



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Nicholas Thalheimer, *Chairman*
Andrew Sheehan,
Town Administrator

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN'S MEETING CHAMBERS

I PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and roll call showed Chairman Nicholas Thalheimer (NT), Vice-Chairman Sue Lisio (SL), and Clerk Robert Plamondon (RP) in attendance.
- 1.2 NT gave notice that the meeting is being tape recorded.
- 1.3 The Chairman deleted 3.6, Sign Warrant for Presidential Election.
- 1.4 Motion was made by RP to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2012. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.1 Recycling events update: Mr. Sheehan informed the Board and public of upcoming recycling events:
 - October 13, 2012 there will be a yard sale at North Middlesex High School. Items may be dropped off on October 12th.
 - October 20, 2012 Shirley Middle school will be recycling reusable goods.
 - Devens household hazardous products collection facility will only be open 2 more months: November 7th and 10th and December 5th and 8th weather permitting. They will reopen in March. Information on all the events will be available on the town website.
- 3.2 Squannacook River Rail Trail: Mr. Sheehan suggested inviting Squannacook Greenways to the next meeting. The Board had suggested that the meeting be held as a public forum. Discussion about the process, where the forum would be held, how it would be moderated and what the goal is. NT suggested the forum be added to the agenda for the BOS meeting October 23rd.

II APPOINTMENTS & HEARINGS

- 2.1 7:05: Board of Assessors – filling of vacancy: There was one applicant for the vacancy. RP moved to appoint Julie Johnson to the Board of Assessors until local election in April. SL seconded. Roll call vote of the BOS and Board of Assessors present: SL (AYE), RP (AYE), NT (AYE), Niles Busler, Chairman of the Board of Assessors (AYE). Unanimous.
- 2.2 Executive Session:

At 7:13pm RP moved to enter executive session under GL c. 30A, s. 21(a)(3) [exemption3] to discuss collective bargaining strategy with respect to a petition for recognition by firefighters; strategy with respect to the Highway union; and strategy with respect to the Telecommunications union and to reconvene open session. SL seconded. Roll Call: RP (AYE), SL (AYE), and NT (AYE). Unanimous.

At 7:29pm NT called the meeting back to order.

RP moved to sign the contract with the Highway union. SL seconded. Unanimous.

RP moved to sign the contract with the Telecommunications union. SL seconded. Unanimous.

III MEETING BUSINESS

- 3.3 1-Day Liquor license for Colin McNabb, St. John's the Evangelist Church, 1 School Street, Townsend, MA for a Hillbilly Hoedown, October 20, 2012, 6PM-9PM. RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.

- 3.4 Approve proclamation for Russ Moore day, October 13, 2012. RP moved to approve. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.5 Approve proclamation for Edna A. Burnham, recipient of the Boston Post Cane, November 2, 2012. RP moved to approve. SL seconded. Unanimous.

IV APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONNEL/OFFICIALS

- 4.1 Appoint the following to the Fire-EMS Headquarters Building Committee for a term concluding when the project is finished.
- Brett King
 - William Elliott
 - Michael Grimley
 - Mark Mercurio
- RP moved to appoint the above to the Fire-EMS Headquarters Building Committee for a term concluding when the project is finished. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 4.2 Appoint Roger Rapoza to the Capital Planning Committee for a term from October 9, 2012-June 30, 2013. RP moved to appoint Roger Rapoza to the Capital Planning Committee for the term stated. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.7 FY13 budget discussion: Mr. Sheehan reported he expects free cash to be submitted to the State within the week. He is estimating \$773,369. He said with the pending budget reductions we can't expect such robust free cash numbers in the future. He proposes putting \$400,000 into capital stabilization: \$200,000 would be to pay our portion of the Spaulding School roof over the next 4 years and \$200,000 for municipal capital needs. A number of budget adjustments will also be funded out of free cash. That will leave a balance of \$341,385 to be kept in anticipation of a snow and ice deficit.

Chief Marshall rallied for reinstatement of the cuts he offered, especially the Communications Supervisor position, if the override should pass. Discussion included the amount that should be requested at the override, what it would fund, and how to best educate the public. This led to discussion about the pros and cons of the election being held before Town Meeting. Mr. Sheehan reiterated that if the warrant for the override is for the entire deficit amount, current services would remain intact. NT concluded that the BOS is in favor of having the Special Town Meeting after the election on November 13, 2012. There will be an informational session for the public on October 30th. SL moved to postpone Special Town Meeting originally scheduled for October 30, 2012, until a date in November to be determined. RP seconded. Unanimous.

SL noted that the budgets were well put together originally. The departments did a good job creating them in the first place. She asked Mr. Sheehan what the tax increase would be for the average homeowner. He said he would look into various scenarios. A work session was scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

- 3.8 Sign Warrant for Special Town Meeting of, October 30, 2012. The Board and Water Department discussed the article to establish an independent water district. Topics included the town's liability, potential conflicts of interest, the benefits of an independent water district, and the cost of employee benefits. Mr. Sheehan suggested this would be a good item to discuss at the pre-town meeting forum.

V WORK SESSION

5.1 Board of Selectmen Updates/Reports

None

5.2 Town Administrator Updates/Reports

Mr. Sheehan explained that he, Sue Lisio and Gene Rauhala will be conducting an introduction to local government Thursday evening at 7:00 in the Great Hall. This will not be a conversation about the

override, rather an opportunity to learn about the way local government operates. He also pointed out that the Water Department has lifted water restrictions and congratulated McDonald's on their grand re-opening ceremonies today. He then introduced Joan Landers, new superintendent of schools.

5.3 Review/Sign Payroll Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.

5.4 Review/Sign Bills Payable Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.

NT moved to adjourn at 9:06 pm. RP seconded. Unanimous.