

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MAY 21, 2007**

Present: Hal White, Chairman
Steven Halterman
Ted Goodwin
Arnold Wilson
William Emrich
Gregory Morse, Acting Town Administrator

The Chariman called the executive session to order under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; and Paragraph #6: To consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property; not to reconvene in open session.

River Land

A.Wilson said that he had no update other than what the Board had heard last week regarding the legality of selling the land privately. Town Counsel said that it was OK for them to go outside the auction process to sell the land, and noted that they had sold it for \$675,000, when the Town had bid \$900,000 for it. A.Wilson said that Gerry Paquin had contacted him again, indicating that he wants the Town to own the land and said that he would send a letter with a dollar amount. He said that G. Paquin wants to take the gravel out of the property, along with the trees. A.Wilson recommended calling a Special Town Meeting and taking the land by eminent domain for \$800,000. H. White suggested discussing it with J. Malloy. He noted that the property has been first on the preferred list of the Open Space Committee.

A.Wilson suggested contacting Mr. Caron and making an offer on the land at the corner of Brookfield Road. H. White suggested discussing it at the meeting on June 4th.

A.Wilson said that there was a foreclosure notice in the Southbridge Evening News for 32 Cedar Street, owned by Albert and Elaine Cook. He noted that the Town had asked Mr. Cook to do something about the issue of drainage into the wetland. H. White suggested that G. Morse and J. Malloy look into it. A.Wilson asked Judy Knowles to find the newspaper notice and copy it for the Board.

Litigation

H. White said that the mediation with the Town of Southbridge has failed, and J. Malloy has contacted the member of Town Counsel who specializes in this kind of case. He asked what it would cost to put up a pump station. S. Halterman

noted that piping would have to be installed to pump it out. G. Morse said that a rough estimate would be about \$5 million.

MOTION: To adjourn, by S. Halterman.

2nd: T. Goodwin

Roll call vote: All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date