

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

September 17, 2013

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

1 The Regular session meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.

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3 **Motion #1:** At 5:00 pm Chairman Brochu opened the Executive session of Board of Selectman
4 meeting in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, reason #1 to discuss the discipline
5 or dismissal of an employee.

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

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9 **Motion #2:** Motion made by Chairman Brochu at 5:30 pm, to close the Executive Session under
10 M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, reason #1 to discuss the discipline or dismissal of an employee.

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

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14 **Motion #3:** Motion made by Chairman Brochu at 5:30 pm, and to open an Executive session of
15 Board of Selectman meeting in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, reason #1 to
16 discuss the complaints or charges against an employee.

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

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20 **Motion #4:** Motion made by Chairman Brochu at 6:05 pm, to close the Executive Session under
21 M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, reason #1 to discuss the complaints or charges against an
22 employee and enter into regular session.

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24 Poll taken: James Brochu, aye Robert Fleming aye, Kenneth Picard, aye

25
26 Chairman Brochu opened the meeting at 6:10pm and after the pledge of allegiance he reviewed
27 the agenda.

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29 **INVITED GUESTS**

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31 **Sharon Bliss – First Night Upton**

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33 Sharon Bliss, a member of the United Parish Church, presented an update on plans to hold a
34 “First Night Upton” celebration on December 31st. The Cultural Council awarded a grant to
35 help defray the costs, and Ms. Bliss had spoken to Chief Bradley and the Town Manager to
36 discuss the logistics of putting on such an event.

37
38 Ms. Bliss said she hopes that by November 1, there is a concrete schedule in place. Businesses
39 on Route 140 were all invited to keep their lights on that night and become a sponsor of the
40 event. The program will take place on December 31, from 5 p.m. to midnight and most activities
41 will take place on Route 140 and at the Nipmuc High School.

43 The Selectmen commended Ms. Bliss for her volunteerism and embraces the concept. Chairman
44 Brochu will look at way BVT may assist.

45

46 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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48 **Motion to Appoint Bonnie Lopez – Fire Lieutenant**

49 Chief Goodale recommended that Bonnie Lopez be appointed as a Lieutenant in the Fire/EMS
50 department. Bonnie was the highest scoring candidate in the testing process for this position.

51

52 **Motion #5:** Motion made by Selectman Picard accept the Town Managers recommendation that
53 Bonnie Lopez be appointed as a Lieutenant in the Fire/EMS department and waive the fifteen
54 day waiting period.

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56 Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous: Chairman Brochu.

57

58 **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

59

60 The opening of municipal well field #3 went well last week. All the boards that participated in
61 this 14-year long process were represented, and it appears everyone enjoyed the speeches, ribbon
62 cutting, first drink of water from the new source and other refreshments. Ms. Robinson thanked
63 again all who persevered to get this project done and by doing so ensures that the Town can
64 better manage its system and meet its needs for water into the future.

65

66 The State has issued its notice that the annual round of Community Innovation Challenge grants
67 are open for funding again this year. The State has earmarked \$4 million for projects that
68 improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Last year Upton participated in two
69 funded projects, and will seek to do so again this year.

70

71 Chapter 90 project that were planned this summer have been completed. The paving of School,
72 Fisk Ave and a portion of Mendon streets ended last week on Thursday and Friday. Line
73 stripping will be done by the end of the month.

74

75 As a result of the issues raised by the incident that occurred when the developer of Crosswinds
76 brought in a paving crew to pave Station Street railroad crossing last week the Town is seeking
77 to have the State convene a diagnostic team meeting to determine what safety infrastructure
78 should be built to make this future road crossing safe. The paving all the way up to the rails of
79 the crossing caused a Grafton & Upton Railroad train going from Hopedale through to Grafton to
80 almost derail as it came upon rail bed. The results of this meeting and agreement on what should
81 be installed will be conveyed to the Planning Board as part of the development process.

82

83 Work continues on the Town Hall project with the focus on the basement. Ledge removal is
84 continuing, and it is a slow and deliberate process. The large pile of rock in front of the building
85 will be removed in time. Once it is out and shoring of the interior walls is in place to protect the
86 structure, removal of the old steam boiler can be addressed. Staging will be erected in the main
87 hall to begin work in that area. On the exterior the masonry work to be done will be started.

88 The Library Board of Trustees has signed off on the items of work recommended by Vertex to
89 address the odor in the Library and the work in the basement and outdoors to continue to
90 improve the air quality for the entire building. The Library has also posted a notice of the air
91 quality issues in the Library and on its website. The plan of action is to have the Library rug
92 removed and wall along the Children's area taken out and replaced as part of the overall Library
93 renovation project. The basement dehumidification project will be coordinated by BVT, and the
94 outside work between Ms. Robinson and Public Works.

