

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
August 11, 2009

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

Selectman Laura Spear was absent.

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

Chairman Dungan called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m.

Public Input

None.

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Dungan recognized Mr. Wrigley's work

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported the following:

- He received word that, with four other towns, the Town's financial rating has been increased by two levels, from A+ to AA, which will save the Town several thousand dollars per million dollars in borrowing per year. He thanked all the Town departments for their contributions to achieve this.
- The Town finished FY 2009 in the black. With state revenues already trending down, the conservative FY 2010 budget we adopted is good.
- The Assabet Water Company and Harvard Acres customers reached an agreement, working with DPU, with the new rate being set for 10 years. With a loan from DEP for expansion (should know in the next few weeks), Assabet Water could begin trenches in September and complete the work in this construction season.
- The Sudbury Road bridge will be closed for repairs August 17-28. Fire Chief McLaughlin is working with Hudson to ensure full coverage for Lake Boon residents.

Public Hearings for Pole Location Requests

At approximately 7:10 p.m., Mr. Dungan opened the first of two public hearings on requests from Hudson Light & Power (HL&P) and Verizon NE for pole locations. Mr. Dungan opened the hearing by reading the legal notice for Randall Road:

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with MGL Chapter 166, section 22, that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing regarding a pole location request by the Hudson Light and Power Department to locate a pole at a point approximately 196 feet North-Easterly of the Randall Road-Edson Road intersection to service new home sites.

HL&P engineer Jim Kennedy then explained the request, as described in the petition, dated July 14, 2009

Planning Board Chair Kathleen Willis joined the hearing to ask whether underground wiring could be used, as encouraged by Town's Zoning Bylaws. Mr. Kennedy replied that underground cable installation is very expensive and not something the property owner would consider. He said surveys show an 8- to 15-time increase in cost to install underground and repairs are much more expensive, too. Mr. Wrigley noted that the Board only had the authority to approve or deny the pole location, not to regulate the type of installation. There was no further discussion.

At 7:30 p.m., Ms. Sturgis moved to close the hearing; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Ms. Sturgis moved to approve the proposed pole location on Randall Road; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

The Board signed the order of approval, after making a minor correction to the document: replacing the company name "Bell Atlantic" with "Verizon NE."

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Mr. Dungan opened the second hearing, for the White Pond Road petition, dated July 14, 2009:

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with MGL Chapter 166, section 22, that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a public hearing regarding a pole location request by the Hudson Light and Power Department to locate a pole at a point approximately 35 feet South-Easterly of the center of Shore Avenue to service an existing home site.

Following Mr. Kennedy's description of the need for a new pole – the current "pole" is a dead tree – there were smiles and no discussion was necessary.

Ms. Sturgis moved to close the hearing; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Ms. Sturgis moved to approve the proposed pole location on White Pond Road, Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

The Board signed the order of approval, after making the same minor correction of replacing "Bell Atlantic" with "Verizon NE."

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Donna Jacobs, newest member of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust, visited the Board to discuss her membership on the committee and the recently released draft of the Town's Housing Production Plan. She said she would like to help with the public outreach for support of affordable housing and to gather other volunteers with a passion for creating it.

Board members thanked Ms. Jacobs for once again becoming actively involved in the town's planning efforts. She is currently an associate member of the Planning Board and Stow's representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Update on Elementary School Building Project

Most of the school project discussion was on Assabet Water Company possibly supplying water to the Town Center, including the new school. The ESBC, as well as the Fire Chief and Building Commissioner and the Stow Community Housing Corp, wrote to the Board explaining their need for water, as well as lower Village's.

Mr. Wrigley said that now that the Assabet Water rate is set, DEP is assessing at whether there are enough users in Lower Villager and elsewhere to make it viable for them to finance Assabet Water Co's expansion. The Board agreed that Mr. Dungan would send a letter to DEP, on behalf of the Town, summarizing the level of interest in the water supply.

Members had no additional news to report.

At 7:58 p.m., Ms. Sturgis moved to adjourn; Mr. Ruggiero seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as submitted, September 1, 2009