

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – February 11, 2013**

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 28, 2013 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the January 28, 2013 regular meeting as submitted, Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - HILLSIDE RESTAURANT, LLC – JOHN VOYIATZIS

To consider an application by John Voyiatzis of Hillside Restaurant LLC d/b/a Hillside Grille for a Common Victualler and an Entertainment License for premises located at 73 West Main Street.

Dimitrios Voyiatzis was present to request a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment License for his new restaurant located at 73 West Main Street. The Entertainment License is for a TV only. The Hillside Grille will serve lunch and dinner. Take-out will also be available. He indicated to the Board that his son John will run the day-to-day operations of the business. He added that the business plan does not include alcohol sales at this time.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to approve the application for a Common Victualler License and an Entertainment License as submitted by John Voyiatzis of Hillside Restaurant LLC d/b/a Hillside Grille for premises located at 73 West Main Street; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:05 p.m. - FRED LONARDO, BUILDING INSPECTOR

Discussion on possible sign bylaw amendments.

Based on the frequent questions regarding temporary signs and also questions pertaining to the signs associated with Applefest, Mr. Coderre and Building Inspector Fred Lonardo provided information on possible amendments to the Sign Bylaw as proposed by the Town Planner and Building Inspector.

Following the presentation, members of the Board agreed that applications for temporary signs for "Town-sponsored" events, such as Applefest, should require approval by the Board of Selectmen on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Selectmen should have the authority to determine the length of time that a sign would be allowed for display based on the type of event that the temporary sign is being displayed for. This would create a process for "Town-sponsored" events and give the Board of Selectmen the ability to maintain control. The Board also agreed that temporary signs, including political, open house or other "for sale" signs should not be allowed on Town property.

FRED LONARDO, BUILDING INSPECTOR CONT. . .

The Board agreed to send a letter to the affected business owners of the Temporary Sign Bylaw notifying them that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to that particular bylaw on March 5, 2013 and asking that any written comments be addressed directly to the Planning Board with a copy to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board also agreed to send a letter to the Planning Board indicating the Board's position on the amendments, which will be discussed in more detail at their February 25th meeting.

7:45 p.m. - DANIEL NASON, DPW DIRECTOR
Update on Snow & Ice Budget.

DPW Director Dan Nason informed the Board that the recent blizzard cost the Town approximately \$72,000, creating a \$70,000 deficit to date. Mr. Nason praised the DPW employees for their efforts, considering that the Town reached a record snowfall of 29.5 inches.

Mr. Coderre assured the Board that all attempts will be made to cover the projected shortfalls within the overall FY2013 budget.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to allow expenditures in excess of available appropriations for snow and ice removal and any other related expenses pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 31D; Selectmen Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTSAaron Hutchins

- Attended a recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony for David DeMattia.
- Noted that the schools have been conducting active lock-down drills throughout the week in light of what happened in Newtown, CT.
- Informed the Board that he will not be able to attend the Board's February 14th Special Joint Meeting due to a previous commitment.

Dawn Rand

- Thanked everyone for their efforts during the recent storm.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Thanked everyone for their efforts during the recent storm. Reminded residents to keep nearby fire hydrants clear of snow and to shovel sidewalks if possible.
- Noted that during the storm, Northborough did not have any significant power outages, largely in part from all of the tree clearing work that was performed during the last year.
- Noted that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 22nd at 7:30pm at the Algonquin High School.
- Thanked the Police Department for their updates on Facebook during the storm.

Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman

- Thanked everyone for their efforts during the recent storm, including Town staff and the local news outlets for their communication efforts to the residents. Reminded residents to sign up for the Town News on the Northborough website.
- Attended the recent meeting of the Northborough School Committee. They are working to finalize their budget, which currently is looking at a 4.5% increase.
- Asked residents to complete the recent Library Survey.
- Noted the recent retirement of Library Assistant Marjorie Femia after 12.5 years of service to the Town.

William Pantazis, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- Noted that the State Legislators are scheduled to attend the Board's March 11th Meeting to review the Town's Legislative Priorities letter.
- Noted that a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Northborough School Committee and the Appropriations and Financial Planning Committees will be held on February 14th where he will present the first Financial Trend Monitoring System Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY FY2014 BUDGET

Mr. Coderre stated that the Northborough K-8 School Budget and General Government Budget have been developed in conformance with the annual goals and objectives established by the Board of Selectmen. The Town has not yet received the ARHS or Assabet Valley Assessments.

Following a brief review of the FY2014 Budget Assumptions, Mr. Coderre informed the Board that the current budget model attempts to hold the tax increase for the average single-family home to approximately \$200, which will result in excess levy capacity similar to FY2013. He added that the estimated tax impact is complicated by the fact that assessments for ARHS and Assabet Valley Regional High School are still unknown.

The proposed budgets for the key departments are estimated to increase as follows:

- Northborough K-8 Schools increase \$877,288 to \$20,372,565 (4.5%)
- General Government (Town) increase \$777,566 to \$18,056,813 (4.5%)
- Assabet Valley Vocational HS Assessment (unknown – assessment still pending)
- Algonquin Operating Assessment (unknown – assessment still pending)

UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY FY2014 BUDGET CONT. . .

Lastly, Mr. Coderre stated that the General Government Budget is expected to be finalized once the remaining Health Insurance renewal and debt figures are known. He assured the Board that this will be a level service budget with the goal being to maintain the level of service without the need for an override and to minimize the tax impact on the average family home.

EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEEDS A908 & A909

Selectman Hutchins moved the Board vote to execute Cemetery Deeds A908 & A909; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY DEED 348

Selectman Hutchins moved the Board vote to approve the transfer of Cemetery Deed 348, which will now be A910; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Hutchins 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

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 11, 2013 Meeting Agenda.
2. January 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes.
3. Information packet – Hillside Restaurant, LLC.
4. Information packet – Sign Bylaw Amendments.
5. Information packet – Snow & Ice Budget.
6. Information packet – Preliminary FY2014 Budget.
7. Cemetery Deeds.