95
96 Chairman Brochu reiterated that no hazardous materials have been found.

97
98 Ryan Flodstrom – Eagle Scout Project
99 Ryan Flodstrom presented his project to build a footbridge on the Stephan's Farm property
100 owned by the Town. Ryan is building a 5'x24' bridge modeled after a 100' span bridge in
101 collaboration with the Trail Rider's Association. His project has been reviewed and approved by
102 the Land Stewardship Committee.

103
104 **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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106 Motion to Appoint Board and Committee Members

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108 The Selectmen reviewed three applications for appointment to the Council on Aging all of which
109 are recommended by the COA board.

110
111 **Motion #6:** Motion made by Selectman Picard accepts the Town Managers and COA's
112 recommendation that Bobbi Grenard be appointed as a COA member until May 2014.

113
114 Second: Selectman Fleming; Chairman Brochu; Unanimous Action of the Board.

115
116 **Motion #7:** Motion made by Selectman Picard accepts the Town Managers and COA's
117 recommendation that Gaston Dufresne be appointed as a COA member until May 2014.

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119 Second: Selectman Fleming; Chairman Brochu; Unanimous Action of the Board.

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121 **Motion #8:** Motion made by Selectman Picard accepts the Town Managers and COA's
122 recommendation that Richard Provost be appointed as a COA member until May 2014.

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124 Second: Selectman Fleming; Chairman Brochu; Unanimous Action of the Board.

125
126 Land Stewardship Committee – Goss Pond Access

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128 The Land Stewardship Committee updated the Board of Selectmen on the status of their project
129 to develop a trail from Green Lane to Goss Pond for the enjoyment of Upton residents as
130 intended by the developer (Bob Henderson). At the October 24, 2000 Special Town Meeting the
131 Town accepted this parcel of land where the access trail would be built. Selectman Fleming
132 stated that the Board of Selectmen has no authority to stop the project.

133

134 The Land Stewardship Committee began the planning for that project this past year, and this has
135 been met by some resistance from the abutters on Green Lane to the project. Concerned
136 residents had been invited to the meeting. Tom Foley, an abutter to the trail was most concerned
137 as to how it would affect his property value. The Selectmen will continue their dialogue with the
138 neighbors and with the committee to find a way that accomplishes the objectives with minimal
139 impact on the neighborhood.

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141 **Motion #9:** Motion made by Selectman Picard at 7:10PM, to recess for 2 minutes.

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143 Second: Selectman Fleming; Chairman Brochu; Unanimous Action of the Board.

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145 *Discuss the Cleaning of the WWI Monument on the Town Common*

146 The Selectmen reviewed the request from Mike Goodwin, Veteran's Grave Officer suggesting
147 that the Town expend some Risteen Beautification Trust funds to have the monument on the
148 common cleaned. The Selectmen tabled the request until a more descriptive cleaning process
149 was obtained, and an inquiry as to Public Works position in the procedure.

150

151 *Discuss the Affordable Housing Trust*

152 At the request of Selectman Picard this item has been placed on the agenda for discussion. He
153 would like to the opening notifications be sent to the land use committees in hopes of getting
154 volunteers. He will also be attending a workshop on the topic.

155

156 *Review Upton Men's Club Beautification Request*

157 The Men's Club, through Mike Howell, has submitted a request for \$569 to plant some fall
158 mums in the areas that the club has improved and maintained over the last couple of years.

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160 **Motion #10:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to approve the \$569.00 request made by the
161 Men's Club for funds to be taken from the Risteen Beautification Trust fund.

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163 Second: Selectman Fleming; Chairman Brochu; Unanimous Action of the Board.

164

165 *Discuss South Street Gravel Permit*

166 The Selectmen identified four areas for further consideration; hours of operation, Army Corps
167 involvement, bond requirements, and hold harmless agreement. They will continue the
168 discussion at their next meeting.

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170 **BOARD OF SELECTION'S ACTION PLAN REVIEW**

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172 The Board will take this under advisement.

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174 **RECOGNITION**

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176 Chairman Brochu recognized the citizens and the many contributors that led to the successful
177 opening of the Third Well field that was celebrated earlier last week. He thanked former
178 Selectpersons, Paul, Shanahan, Holman, Rosenfield and former DPW Director Curley Teautrault
179 and Jim Bates for their dedication over the past 8 years among others.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion #13: At 7:49PM Chairman Brochu motioned to enter into executive session in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section #21, Exception #6 - To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body.

The Board will reconvene to regular session only for adjournment.

James Brochu, aye, Robert Fleming, aye, Kenneth Picard, aye.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion #9: At 8:10pm motion was made by Chairman Brochu to adjourn the regular meeting.

Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous: Selectman Picard.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant