Final Transfer Adjustments.

Present for the Appropriations Committee were Chairman Elaine Kelly and Members Richard Nieber, Dan McInnis and Robert D'Amico. Chairman Kelly called the Appropriations Committee meeting to order.

Mr. Coderre reviewed in detail his request for FY09 Year End Transfers. As discussed at the Board's last meeting, this request is sought solely to close the remaining deficit within the Snow & Ice Account. This request will eliminate the need to adversely affect the tax-rate next year by covering the Snow & Ice budget deficit within the current year appropriations. Mr. Coderre added that the ability to accomplish this is a result of actions taken early on and throughout FY09. These actions included freezing all capital purchases, limiting training and travel expenses, auctioning tax-foreclosure properties, holding several positions vacant and aggressively seeking grant funds.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to authorize the transfer of \$135,769 to the Snow & Ice Account from the following FY09 departmental appropriations, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 33b:

Administrator	\$2,970.00
Treasurer/Collector	\$2,000.00
MIS/GIS	\$6,810.00
Elections/Registration	\$5,000.00
Conservation	\$5,000.00
Police	\$20,987.00
Engineering	\$5,000.00
Cemetery	\$5,745.00
Library	\$21,556.00
Recreation	\$5,000.00
Parks	\$2,000.00
Debt Service	\$53,701.00

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

JOINT MEETING W/ APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONT. . .

Appropriations Committee Member Robert D'Amico moved the Committee vote to authorize the transfer of \$135,769 to the Snow & Ice Account from the following FY09 departmental appropriations, pursuant to MGL, Chapter 44, Section 33b:

Administrator	\$2,970.00
Treasurer/Collector	\$2,000.00
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Recreation	\$5,000.00
Parks	\$2,000.00
Debt Service	\$53,701.00

Appropriations Committee Member Dan McInnis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Appropriations Committee Member Robert D'Amico moved the Appropriations Committee vote to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Nieber; all members voted in favor.

7:10 p.m. - **KATHY JOUBERT, TOWN PLANNER**
Economic Development Update.

Town Planner Kathy Joubert provided the Board with an update on community development activity for industrial/commercial and residential projects. See attached memorandum for detailed information.

Selectman Rand indicated that she received calls from residents in the neighborhood of National Grid expressing concern about the plans for "restricted access" to the facility. Their concerns included questions about how security in that area will be handled and what type of fencing will have to be installed. Selectman Rand suggested that the Town conduct some public outreach to provide this information and provide an opportunity for the residents in that neighborhood to be heard. Several questions and comments from other members of the Board followed.

Ms. Joubert announced that an Open Space and Recreation Survey is now on the Town website. The survey is being conducted by an automated service known as Survey Monkey. She added that this survey is part of the public participation process in the Open Space Committee's effort to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Survey responses can be completed through June 30th.

REPORTS

William Pantazis

- Requested information on the recent clearing of the hill above the DPW Garage. Ms. Buzanoski informed the Board that the Town received funding at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting to remove the existing gas and diesel fuel tanks from underground. The tanks are over 25 years old and are well past their useful life. The plan is to place them aboveground in the area of the hill.
- Requested an update on the status of the downtown signal improvement project on Route 20. Mr. Coderre informed the Board that he will be asking the Board to send a letter to the CMRPC urging their support and asking them to advocate for the project. He added that he will schedule the Town Engineer on a future meeting agenda to provide an update on where the project stands.

Jeff Amberson

- Requested an update on the status of our request for stimulus funding for the clean-up project on Colburn Street. Mr. Coderre stated that he does not have anything to report on the funding for either that particular project or any of the other projects that the Town had submitted for. He informed the Board that funding will be forthcoming for the Marlborough westerly sewer treatment plant, which will benefit Northborough due to our plans to cost-share that project.
- Announced that the Cultural Council currently has vacancies.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Confirmed with the DPW Director that residents should contact the DPW Department if they notice areas and/or intersections that need to be cleared of overgrown bushes.
- Congratulated the Northborough Police Department on their recent drug bust and subsequent arrests, especially Detective Sergeant Griffin and Detectives Maffioli and Noel, all of whom worked with the Blackstone Valley Narcotics Task Force, Shrewsbury Canine and the State Police.
- Announced that a group known as the Northborough Moms and Tots will sponsor a School Supply Drive to benefit next year's students at the elementary schools. Deadline to donate school supplies is July 17th. Contact Liz Nolan for donation information.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Reminded residents that the Board will meet during the summer months on July 20 and August 17.
- Questioned what the next step will be relative to the Algonquin High School Reimbursement issue? Mr. Coderre suggested that the Board send a letter to the Regional School Committee requesting that the Board of Selectmen be scheduled to attend the September Regional School Committee meeting to discuss this issue.

Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- Encouraged residents to share their public comments, adding that this can be done by attending a Selectmen's Meeting, a phone call or by email.
- Noted her receipt of an email from a resident requesting that the Selectmen's Policy on snow and ice removal from sidewalks be discussed to ascertain whether or not the town can legally enforce the bylaw and fine those residents who do not comply.
- Announced that the Northborough Community Affairs Committee will kick off their summer concert series at the Ellsworth-MacAfee Park on July 9th with a performance by the Chicken Slacks.
- Announced that the Governor will speak on the topic of Civic Engagement at the Dean Park Band Stand in Shrewsbury on July 8th.
- Reminded residents that the dates for Applefest have been changed to September 25, 26 & 27. Encouraged community non-profit and social groups to participate in the Street Fair. Call Michelle Gillespie for more information.
- Announced that Applefest Grand Marshall nominations are being accepted through July 24th.
- Reminded residents that Verizon has four years from the beginning date of their contract to make their services available to all town residents.
- Suggested that the Board send a letter to the Governor regarding state aid amounts for FY10. Encouraged residents to forward their comments and/or concerns about the budget to the Governor as well.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Requested that the Board send a letter to the CMRPC requesting their support and asking them to advocate for the signal improvement project on Route 20 at Church Street, South Street and Hudson Street. The Board agreed.
- Informed the Board that the FEMA reimbursement forms have been completed for the December 12th ice storm. Any potentially eligible expenditure has been submitted. Noted that the Fire Chief worked with the Police and DPW Departments to compile the information and worked diligently to complete the reimbursement request.
- Reminded the Board of the ongoing efforts to completely redesign the Town website. Noted that the design phase has been completed and the information is being added by all of the individual departments. The website redesign should be completed by late summer, at which time it will be introduced to the Board. In the meantime, he asked that members of the Board forward any comments or suggestions to his office. Selectman Rutan asked if it would be possible to have meetings streamed live over the internet.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPOINTMENT OF LICENSING AGENT

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Detective Sergeant Brian Griffin to act as the Board’s Licensing Agent in inspecting and enforcing alcohol laws at liquor establishments and to ascertain the manner in which liquor licenses are conducting their business; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REAPPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT DIRECTOR, BURIAL/VETERANS AGENT

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to reappoint Richard Perron to serve as the Town’s Burial Agent and Veterans Agent [MGL, Chapter 115, Sections 3, 7 & 9], as well as the District Director for the Towns of Northborough, Shrewsbury and Grafton for a one-year term; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REAPPOINTMENT OF CULTURAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to reappoint Mirek Kocandrle to the Cultural Council for a three-year term; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A811

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A811; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

8:10 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 Rand seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

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

8:30 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson 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