

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2010**

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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 – JANUARY 11, 2010 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. - ITS ENTERPRISES, LLC - Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place**

To receive an update on the implementation of the proposed business plan as discussed at the December 21, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that Mr. Seely has indicated that he has not been able to open the restaurant for business. He will not pursue any further use of the license and submitted a letter to the Board indicating same.

Attorney Patrick Moynihan and Katherine Kwan were present on behalf of the landlord of 4 West Main Street. Attorney Moynihan stated that there are six potential tenants who have expressed an interest in the license. He informed the Board of their plans to work with the interested parties in order to bring forward a good quality tenant to apply for the license in the near future.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to acknowledge for the record the receipt of a letter dated January 21, 2010 addressed to the Board of Selectmen from Federick J. Seely, Jr. whereby Mr. Seely fully surrenders the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for ITS Enterprises, LLC d/b/a Tom's Eatin' & Drinkin' Place for premises located at 4 West Main Street; and further that the license be made available to the public for re-issuance; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:10 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING WITH BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

**Continued from January 11, 2010 Meeting**

For the purpose of discussing the valuation of each class of property; the minimum residential factor and the allocation of the tax burden among the four classes of real property: residential; open space, commercial and industrial, and of personal property.

**PUBLIC HEARING WITH BOARD OF ASSESSORS CONT. . .**

Mr. Coderre stated that this is a continuation of the Public Hearing held on January 11, 2010. He informed the Board that the State's final Certification of Values has been received and that we can now move forward with setting the tax rate.

Following a brief presentation by Principal Assessor Diane O'Connor and Treasurer/Collector June Hubbard-Ward, the Board was informed that the tax bills will be mailed out on January 27<sup>th</sup> with a due date of February 26<sup>th</sup>. Abatement applications will be due by February 26<sup>th</sup> as well.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to close the Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors for the purpose of discussing the valuation of each class of property; the minimum residential factor and the allocation of the tax burden among the four classes of real property: residential; open space, commercial and industrial, and of personal property; and to confirm the following motions made at the January 11, 2010 Board Meeting, which were contingent on the State's Preliminary Certification of Values, which has now been received; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

- ❑ Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to maintain a uniform tax rate for all classes of property at a factor of one; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.
- ❑ Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to oppose the implementation of a residential exemption; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.
- ❑ Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to oppose the implementation of a small commercial exemption; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:15 p.m. WIND TURBINE COMMITTEE**

Acceptance of MTC Grant for Wind Turbine Study.

Wind Turbine Committee Member Richard Jones provided an update on the recent efforts of the Wind Turbine Committee (WTC). Following his presentation, Mr. Jones announced the approval of the Town's grant application for a feasibility study in the amount of \$85,000.

Members of the Board praised the members of the Wind Committee for their accomplishments thus far.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the acceptance of the Wind Turbine Grant Funds from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A for the purpose of expending said monies to conduct a study of renewable energy sources and to authorize the Town

Administrator to execute same; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:15 p.m. SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Report and recommendations on the Solid Waste Program.

Following a brief introduction by Chairman Bakstran, Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Member Scott Mahoney presented the Committee's options and recommendation for the future funding structure of the Town's Solid Waste Program.

In summary, after an extensive review and evaluation of the current Solid Waste Program, the SWAC recommended a new funding structure that would introduce a flat fee to cover the fixed costs of the collection contract and reduced bag fees to cover the disposal costs. The various options that were explored and considered by the SWAC are detailed below:

1. \$75 flat fee/year + \$1.50 and \$3.00 bags
2. \$120 flat fee/year + \$1.00 and \$2.00 bags
3. \$165 flat fee/year + \$.50 and \$1.00 bags
4. \$208 flat fee/year + no bags

Mr. Mahoney advised the Board that the SWAC recommends Option #3 for Fiscal Year 2011 – the introduction of a \$165 flat fee per year + \$.50 and \$1.00 bags. The SWAC believes that this is the most equitable option in that the flat fee will cover the fixed costs and that the bag fees will cover the variable costs and encourage continued recycling.

In summary, the discussion that followed focused on the concern that without the need for bags under Option #4, there would be no incentive to recycle, thereby increasing the trash tonnage and raising the flat fee in future years. Option #3 would allow the program to support itself despite the variable amount of how much trash is generated. Option #4 would address only the financial piece of the program, while Option #3 would address both the financial and environmental goals of the program.

Mr. Coderre added that based on the financial policies recently adopted by the Board, if the Solid Waste Program is financially structured as an enterprise fund, it should be fully self-funded as such. If it is not possible to do so, then the financial structure of the program needs to be changed. He added that this is a policy decision that must be made by the Board. He stressed the importance of making their decision understandable to the public and offering assurance that the process will be transparent. If the Board decides to fund the program through an Enterprise Fund, it must be self-sufficient and fully funded. On the other hand, if the Board chooses to continue to subsidize the program through the General Fund, they need to be explicit about their plan to do so at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting.

The Board agreed to continue this discussion to the Board's February 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting, at which time a policy decision will be made by the Board.

## REPORTS

### William Pantazis

- Acknowledged the high turnout in last week's election.
- Noted his concern with the traffic lights at Davis Street and Route 20. The turn signal going westbound on Route 20 is green at the same time that the eastbound light is green. He requested that this be reviewed.
- Noted his concern with parking along the northbound lane of Route 135 as you approach the traffic light on Route 20. Lieutenant Bill Lyver confirmed that on-street parking is not allowed on either side of Route 135 during a snow storm. Otherwise, parking is allowed along the northbound lane only.

### Jeff Amberson

- Thanked the Town Clerk's Office, as well as the poll workers for their efforts during the recent election.
- Noted that the Winter Ball is Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at the White Cliff's.

### Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Thanked Fire Chief Durgin for his quarterly report.
- Noted that the Naming Subcommittee will reconvene in February.
- Announced that residents can now view replays of the Selectmen's Meetings on the Town website.
- Questioned whether the residents in the Indian Meadow area are still having problems with power outages? Mr. Coderre responded that he has not heard of any further complaints.

### Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Announced that the Friends of the Senior Center will sponsor their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Spectacular at Whitney Place on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00–6:00 pm.

### Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- No report.

### John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Announced that an H1N1 flu clinic will be held at the Melican Middle School on January 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm. All are welcome.
- Noted that the Snow & Ice Budget for FY10 was \$177,860. The current balance is about \$21,000.
- Attended the Annual Conference of the Mass Municipal Association.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Three residents in the audience spoke about the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's recommendation for the future funding of the Solid Waste Program. One recommended neighbors sharing a tote. The other two spoke in favor of Option #3.

**RENEWAL OF AUDIT CONTRACT**

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that the new audit proposal provides continuation of audit services for fiscal years 2010 – 2012 at a modest 3% annual fee increased from the current fee level of \$22,000. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Coderre assured the Board that the fee is both fair and comparable to what other communities are paying.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to approve the contract for audit services between Bill Fraher, CPA and the Town of Northborough for fiscal years 2010 – 2012, and that the Town Administrator be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board of Selectmen; Selectman Rutan 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 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen