

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – January 28, 2013**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Pantazis, Chairman  
Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman  
Jeff Amberson, Clerk  
Dawn Rand  
Aaron Hutchins

\*Pledge of Allegiance

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2013 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the January 14, 2013 regular meeting as submitted, Selectman Amberson seconded the motion. Motion: 4-0-1 (Selectman Rutan abstained).

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

To consider an application to Transfer the All Alcoholic Package Store License from JRB, Inc. d/b/a Northboro Liquors to New England Liquor Retails, LLC for premises located at 15 West Main Street.

Lori Jacobson from George & Company was present along with Gursharan and Harsimrit Dhaliwal. Mr. and Mrs. Dhaliwal informed the Board that they have over six years of experience in the operations and management of convenience stores, a gas station and an auto repair business. Mr. Dhaliwal has several years of experience in financial management. Mrs. Dhaliwal will serve as Manager and will handle the daily store operations.

Detective Sergeant Brian Griffin has conducted a background check and has no concerns to report.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the application to transfer the All Alcoholic Package Store License from JRB, Inc. d/b/a Northborough Liquors to New England Liquor Retails, LLC d/b/a Northborough Liquors for premises located at 15 West Main Street; and further that the Board has determined that this license transfer will not be detrimental to the educational and spiritual activities of the Trinity Church located at 23 Main Street; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:05 p.m. - MARK LEAHY, POLICE CHIEF**

Introduction of Police Officers Michael Bisset and Joseph Donahue.

Chief Leahy introduced Michael Bisset and Joseph Donahue. Mr. Bisset and Mr. Donahue were appointed by the Board as full-time Police Officers effective January 16, 2013.

**INTRODUCTION OF POLICE OFFICERS CONT. . .**

Michael Bisset is a life-long resident of Northborough. He attended local schools and graduated from Algonquin High School in 2007. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in History, Society and Culture, Cum Laude, from Colby-Sawyer College, graduating in May, 2011. He has served as an Assistant Coach of the girl's track and field team at Algonquin and previously worked at the Northborough Library as an Adult Page.

Joseph Donahue is a lifelong resident of Shrewsbury. He graduated from St. John's High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Geological Studies from Brown University, graduating in May, 2007. He served as the freshman coach of the Brown University Men's Crew Team. Mr. Donahue comes from a law enforcement family and is an accomplished rower and triathlete.

**REPORTS**Aaron Hutchins

- No report.

Dawn Rand

- No report.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Announced that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 22, 2013 at 7:30pm.

Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Interview Committee interviewed an applicant for the Community Affairs Committee. See below for appointment.
- Noted that the Northborough Food Pantry is currently helping out about 75 families, including five families currently housed at the Econo Lodge Motel. Help was also provided during the holidays. Noted that the State is planning to eliminate the program which puts up homeless families in local hotels, within the next 18 months.
- Provided an update on the recent efforts of the Lincoln Street School Building Committee.
- Requested clarification on the travel and turn lanes when heading east on Route 20 approaching the Route 135 intersection – near Patty Lane. Chief Leahy responded that the completed project in this area is designed to have three lanes versus the two lanes that are there now. The additional lane, which will eliminate the confusion, cannot be added until the utility companies address the issues with the poles.
- Announced several upcoming events at Algonquin High School.
- Highlighted several details as noted in the Fire Chief's quarterly report.

William Pantazis, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

**APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to appoint JoAnne Gorham to the Community Affairs Committee for a partial two-year term; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**UPDATE ON FY 2014 STATE AID**

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that according to the most recent information, it looks as if Local Aid to Northborough will be level funded. He reminded the Board that it is the net effect of the aid and assessments that determines if Northborough is better off compared to the previous fiscal year. Mr. Coderre added that it looks like the balance of the Local Aid Accounts will be level funded as well. Lastly, the Governor's figures include several new taxes that the legislation is unlikely to approve.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT FY 2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Mr. Coderre presented the Board with the draft legislative priorities letter for their review. The goal of preparing this letter is to provide the Town's State Legislative Delegation with clear direction regarding its priorities prior to their attendance at a future meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

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 two legislative priorities: Restore Circuit-Breaker Funding to the State's Special Education Reimbursement Program; and the Reauthorization of Chapter 90 Funds. In addition to the top two priorities, a number of secondary priorities were included as well.

Selectman Amberson questioned the outcome of past priorities, including whether or not any members of our legislative delegation supported them. Mr. Coderre responded by saying that some progress has been seen in the following initiatives:

1. New Health Insurance legislation.
2. Changes that now allow Community Preservation Committee funds to be used on existing recreation facilities.
3. Pension reform.
4. Support for Reauthorization of Chapter 90 Funds.

Selectman Hutchins moved the Board vote to authorize the Chair and the Town Administrator to finalize the draft Legislative Priorities letter and to invite our State Legislative Delegation to an upcoming Selectmen's Meeting; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL TOWN REPORT**

Mr. Coderre announced that at the Award Ceremony at the MMA's Annual Meeting and Trade Show, the Town was presented with a Second Place Award Certificate in Category 1 (population 12,500 and up) of the MMA's Annual Town Report Contest.

Mr. Coderre stated that the goal of the Annual Report is its effectiveness as a communication device by providing important information in an attractive, user-friendly format. Mr. Coderre thanked Town Staff for making this award possible, especially Diane Wackell who worked as the overall project coordinator.

Members of the Board congratulated Mr. Coderre and his staff on this very significant achievement.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION**

Chairman Pantazis announced that the Board of Selectmen has completed the evaluation of the performance of Town Administrator John Coderre for the past year.

The Town Administrator received an overall rating of 4.7 out of a possible 5, with 4 being "Exceeds Job Standards" and a 5 rating being "Outstanding". The Board unanimously stated it was very satisfied with the performance of the Town Administrator and his ongoing commitment to the Town of Northborough.

Mr. Coderre thanked members of the Board for their professionalism and support during the course of the year.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Selectman Hutchins requested appropriate signage to get information out to the public to vote at the following State and Local Elections:

April 30, 2013 – Special State Primary

May 13, 2013 – Northborough Annual Election

June 25, 2013 – Special State Election (Senator in Congress)

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. January 14, 2013 Meeting Agenda.
2. December 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes.
3. Information packet – Wegmans Change of Manager.
4. Information packet – Appointment of Police Officers.
5. Information packet – Proposed Trail at Assabet Park.
6. Information packet – Addition of MWRA Aqueduct to Trail System.
7. Information packet – DPW Reorganization.
8. Information packet – Motel Six Status Report.
9. Cemetery Deeds.