

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 28, 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 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the September 14, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 SPECIAL MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the September 16, 2009 Special Meeting as presented; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

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

To consider an application to transfer the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for premises located at 290 West Main Street, Unit #11 from Rhim Companies, Inc. d/b/a Korean BBQ Kitchen to Marc Turo d/b/a Bistro Limoncello.

Marc Turo was present along with Attorney Michael Edmonds. Mr. Turo informed the Board that he has worked in the restaurant business for over 25 years. He has served as manager at several family-owned restaurants in Worcester, including Leo's Restaurant, Goodfella's Martini Bar and the Pearl Oyster Bistro. Mr. Turo stated that it is his intent to run a small family-style, Italian restaurant.

Sergeant Detective Brian Griffin recommended that the Board approve the application with the condition that Mr. Turo and his staff at the Bistro Limoncello attend a Board approved alcohol certification program. Mr. Turo responded that he already has a scheduled date to receive training.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the application to transfer the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License from Rhim Companies, Inc. d/b/a Korean-BBQ Kitchen to Marc Turo d/b/a Bistro Limoncello for premises located at 290 West Main Street, Unit #11 with the condition that Mr. Turo and his staff attend a Board approved alcohol certification program; and to further vote that the transfer of this license will not be detrimental to the educational and spiritual activities of St. Rose of Lima Church located at 244 West Main Street; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:03 p.m. - **MARC TURO – BISTRO LIMONCELLO**
To consider an application as submitted by Marc Turo for a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment License for premises located at 290 West Main Street, Unit #11.

Attorney Edmonds informed the Board that in addition to the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License, Mr. Turo has applied for the standard Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve the application for a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment License as submitted by Marc Turo d/b/a Bistro Limoncello for premises located at 290 West Main Street, Unit #11; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:05 p.m. - **PUBLIC HEARING**
Set Fees for Plowing/Sanding Private Ways.

DPW Director Kara Buzanoski proposed that the base charge for plowing and sanding/salting of private ways and unaccepted streets which are 100% complete be increased approximately 3.3% from last year to cover the increased costs of labor, equipment maintenance, sand, salt and other materials, and diesel and gasoline fuel.

Residents of the private ways that received plowing and sanding/salting services during the last Winter Season were notified of tonight's public hearing to increase the fees. None were present.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to set fees for the 2009-2010 Winter Season for services to private ways and unaccepted streets which are 100% complete at the following rates:

Streets less than 3,000 feet in length - \$155 per storm for snow plowing
- \$155 per storm for sanding and salting

Streets 3,000 feet or greater in length - \$310 per storm for snow plowing
- \$310 per storm for sanding and salting

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

7:10 p.m. - **JUNE HUBBARD-WARD, TREASURER/COLLECTOR**
Presentation on GASB 45 Report Findings.

Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward reminded the Board that under the requirements of GASB 45, the Town was required to conduct an actuarial study to determine the cost for post employment benefits, including the cost of medical and life insurance for retirees. The draft GASB 45 study was presented to the Board in February of 2009. The results of this study indicated that the estimated accrued liability for the Town's active and retired employees was significantly higher than that of comparable municipalities.

Presentation of GASB 45 Report Findings Cont...

Ms. Hubbard-Ward noted that the following changes were implemented to address the GASB 45 liability:

- Successful adoption of Chapter 32B, Section 18 at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.
- Expansion of the current plans offered to retired employees over the age of 65 to include two new senior plan HMO's.
- The Board of Selectmen established a 70% Town / 30% retiree cost share for HMO senior plans.

In closing, both Ms. Hubbard-Ward and Mr. Coderre noted that the above-mentioned changes were welcomed by many of the retirees, who opted to voluntarily enroll in the new senior plans. As a result of these actions, the GASB 45 study has been revised and the Town's actuarial accrued liability has been greatly reduced from \$90.4 million to \$34.3 million, placing us in a comparable position with other communities. Looking forward, it is anticipated that \$200,000 will be saved, helping to reduce the impact of the Town's overall health insurance budget in FY11.

7:20 p.m. - **PAUL MATTHEWS, 495 PARTNERSHIP**
Discussion on Westborough State Hospital Property.

Town Planner Kathy Joubert introduced Paul Matthews, Executive Director of the 495/MetroWest Partnership. Mr. Matthews spoke about the efforts of the 495/MetroWest Partnership. He also reviewed the timeline of events leading up to tonight's discussion on the forthcoming closing and surplus of the Westborough State Hospital. This surplus will represent a unique opportunity for the communities of Northborough and Westborough, the 495/MetroWest Partnership and the various State agencies to work together for the redevelopment of approximately 700 acres of land strategically located between Routes 9 and 20 and within 3 miles from Interstate 495.

Following Mr. Matthews presentation, several questions and comments were heard from members of the Board. Mr. Coderre reiterated that right now the key is to focus on getting a logical and systematic process in place by which future discussions can be formalized.

REPORTS

William Pantazis

- Attended the Applefest celebration. Congratulated everyone who helped organize the event, especially the Rotary Club.
- Questioned if homeowners are required to post street numbers on their house? Fire Chief Durgin stated that by law street numbers should be posted on all buildings. Selectman Pantazis suggested that this information be posted on the Town website.

Jeff Amberson

- Attended the Applefest celebration. Congratulated the Rotary Club and thanked the Town Departments who worked during the event, especially the DPW Department.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Suggested that a project to develop a list of all buildings in need of house numbers would be a great idea for the local Boy Scouts.
- Attended the Applefest celebration. Thanked Lowe's Market for their large sponsorship and the Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the road race. Also thanked the DPW, Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in helping with the event. Offered her congratulations to Grand Marshall Pat Griffin.
- Noted that the Senior Center looks great.
- Commented that the notice on cable providing an update on Verizon FiOS is very helpful.
- Announced that the Northborough Mom & Tots Group is sponsoring a Winter Coat Drive. Drop-off locations are located at the Town Hall and the Library.
- Attended the Genzyme mobilization event.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Attended the Applefest celebration. Congratulated the Rotary Club and Michelle Gillespie for such a smooth transition in taking over the coordination of the event. Congratulated Grand Marshall Pat Griffin. Complimented Dick Perron for successfully coordinating the parade. Also spoke about being a judge for the Apple Bake Off and the Northborough Has Talent events. Especially thanked Michelle Gillespie for the amazing amount of work that she put into the event.
- Attended the recent meeting of the Regional School Committee to discuss the reimbursement issue. Noted that she was disheartened when the Chair indicated that the issue would be taken up at some point during the next year. She is frustrated because this issue is now six years old. She noted her support of the follow up letter sent by Chairman Bakstran requesting that the matter be taken up at the Committee's next meeting.
- Noted that the grand opening of the new senior center is coming up in the very near future.

Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- Attended the Applefest celebration. On behalf of Michelle Gillespie, thanked the hundreds of volunteers who helped with the Applefest event. Added that donations are accepted year-round. In response to an inquiry from Selectman Rutan, thanked publicly all those who provided financial donations for the event.
- On behalf of the Wind Turbine Committee, requested that the Board issue a press release to the local papers and post on the Town website the Statement of Facts previously distributed to the Board at their last meeting. The Board agreed.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Attended the Applefest celebration. Noted that all of the costs associated with the Town Departments working at the event were funded through financial donations to the Applefest Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DESIGNATION OF TOWN LIAISON TO THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Mr. Coderre advised the Board that recent legislation has made important changes to the State's Conflict of Interest Law. Among the changes is a requirement that the Board designate a Town Liaison to the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Coderre recommended that the Board designate the Town Clerk's position to act as the Town's liaison.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to designate Town Clerk Andrew Dowd as the Town liaison to the State Ethics Commission; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

DISCUSSION OF GFOA - DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD PROGRAM AND DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL POLICIES

Mr. Coderre provided a brief presentation regarding the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Award Program. This Award Program represents the highest honor a public entity can receive for its budget presentation. He informed the Board that he is working with Town staff to bring the Town's budget into conformance with the best practices required under this program.

Mr. Coderre stated that one of the mandatory criteria that the Town must meet is to adopt a set of Comprehensive Financial Policies. He informed the Board of his intent to bring these draft policies before the Board at an upcoming meeting. The draft policies will be reviewed by the Appropriations and Financial Planning Committees as well.

Board members commended Mr. Coderre and his staff for taking the initiative to draft these policies under this distinguished program.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A820, A821, A822 & A823

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deeds A820, A821, A822 & A823; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Amberson 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