

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Open Session  
January 22, 2008**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Chairman Stephen Dungan and Selectmen Kathleen Farrell, Jason Robart, and Thomas Ruggiero.

Selectman Ellen Sturgis was absent.

Also present were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Mr. Dungan called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Public Input**

None.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Wrigley requested that the Board vote to allow deficit spending on the Snow and Ice account, a routine annual request for stormy winters, pursuant to MGL C44, s31d .

Mr. Ruggiero moved to allow the Town to overspend on the Snow and Ice account for the Fiscal Year 2008; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Wrigley asked the Board to accept the gift of a wave radio from Bose Corp to the Police Department, pursuant to MGL C44, s53a.

Mr. Robart moved to accept the gift of a radio from Bose; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Mr. Wrigley noted that an Executive Session was scheduled for the end of the meeting, to discuss employee contract negotiations.

He updated the Board on the Lower Village water supply project, with the following news:

- DEP fully funded the Stow project at \$605,000 for this fiscal year. The town was one of only 24 funded and was ranked third from the top.
- One of the two remaining issues to be closed is Linear Retail's decision to be a water service customer. The Town has done extensive outreach directly and through DEP and Assabet Water Co. and is awaiting a response.
- The other outstanding component is securing a lease with property owner David Walrath, for use of his property for a well. This is proceeding smoothly at present.

**Meeting Minutes**

None.

**Annual Visit from State Rep. Patricia Walrath**

Rep. Walrath brought news from Beacon Hill and answered questions from the Board.

**Budget:** There is presently a \$1.3b gap, which will be covered from the Stabilization Fund.

The Governor's budget is due tomorrow, which has increased local aid and Ch 70 funds. The 3.8 percent annualized rate for revenue dropped to 2.2 percent in the last quarter.

The School Building dollars are now separate from the operating budget. FY09 funding is \$702m, with 20 percent of the 5-percent sales tax dedicated to this account.

**Legislation:**

- Municipal GIC bill has been signed by the Governor.
- Chapter 68 pension fund investment will yield more than Middlesex Retirement.
- Chapter 82 identity theft has record disposal requirements to protect private personal information.
- Chapter 110 burial assistance for Fire and Police death in line of duty increased to \$15k. Needs local acceptance.
- Also new -- two or more towns can share a library.

Asked what the Town can do to help our school building projects, Rep. Walrath said experts in many areas are now available to the towns. Ask the SBA for help from these people.

She said the SBA is looking for a regional district for Maynard to join, rather than build a new high school, at great expense. It's up to the School Building Committee to investigate this.

Regarding Stow's lack of input on the possible removal of the Assabet's Ben Smith dam, she recommended sending an informational packet and request for help to our federal representatives, with copies to our state legislators..

**Chairman's Comments**

Mr. Dungan noted that the last (fifth) member of the new Land Use Task Force is scheduled for appointment at the February 12 meeting.

Ms. Farrell recognized members of the Public Safety departments for their life-saving response to a recent medical emergency.

**Council on Aging Center**

COA Director Alyson Toole and Council members Jim Sauta and Kate Hogan visited the Board to discuss their need for additional space. The main area is 30x40 feet and there is one 10x12-ft office with three desks and three people. There is no place for confidential discussions with seniors, so they use whatever conference room is unoccupied. They depend on the three churches for many programs, such as senior lunches and blood pressure clinics.

Ms. Toole pointed out that, in addition to serving a population of 1,300 residents over 60, the COA is also the Town's main point of contact for low-income and disabled residents seeking support and services. In seven years, from 2000 to 2007, the senior population has grown from 752 to 1,300.

Mr. Sauta said the Council has voted to move ahead with plans to create a senior center and is open to having it be part of a larger community center. Ms. Toole said possible resources are contributions from AAN developers and grants.

Mr. Dungan suggested they begin by speaking with the new Land Use Task Force,

### **Class II license for Used Motor Vehicle Sales**

Richard Presti, Stow business property owner, requested a license from the Town to sell used motor vehicles. Apexx Automotive's lease on Mr. Presti's Lower Village property has expired and Mr. Presti plans to begin his own one-man vehicle sales business on the land. The location has been used for car sales for many years.

Ms. Farrell moved to approve a used car sales license for Chapel Partners' Inc, contingent upon verification of the required \$25,000 bond; Mr. Ruggiero seconded, and all voted in favor.

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

At the request of Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Farrell moved to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant on January 22, 2008 and close the warrant on March 7, 2008; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

The Board discussed the problems created by allowing "placeholders" for incomplete articles. Based on the improvement with the last annual warrant, which did not permit placeholders, the Board agreed to continue the practice. The Board, through the Town Administrator, would reinforce this message with those submitting articles.

### **Snow Property Project Status**

Bob Wilber, Dwight Sipler, and Mike Busch, chairs of the Community Preservation, Agriculture, and Recreation committees, updated the Board on progress acquiring the Snow property for recreational and agricultural use.

Mr. Wilber suggested that the project be managed by a working group of the three chairs plus Recreation Commission members Allaire, Bachtell, and Henry, under the direction to Mr. Wrigley, as the Town's Chief Procurement Officer. Upcoming tasks are acquisition of the land, securing the self-help grant, and moving the agricultural lease forward.

Mr. Wrigley and several Board members spoke in favor of the approach. Mr. Sipler distributed a sample agricultural lease based on the Conservation Commission's model.

### **Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

Discussion continued on the problem of last-minute submissions of incomplete information. It does not allow an adequate review by the Selectmen or the Finance Committee.

Rather than taking a vote to require final drafts of the articles when the warrant closes, the Board agreed to a statement from the Board that all submissions must be substantively complete. Mr. Wrigley will write a draft.

### **Status of Executive Session Meeting Minutes**

With the closure of several matters discussed in Executive Session, the Board released the meeting minutes to the public record.

Mr. Dungan moved to authorize the release to the public record the following sets of minutes: Cushing property minutes of 10/19/05, 11/22/05, 3/28/06, and 4/11/06; union contract negotiation minutes of 6/13/06, 9/12/06, and 8/17/07. Mr. Ruggiero seconded and all voted in favor.

**Selectmen's Master Planning**

The question was raised on whether the Board should have representation on the newly established Land Use Task Force. Mr. Wrigley agreed that the Board should be involved at some level, since land use is part of the Master Plan implementation effort, and suggested that a liaison would be most effective. It was agreed to discuss this further at the February 11 meeting, where the fifth member would be appointed.

**Liaison Reports**

Lower Village Committee: Mr. Dungan reported on the LVC's plan for Pompositticut Street. No easements are required and there will be no impact on the Cemetery Superintendent's stonewall restoration project. Ms. McLaughlin contacted Ms. Shoemaker and is waiting for her reply.

Public Safety: Mr. Ruggiero reported that Mr. Graf of Red Acre Road asked for additional information on the Board's decision about speed zones. It was agreed that Ms. McLaughlin would respond in writing to Mr. Graf.

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Dungan moved to adjourn open session and to open an executive session for the purpose of employee contract negotiation, and not to reconvene following the end of the Executive Session. Mr. Ruggiero seconded. All voted in favor. Robart – Aye, Dungan – Aye, Farrell – Aye, Ruggiero – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin  
Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen

Approved as submitted, 2/12/08