

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

January 6, 2015

Town Hall

Chairman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman Kenneth Picard; Selectman James Brochu; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala.

1 The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Chairman Fleming opened the meeting and after the
2 pledge of allegiance he reviewed the agenda.

3
4 **INVITED GUESTS**

5 Chairman Fleming opened the Comcast Cable License Public Hearing at 6:05PM

6
7 The 10-year license with Comcast Cable Television for service to the residents of Crockett Road
8 expired in December. As part of the renewal process the Board held a hearing for public
9 comment prior to entering into a new agreement. A letter was sent to the residents about the
10 hearing and the hearing notice published in the Milford Daily News as required.

11
12 Attorney William Hewig III of Kopelman and Paige, Frank Foss Senior Manager, Government
13 Relations for Comcast Cable, and members of the Cable Advisory Committee, Glenn Fowler,
14 George Mattingly and Richard Hellegers were in attendance. Chairman Fleming noted there were
15 no questions or residents of Crockett Road present.

16
17 Town Counsel and the Cable Advisory Committee recommend the same license services
18 provided in the expiring year contract but with a shorter 3 year renewal agreement. Comcast will
19 proceed with a renewal draft. The hearing was closed at 6:15PM.

20
21 **Upton Men's Club**

22 Representatives of the Men's Club attended the meeting to discuss their funding request to
23 refresh the Welcome to Upton signs and planters. Bill McCormick discussed the condition of the
24 signs, the on-going planting and maintenance of these structures. The Men's Club requested a
25 budget of \$12,500 for the project.

26
27 **Motion #1:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve to restore the seven *Welcome to*
28 *Upton* signs with funds from the Knowlton Beautification Trust not to exceed \$12,500.

29
30 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

31
32 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

33 **Motion to Open a Special Town Meeting Warrant**

34 The Town Manager recommended that the Board vote to open a warrant for a meeting to be held
35 in mid-February for the purpose of asking the Town to consider the purchase of the property
36 located at 2 Grove Street, Upton for use as future Town Hall parking. The target date for the
37 STM is February 11th. Furthermore, Ms. Robinson suggested that the warrant only be open until
38 January 12th so that there is time to complete legal review and be executed.

39
40 **Motion #2:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant on
41 January 6, 2015 and close the warrant on January 12, 2015 specific to the Special Town Meeting
42 on February 11, 2015.

43
44 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

45
46 **MINUTES**

47
48 **Motion #3:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve the December 15, 2014 Regular
49 Session Meeting Minutes as submitted.

50
51 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

52
53 **Motion #4:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve the December 15, 2014 Executive
54 Session Meeting Minutes as submitted.

55
56 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

57
58 **Motion to Approve Proclamation – Purple Heart Community**

59 At the Veteran’s Day Breakfast at the COA the Chairman and Town Manager met Ms. Betty
60 Benoit who is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Ms. Benoit promotes the idea
61 of communities becoming “Purple Heart Communities” to honor those in the military who have
62 been wounded or killed in combat.

63
64 The Selectman proclaimed the Town of Upton a Purple Heart Community and now the
65 proclamation will go to the MOPH Commander who then approves it and sends it to the National
66 Order of the Purple Heart for approval. After that a date is set up for the presentation by the
67 Commander and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Upton.

68
69 **Motion to Approve - Municipal Agreement Town of Blackstone Nursing Services**

70 The Selectmen reviewed an inter-municipal agreement with Blackstone for nursing services.
71 Blackstone requested the opportunity to “purchase” four hours/week of time to cover the needs
72 of their Board of Health. The agreement has been reviewed and approved by both Boards of
73 Health as well as the Blackstone Board of Selectmen. The service can begin in January. A
74 transfer of funds to the wages account for the nurse at the Town Meeting in May will be needed
75 to cover the increase in hours which were not in the budget.

76
77 **Motion #5:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement with
78 the Town of Blackstone for Nursing Services.

79
80 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

81
82 **MANAGER’S REPORT**

83
84 Ms. Robinson reviewed a letter from the DEP regarding the noise survey at the Grafton & Upton
85 railroad. The Board of Health has continued to receive complaints from neighbors about noise
86 levels after the railroad made modifications to the pellet plant operation to mitigate noise. The
87 noise levels have come down from what they were prior to the visit in late October and the DEP
88 has offered to conduct another site visit at the end of the month to again evaluate noise levels.

89
90 The Treasurer's Office and Town Manager has been working over the last few months to
91 transition the deferred compensation plan from ING to a different carrier with the goal of better
92 customer service for employees, and lower investment fees. A contract has been signed to join
93 the State's "SMART" Plan and will soon be holding meetings to educate employees on their
94 options. All employees who work more than 20 hours/week may elect to defer income for
95 retirement beyond their pension contributions. All employees who are part-time are
96 automatically enrolled in an annuity type plan where their contributions that would ordinarily go
97 to social security are placed. All existing accounts that were with ING will be moved over by the
98 new provider.

99
100 Motion to Approve Letters of Support - DLTA Grant Application

101 The principal planner at CMRPC is accepting applications for communities interested in District
102 Technical Assistance grants for planning projects. Ms. Robinson recommended that we submit a
103 letter of interest for two separate projects; a Freight Rail Study and Feasibility Assessment
104 Initiative project. The purpose is to develop strategies and policies that create economic
105 expansion opportunities regarding freight, particularly freight rail. The second is to include
106 Upton in the proposed Village District Zoning Bylaw Development District Local Technical
107 Assistance (DLTA) Initiative in 2015 to build upon the historic development patterns in our
108 existing village center(s) to create attractive, walkable neighborhoods.

109
110 **Motion #6:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to submit a letter of interest for a District
111 Technical Assistance grant for the Freight Rail Study and Feasibility Assessment Initiative
112 project.

113
114 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

115
116 **Motion #7:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to submit a letter of interest for a District
117 Technical Assistance initiative for Village District Zoning Bylaw Development.

118
119 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

120
121 Motion to Approve Selectmen's Annual Town Report

122 The Selectmen reviewed the Selectmen's annual report prepared by Chairman Fleming.

123
124 **Motion #8:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to approve the 2014 annual report submitted by
125 Chairman Fleming and except to delete the procurement section.

126
127 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

128
129 Discuss Town Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation

130 The Selectmen will have the sections compiled for discussion at their next meeting.

131
132 Motion to Appoint FF/EMT

133 To ensure coverage for all EMS calls the department is dependent on full-time and call/volunteer
134 staff, and also EMT's and paramedics that are interested in filling open shifts. Chief Goodale

135 recommends the two candidates whose applications are attached be appointed to fill open shifts
136 when they arise and the Town Manager concurs with his recommendation.

137
138 **Motion #9:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to appoint Lisa Lloyd and as a per diem
139 Firefighter/EMT waiving the 15 day waiting period.

140
141 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

142
143 **Motion #10:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to appoint Christel Kalweit and as an EMT
144 waiving the 15 day waiting period.

145
146 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

147
148 **Motion to Appoint Probationary Call Firefighters**

149 Five applications from residents interested in becoming members of the department were
150 reviewed by the Board. These candidates have been interviewed by the Chief and Fire/EMS
151 Advisory Committee and were recommending for appointment so they can attend the fire
152 academy. Candidates who successfully complete this can then be considered to become regular
153 members of the department.

154
155 **Motion #11:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to appoint the following as Probationary Call
156 Firefighters: Connor Shults, Stephen Harpin, Benjamin Sampson, Nicholas Muscente, and Scott
157 Rivers waiving the 15 day waiting period.

158
159 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

160
161 **Motion to Appoint Council on Aging Department Specialist**

162 The COA Director Janice Nowicki recommended Upton resident Bernadette Denson be
163 appointed to the position of Department Specialist.

164
165 **Motion #12:** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to appoint Bernadette Denson to the position of
166 Department Specialist waiving the 15 day waiting period.

167
168 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous Chairman Fleming.

169
170 **RECOGNITION**

171 Selectman Picard congratulated both BVT and Nipmuc for their outstanding athletic teams and
172 recognized the Nipmuc Women's Division 3 Soccer Team for their success.

173
174 **MEETING LOOK AHEAD TOPICS**

175 Invite Historical Society and Historical Commission to attend meeting

176 Meet with appointed/elected boards

177 Invite art consultant

178 Invite paperless meeting consultant

179

180

181 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

182 ***Motion #13:*** At 7:35pm Chairman Fleming opened the Executive Session under MGL c.30A, S.
183 21 exceptions #6: t to discuss to the value of real estate if the chair declares an open meeting will
184 have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position

185
186 Poll taken: James Brochu, aye Kenneth Picard, aye Robert Fleming aye.

187
188 **ADJOURN MEETING**

189
190 ***Motion #14:*** At 8:00pm motion was made by Selectman Brochu to adjourn the regular meeting.

191
192 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous: Chairman Fleming

193
194 Respectfully submitted,

195
196
197 Sandra Hakala
198 Executive Assistant

199