

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 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 25, 2010 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:00 p.m. - RICHARD PERRON – VETERANS' AGENT  
GERARD BOURQUE AND JOSEPH DRUMMOND –  
AMERICAN LEGION**

Request to Change Route of the Annual Memorial Day Parade.

Veterans' Agent Richard Perron introduced Gerard Bourque and Joseph Drummond of the American Legion. Mr. Bourque reviewed the proposed new timeframe and route of the Annual Memorial Day Parade. For the record, the Police Chief and Fire Chief submitted memos to the Board supporting the newly proposed timeframe and route.

The Board discussed the change for the timing of the parade and its effect on the ability to secure the Algonquin Marching Band. Selectman Rutan noted her concern with the time change and read aloud an email from Band Director Tammy Collins, in which Ms. Collins indicates that the proposed time change conflicts with the Band's long-standing commitment to participate in the Southborough parade. Selectman Pantazis expressed concern about supporting the time change if it means not being able to secure the Marching Band.

A discussion ensued focusing on the meaning of the Memorial Day Events and the proper way in which to honor our Veterans. In response to questions from participants in the audience, Chairman Bakstran stated for the record that the proposed changes being considered this evening were not brought forward at the direction of the Board of Selectmen. She further clarified that the Board is being asked this evening to approve the change in time and the route of the parade. It is still the responsibility of the American Legion to conduct the parade in the manner that they see fit.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the new time format and route change for the Annual Memorial Day Parade as presented; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion. Vote 3-2-0 (Selectmen Pantazis and Rutan opposed).

## **7:45 p.m. - DISCUSSION OF SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following a brief introduction by Chairman Bakstran, the Board agreed to discuss the SWAC's options to enable the Enterprise Fund for the Town's Solid Waste Program to be financially self-sufficient.

A lengthy discussion followed, focusing on whether the program should be funded based on the two-tiered fee structure consisting of a flat fee plus the cost of bags versus a fee structure that includes a flat fee only. The impact of each option was debated amongst members of the Board, followed by a couple of comments from the audience. In summary, Board Members agreed that the Town's Solid Waste Program should be self-sustaining and should no longer be subsidized by property tax revenue.

By agreement, the Board directed Mr. Coderre to put forth an operating budget that does not include a subsidy for the Solid Waste Program. The Board also asked Mr. Coderre to bring forth to a subsequent meeting, more detailed figures for Option #1 (the lowest possible flat fee + \$1.50 and \$3.00 bags) and Option #4 (flat fee + no bags).

Chairman Bakstran also asked Mr. Coderre to provide information on the categories of eligibility that should be considered for either a waiver or a reduction, in the case that such waivers may be implemented as part of the proposed changes.

## **REPORTS**

### William Pantazis

- No report.

### Jeff Amberson

- Attended the Winter Ball and thanked everyone who helped organize the event.
- Attended the Chocolate Spectacular and thanked those who organized the event.

### Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Noted that the School Department will be adding information to the school website in the form of a link that will connect the School Department information to the Annual Reports section in both the Towns of Northborough and Southborough.
- Noted that she has asked the Senior Center Director to include notices about Algonquin events in the Senior newsletter.
- Attended the Chocolate Spectacular. Thanked Whitney Place and the Friends of the Senior Center.
- Congratulated the Algonquin Gymnastics Team for being the undefeated League Champions.
- Noted that the Naming Subcommittee will be meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Breakfast with the Legislators at the Library. Representative Naughton and Senator Eldridge were both in attendance. Thanked Library Director Jean Langlely, the Library Board of Trustees and the Friends of the Library for coordinating the event.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Thanked Building Inspector Bill Farnsworth for following up on her concern with the number of signs being posted throughout Town.

Fran Bakstran, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Adele Beatty of 23 Shadylane suggested that information about the Memorial Day Parade be posted on the Town website in an attempt to get more people to attend.

**ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT - CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE PROGRAM**

Assistant Town Administrator Kim Hood informed the Board that the Clean Energy Choice Grant program awarded funds to communities in proportion to the voluntary premiums paid by their residents and businesses opting to purchase energy from clean sources. The program specified that communities must use the grant funds to purchase goods and services related to renewable energy from a pre-approved list.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the acceptance of the Clean Energy Choice Grant Funding in the amount of \$20,493 pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53A; and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute same; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Mr. Coderre presented the Board with the draft legislative priorities letter for their review. He informed the Board that this was a collaborative effort involving department heads, as well as the various boards, committees and commissions. All were asked to provide their input on what they thought should be the Town's legislative priorities.

Mr. Coderre stated that the letter includes the Town's position on various State mandates and/or regulations that we would like to see changed in order to provide additional relief to the Town. These include amendments that would save the Town money, facilitate raising additional revenues such as updated fees, and provide additional flexibility for the Town to manage its own affairs.

Mr. Coderre reviewed the top six legislative priorities as listed below:

1. Greater Control over Health Insurance
2. Pension Funding Relief
3. Refrain from Imposing Unfunded Mandates on Municipalities
4. Modernize Procurement and Public Construction Laws
5. Impact/Mitigation Fees
6. Restore Circuit-Breaker Funding

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CONT...**

Following a brief review of some additional secondary priorities, the Board thanked Mr. Coderre for his efforts in this regard.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to authorize Chairman Bakstran to finalize the draft Legislative Priorities letter and to invite our State Legislative Delegation to an upcoming Selectmen's Meeting; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A830**

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A830; Selectman Rand 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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen