

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2012

Location: Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street – 2nd floor training room.

Present: Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, Selectman James A. Brochu, Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

The Selectmen first discussed the purchase of the land on South Street. They asked Ms. Robinson to contact the owners of the property and find out whether or not they would be amenable to accepting a contingency whereby the Town would not pay for the land until we have completed a sufficient amount of design to get the project approved by various boards.

Ms. Robinson asked the Board to clarify the appointment they had made the night prior of Bill Andrews to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Selectmen confirmed that they intended to appoint Mr. Andrews to complete the term vacated by John LeBrun, which goes until May, 2014.

The Selectmen discussed the annual scholarship awards. Selectman Brochu recused himself as he has a daughter at BVT that could be eligible for a scholarship. Selectmen Fleming and Picard debated the size of the scholarship awards and whether or not there should be a process by which applicants are rated in order to determine if they should receive an award. After some debate the Board decided to send out the application with no scholarship amount on it, and see how many requests come back. They will revisit the awards at their first meeting in May.

The Board then joined the Finance Committee at their meeting in the Training Room. The Finance Committee was finishing up a presentation by the Capital Budget Committee about the purchase of the land on South Street for recreation and conservation. The CBC had recommended against the purchase to the Finance Committee because they believe a process should have been undertaken to select this property, and that not enough was known about it from the perspective of getting it permitted by various boards and agencies. Mr. Calianos spoke from the Finance Committee, indicating that he agreed with this recommendation, and asking the Board if the Board had signed a purchase & sale agreement with the owner with any contingencies in place to back out if the property could not be permitted. The Board indicated that they had not asked the owner to agree to such contingencies, and that since the owner had not retained counsel at this point, no P&S had been developed. The Board said they would discuss with the owner whether or not they would be agreeable to this change.

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46 The debate then turned to the FY 12/13 budget. Ms. Robinson handed out a list of amendments
47 to the budget that the Board of Selectmen had approved the previous evening. It included a list
48 of cuts to warrant articles, use of overlay surplus voted by the Assessors, and stabilization funds
49 in order to arrive at a balanced budget. She gave the boards an overview of the changes, status
50 of health insurance negotiations with the Insurance Advisory Committee, and that no changes to
51 personnel costs were budgeted at this time. The Finance Committee asked if some of the
52 remaining free cash could be used for warrant articles rather than all from stabilization. The
53 Board agreed that this would be a good idea. Ms. Robinson said that she would make some
54 adjustments and send the document back to the Finance Committee and Selectmen for further
55 review.

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57 **Motion # 1:** At 8:30pm Motion was made by Chairman Fleming to adjourn the meeting. Second:
58 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Selectman Brochu.

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60 Respectfully submitted,
61 Blythe Robinson, Town Manager

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