

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

March 25, 2014

Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street , Training Room
Chairman James Brochu; Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman
Kenneth Picard; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala.

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

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4 **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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6 FY 2014/2015 Budget Review

7 The Selectmen reviewed the budget adjustments made by Ms. Robinson. Selectman Picard noted
8 that he was disappointed in having to remove the drainage project but looked forward to bringing
9 it up again at the fall STM. The Board found consensus among the departments and specifically
10 noted that the purchase of a Quint was the recommendation of the Fire Advisory committee as
11 well as all those involved in the budget process. The Chair applauded the work of the Town
12 Manager and agreed with her comments.

13
14 BVT expansion – ballot question

15 Chairman Brochu recused himself from the BVT expansion – ballot question discussion. The
16 remaining Selectmen agreed to ask the residents at the annual Town Meeting to approve a \$2.9
17 debt obligation to renovate BVT and pay Upton’s share of the cost of that project.

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19 **Motion #1:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to include at the Annual Town Meeting an article
20 to see if the Town will vote to approve the total \$2.9 million debt authorized by the Blackstone
21 Valley Vocational Regional School District School Committee on April 17, 2014 for costs of
22 adding to, equipping, reconstructing and making extraordinary repairs to the regional school,
23 including all costs incidental and related thereto, with the Town’s apportioned share of debt
24 payments computed in accordance with the Regional Agreement and commencing in Fiscal Year
25 2016; or, take any other action relative thereto.

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27 Second: Selectman Fleming, Majority Action of the Board.

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29 Leadership Strategic Plan

30 The Selectmen discussed the rationale of two strategic initiatives. The first focused on creating a
31 general by-law to regulate the amount of monetary compensation part-time elected officials
32 receive annually. The Selectmen will discuss further with the boards and commissions that are in
33 attendance to join this discussion.

34
35 The second strategic initiative discussed recommending that the Town consider a town meeting
36 vote and legislative action to amend the selection method of its Town Treasurer/Collector to an
37 appointment by the Town Manager or the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Picard reiterated the
38 rationale to the Board mentioning the recommendations of other communities, the Towns’
39 auditors and the DOR citing that this is a growing trend to ensure that the office holders process
40 the experience and qualifications for the position and to expand the pool of potential candidates
41 for the job. The Selectmen pointed out again that the present Treasurer/Collector possesses the
42 skills necessary to support this position but future elected Treasurer/Collectors may not.

43 The Selectmen reviewed Leadership Impact Balanced Scorecard for CY2014 and filled in the
44 inputs which Selectman Picard will update for the next meeting.

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46 **Motion #2:** At 6:40 Selectman Fleming motioned to recess the regular meeting until 7:00PM.

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

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50 Chairman Brochu reopened the meeting at 7:00PM.

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52 **INVITED GUESTS**

53 Those that that were present at the round table discussion included: Robert Fleming- BOS, Ken
54 Picard- BOS, Sandra Hakala- Constable, Al Holman- BOH, Richard Robinson- BOH, Glenn
55 Fowler- BOA, Theresa Ambrosino- BOA, Charlie Marsden- BOA, Bob Richards- Cemetry
56 Commissioner, Judith Katz- Library Trustee, John Robertson- Library Trustee, Dave Loeper-
57 Moderator, John Minnucci- Library Trustee, Jim Brochu- BOS, Sandy Furman- resident,
58 Mathew Bachtold- Library Director, James Comfort- Constable, James Bates Jr.- Constable, Carl
59 Ambrosino, Police Department.

60
61 Chairman Brochu opened the discussion by reviewing the intent of the initiative to look at a fair
62 and equitable ways to compensate elected officials. Mr. Minnucci asked if it was the history of
63 the Town to compensate elected officials and what motivated the discussion tonight. Selectman
64 Fleming stated the history is very inconsistent and that is the purpose of today's discussion - to
65 develop standards for elected official's compensation. He gave an example that when the Town
66 Manager was brought in the Selectmen opted to reduce their stipend. Selectman Picard was
67 motivated by the input from various boards and commissions during the development of the
68 Town's Strategic Plan who were asking about the equity and the Selectmen thought it was worth
69 the dialogue to bring it forward. The Selectmen proposed that all elected officials receive a \$500
70 stipend with an extra \$200 given to the Chairman as a bonus.

71
72 Chairman Marsdon stated that from the proposal that the BOS presented presumes that all
73 elected officials have the same responsibilities and work the same number of hours which he
74 argued was not the case. Mr. Marsdon stated that the Assessors require certification and felt the
75 BOA was being targeted and went on to discuss the handout he prepared.

76
77 Selectman Fleming responded that a School Committee member's time and effort was
78 unmatched which Mr. Holman agreed, being a former School Committee member himself and
79 received no compensation, and said he believed people run because they believe in something.
80 It's about their commitment and dedication and the intrinsic value everyone gains from running.
81 Mr. Holman went on to say the Board of Health unanimously supported a \$500 stipend for all
82 elected officials and that the Town needs to compensate every elected official equally. Personally
83 he said he ran for office not because he wanted to make money but because he wanted to serve
84 the community and give back to the community. At the end on the discussion the Selectmen
85 asked that elected Boards respond to this initiative though the office of the Selectmen.

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89 **ADJOURN MEETING**

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91 ***Motion #10:*** At 8:03pm motion was made by Chairman Brochu to adjourn the regular meeting.

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93 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous: Selectman Fleming.

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95 Respectfully submitted,

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98 Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant

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