

**BOARD OF  
SELECTMEN  
MEETING  
MINUTES**

**October 15, 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.

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

**MINUTES**

**Motion #1:** Motion made by Selectman Picard to approve as submitted the October 1, 2013 Regular Session Meeting Minutes.

Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous: Chairman Brochu

**INVITED GUESTS**

Fire Chief Goodale and Bonnie Lopez together with the Deputy State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey presented the “Young Hero’s Award” to Alexis Sherwin of 31 Orchard Street. Alexis had participated in Fire Education Class with Lieutenant Lopez and utilized what she learned to help her family during the fire at their home on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Selectman also praised her response for doing exactly what she was taught to do.

**TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

The Town has been notified by the Grafton & Upton railroad that they are intending to sell the parcel on Grove Street that they cleared last year while they were in the process of upgrading their tracks. They no longer have use for the property, and are offering it for \$102,500. Proposals are due by November 4th by parties who are interested in this.

A letter from Town Counsel to Foxwoods requesting a meeting to discuss Upton’s status as a surrounding community was answered by Foxwoods affirming that Upton has been designated as a surrounding community. The regional planning agencies have also expressed their concern about the lack of information provided by the casino about the impact which is needed to provide proper analysis to Upton and the other towns with which to negotiate these agreements.

An old police cruiser, the Fire Chief’s vehicle as well as the DPW Director’s were on auction which closed today. The DPW Director’s vehicle did not meet the reserve and will now be considered as a replacement to the Animal Control Officer’s vehicle.

The commitment for the next quarterly billing for water and sewer has been calculated and bills have gone out. It is anticipated that 51.82% of the budgets approved for the water and sewer enterprise funds will be collected to date. This will be monitored as the summer billings are typically higher than winter to ensure the budget is on target throughout the year.

42 This weekend the new equipment for the Veteran’s Memorial Playground will be delivered. We  
43 will have staff on hand, along with volunteers from the Men’s Club to install that equipment. It  
44 is hoped that we’ll be ready to reopen the playground late next week.

45  
46 The Library Board of Trustees has voted to retain Vertex manage the renovations to the Library  
47 and the repairs to address the odors in the building. A warrant article for additional funds has  
48 been placed on the November special town meeting. The Library is targeting the move out and  
49 the work to be done during the month of December.

50  
51 Recruitment is ongoing for two heavy equipment operator positions in the Highway Division,  
52 and the Council on Aging Director. Applications for the Highway position are due by October  
53 17th and for the COA Director by October 31st. Ms. Robinson is also exploring options to fill  
54 the vacant Animal Control Officer with the Board of Health.

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56 **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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58 Review Draft South Street Gravel Pit

59 The latest version of the earth removal permit for the South Street Gravel Pit was placed on the  
60 Town’s website last week. The draft has been negotiated with the owners, and takes into account  
61 the majority of the concerns raised by residents and the Board throughout this process. South  
62 Street Realty Trust agreed to increase the bond, refine the hours of operation, include an  
63 indemnity clause recommended by Town Counsel and clarify how complaints will be reviewed.  
64 A copy of the letter by Henry Poirier on the proposed traffic management process will be added  
65 as an addendum to the agreement and will be posted on the Town’s website. This proposed  
66 traffic management process has been adhered to over the past three weeks and has not presented  
67 any problems according to Poirier and the Town Manager. Jonathan Calianos a South Street  
68 resident reiterated his concern over the traffic and will review the proposed traffic management  
69 process letter before making further comment. Charles Hopkins asked the Selectmen if the  
70 Poirier’s could keep an eye on the street sweeping, and requested that signage of a blind drive  
71 (his) be installed.

72  
73 Review Draft of the November 19th Special Town Meeting Warrant

74 Ms. Robinson reviewed a draft of the warrant which is nine articles long. The predominant  
75 article is one proposed by the Planning Board to set a moratorium on medical marijuana facilities  
76 until further study can be made on the matter. The Board will execute it on October 28th, after  
77 which the Finance Committee will consider its recommendations at their meeting on October  
78 30th.

79  
80 Review BY 2015 – 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

81 The Capital Improvement Program prepared by the Town Manager was discussed. Ms.  
82 Robinson projected the Town’s capital needs for the next six years. This comprehensive  
83 document will also go to the Finance Committee and Capital Budget Committee for their  
84 consideration. The budget calendar calls for the next two months to be spent reviewing what is  
85 proposed so that a plan can be formulated with the FY 14/15 operating budget of what can be  
86 funded and from what source. The Selectmen agreed with the Town Manager to discuss this at  
87 upcoming meetings and go over each proposed project in more detail.

88

89 Motion to Approve Amended Agreement – Hampshire Electricity Aggregation

90 This item was passed over.

91 The Selectmen discussed their previous inquires on lighting and usage savings. Selectmen  
92 Fleming nominated Selectmen Picard to revisit this program with Mass Safe.

93

94 BOARD OF SELECTION’S ACTION PLAN REVIEW

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96 Selectmen Picard will continue to meet with various boards and commissions to discuss the  
97 strategic plan.

98

99 RECOGNITION

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101 Chairman Brochu paid tribute to Richard Kelly, former Registrar of Voters and offered his  
102 condolences to the family.

103

104 The Chair also wished his father and the Town Manager Happy Birthday!

105

106 The Selectman acknowledged the Men’s Club for gifting the schools police radio’s. They also  
107 thanked Seema Kenny and Lisa Brochu for their hard work managing the Heritage Day  
108 Celebration this year.

109

110 MEETING LOOK AHEAD TOPICS

111

112 Selectman Picard recognized a need for more involvement among town boards and committees  
113 to better communicate and share resources during his quest in preparing the town wide strategic  
114 plan. The Selectmen agreed to pursue this. In this same vein, Selectmen Picard suggested that the  
115 Board also reach out to their neighbor Boards of Selectmen, specifically Hopedale, Mendon and  
116 Grafton to discuss the potential for shared opportunities. The others were amendable to this as  
117 well.

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119 CORRESPONDENCE

120

121 **Motion #2:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to  
122 Foxwoods to assent the designation of Upton as a surrounding community.

123

124 Second: Selectman Picard, Unanimous: Chairman Brochu

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126 Selectman Fleming met with the resident concerned about the barriers to the damn at Taft pond  
127 on South Street. The Town will work with the DPW to remove the concrete barriers and put a  
128 more asthenic post system to protect against improper use but maintain assessibility.

129

130 After speaking with residents regarding the access to Goss pond for the walking trail, Selectman  
131 Fleming concluded that there is no other point of access. The Town will work with the police to  
132 deter young residents’ from trespassing to the gravel pit and look for an aesthetic entrance with  
133 minimal signage for the walking trail.

134 **ADJOURN MEETING**

135

136 ***Motion #3:*** At 7:21pm motion was made by Selectman Picard to adjourn the regular meeting.

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138 Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous: Chairman Brochu.

139

140 Respectfully submitted,

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142 Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant