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Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2011

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

Present: Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson, and Department Coordinator Karen L. Varney. (Chairman Michael E. Goodwin was not present).

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Acting Chairman Robert Fleming informed the residents that at the conclusion of this meeting, the Board will enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, s21, exception #6, to consider the purchase or value of real estate.

Approval of meeting minutes will be deferred until Chairman Goodwin returns.

The Board welcomed the Town Manager as an official resident of Upton after relocating from Connecticut.

Discussion Items – Background Information (submitted to the Board)

1. Special Town Meeting Draft Motions for January 11, 2011 – enclosed please find a draft of the motions for the special town meeting. The citizen’s petition motion has been drafted by the Town Attorney and I am currently working with the petitioners to resolve the final wording.

2. Ambulance Billing – Fire Chief Ron Goodale was welcomed by the Board and gave a very comprehensive report about our emergency medical service. As a result of his review of this service it has been determined that changes need to be made in how the Town handles billing for these services so that revenue to the town can be maximized and current staff better utilized. During the report the Chief discussed how revenues and expenditures for the service are accounted for, as well as to review the current rates for their services. Chief Goodale has recommended outsourcing the billing process to recover 90-95% of the collections. The Selectmen agree it’s time for a change and welcomes Chief Goodale’s recommendation. The Town Manger will assist with the RFP process.

44 **2. Informational Meeting – TIP Program** – Town Manager Blythe Robinson gave an
45 update on the upcoming TIP program meeting. An informational session about this
46 program with area residents is scheduled for January 13th. A letter was sent out to all
47 abutters inviting them to attend. The Nipmuc school auditorium has been reserved and
48 the consultants will be prepared to discuss the project in depth. Start time is 7:00pm.
49

50 **3. Senior Work Off Program (BOS policy)** – The background information on this
51 program has been discussed at two previous meetings. Due to the absence of Chairman
52 Goodwin, this item will be deferred until the January 18th agenda. The Board will also
53 review a letter from a resident sharing his thoughts on the topic.
54

55 **4. Cable Advisory Committee Vacancy** – Due to the appointment of Glenn Fowler to the
56 Cable Access Provider position there is now a vacancy on this committee. This will be
57 deferred until the January 18th meeting.
58

59 **5. Notice from CHAPA – 40B Property** – The office received a letter from CHAPA
60 making us aware of a property on Knowlton Circle that the owner wishes to sell and has
61 restrictions under the 40B program. Selectman Picard suggested that we copy this to the
62 Local Housing Committee. They are scheduled to meet on January 10th. A letter will need
63 to be sent indicating the Town’s position under the right of first refusal.
64

65 In a letter from the MMA referencing the annual business meeting in January, has
66 requested that those officials who are unable to attend, designate another official to vote on their
67 behalf. Authorization was approved by both Selectman Fleming and Selectman Picard. They will
68 sign off on the Credential Vote form as required by the MMA bylaws.
69

70 Correspondence reviewed:

- 71 1. Notice from Department of Veterans Services Re: training session.
- 72 2. Letter from the DEP Re: Water Conservation Grant.
- 73 3. Notice from Charter Re: pricing changes.
- 74 4. BVRSD Quarterly Payment Schedule.
- 75 5. The Beacon
- 76 6. The Upton Chronicle
- 77 7. Correspondence from Blackstone River Valley Re: Sweetwilliam Farm.
- 78 8. ZBA Special Permit Decision Re: Industrial Tower & Wireless, LLC. They now have a
79 20 day waiting period before they can begin the process of constructing the tower.
80

81 On January 18th agenda the Board will be meeting with the Town Hall Renovation
82 Committee and Town Clerk Kelly McElreath will update the Board about reprecinting. The
83 DPW Consultant Larry Bombara is also scheduled to talk with the Board about water and sewer
84 rate increases and the third water source.
85

86 An individual, Scott Ricker of Worcester, stopped by the Selectmen’s meeting and asked
87 to be addressed by the Board. Mr. Ricker’s concern is in regards to ADA (Americans with
88 Disabilities Act) compliance namely the Board of Health and the Library. Mr. Ricker is also
89 concerned with the lack of handicapped parking and signage at the lot adjacent to the Holy

90 Angels Church and playground area. Selectman Fleming answered by saying the Town has been
91 pro active and has applied to Mass Historical in an effort to move forward with a proposed
92 renovation for the Town Hall with the goal of making all Town buildings ADA Compliant. As
93 far as the signs for handicapped parking, Selectman Fleming agrees, this should be addressed.
94 The Board thanked Mr. Ricker for his concerns.

95 At 6:52pm the Board motioned to enter into an Executive Session under MGL c. 30A,
96 sec. 21 exception # 6: to consider land acquisition. The Board will reconvene their regular
97 meeting only to adjourn.

98 Poll taken: Robert Fleming aye, Ken Picard aye.

99

100 7:14pm the Board reconvened.

101

102 Motion #1: Selectman Fleming motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Majority: Selectman
103 Picard.

104

105

106 Respectfully submitted,

107

108 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator

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