

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2011

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, and Department Coordinator Karen L. Varney.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Selectman Picard arrived during Senator Moore’s update on the State’s financial situation.

The Board welcomed Scout Stephen Poirier, Troop 132. Stephen requested to come before the Board to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout Project which includes landscaping improvements to the Veteran’s Monument at Lakeview cemetery. Stephen gave a detailed presentation of his proposed landscape project surrounding the Veteran’s Memorial and flagpole. The plan is to install a brick walkway, surrounded by boxwood plants, day lilies and mums. Stephen also plans on placing solar lighting to illuminate the headstone and flag. No funding is required as Stephen has solicited area businesses to fund his project and if necessary will organize a fund raiser. After meeting with the Cemetery Commissioners last week, they gave their support of this project.

Selectman Brochu commented on how fortunate the town is to have Scouts like Stephen plan these outstanding projects and he applauded him for taking this project on. Chairman Fleming also noted that this plan was well thought out and he looks forward to it’s completion.

The meeting minutes were deferred.

Town Manager Blythe Robinson gave an overview of the year end budget transfers.

Motion # 1: Selectman Brochu motioned to approve the list of FY11 end of year transfers dated June 15, 2011 as submitted by the Town Manager. Majority: Chairman Fleming.

State Senator Moore was welcomed by Board and gave an update on the budget. The Governor has proposed a budget and is waiting to receive the Conference Committee’s report by the end of the week. This Committee works out the differences between the House budget and the Senate’s budget. The budget this year is based on a 7% increase in revenues over last year which comes out to \$20.52 billion dollars in revenue. Even with the increase of 7% they are looking at a structural deficit of \$1.9 billion. Both the House and the Senate budget did an early resolution regarding local aid and Chapter 70 that they would not fund any number below under

45 the House number. Chairman Fleming asked Senator Moore about the health insurance issue. In
46 response Senator Moore said he has been told that the Conference Committee will have their
47 findings by the end of the week adding that he is working towards getting the budget signed and
48 sent off to the Governor by next week. He has no idea as to which way this Health Care bill will
49 go. Town Manager Blythe Robinson said the Senate version is of concern as the retirees will pay
50 the same percentage of the premium as the regular employees and that will cost the town a lot
51 more money.

52 In reference to the TIP program, Chairman Fleming informed the Senator that the voters
53 approved \$600,000 for the design work and asked for his assistance in supporting the program.
54 Senator Moore said he would be ready to draft a letter.
55

56 Don Tata and Jenna Rzasas of Tata & Howard, Water & Wastewater Consultants presented
57 the Water Master Plan & Capital Efficiency Plan to the Board. Ms. Rzasas began her detailed
58 overview with the scope of services, noting population and demand projections. Asset
59 Management Component, water supply evaluation which projected water demands in million
60 gallons per day projected out 20 years, the approved yield of 0.749 mgd from existing sources.
61 Total storage required projected for 2031 is 0.48 million gallons, total effective storage available
62 1.15mg therefore no additional storage is required. Ms. Rzasas also gave a summary of
63 improvement recommendations in 3 phases.
64

65 She also gave an update on the Glen Ave wellfield. Preliminary testing has been
66 completed and the next steps will be permitting with the Conservation Commission, installation
67 of production wells, pump test and report and design of new infrastructure. It is anticipated to be
68 on line in the summer of 2012. The Richard property wellfield update: Pump station and water
69 main designs are underway. Further permitting with the Army corps of Engineers and the
70 Conservation Commission does not appear to be required at this time. Design and bidding is to
71 be completed by spring 2012 so Town meeting approval can be sought, and is anticipated to be
72 on line by the summer of 2013.

73 Ms. Rzasas said she will give the Board an update on Stormwater Management at the July
74 12th meeting and gave a brief account of the discussion topics she will cover. The Board thanked
75 Don and Jenna for their report. The complete reports along with maps are available for review at
76 the Board of Selectmen's office and the Town Clerk's office.
77

78 At 6:57pm the Board recessed.
79

80 7:06pm the Board reconvened. After review of the continued annual appointment and
81 letters of interest received, the Board made the following motions.
82

83 Motion # 2: Selectman Picard motioned to appoint John LeBrun and Stedman Briggs to the
84 Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3 year term expiring 2014. Second: Selectman Brochu,
85 unanimous: Chairman Fleming.
86

87 Motion # 3: Selectman Picard motioned to appoint Associate Members of the Zoning Board of
88 Appeals, James R. Bates Jr. term expiring 2013 and Richard Desjardins, term expiring 2014.
89 Second: Selectman Brochu, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.
90

91 Motion # 4: Selectman Picard motioned to appoint COA Director James Gardner as the senior
92 work off program Coordinator for a one year term. Second: Selectman Brochu, unanimous:
93 Chairman Fleming.
94

95 Chairman Fleming was sorry to receive notification from Personnel Board Chair Seema
96 Kenney who has served on the Personnel Board for 17 years her request to change her
97 membership status to Ad Hoc for the remainder of her term. In her note she said it has been a
98 pleasure to serve the town for so many years.
99

100 Motion # 5: Selectman Brochu motioned to change Personnel Board Chair Seema Kenney's
101 membership status to Ad Hoc for the remainder of her term which expires in 2013. Second:
102 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.
103

104 Motion # 6: Chairman Fleming motioned to appoint to the Personnel Board, Bob Carnegie, 2
105 year term, Debbie Amorelli, 2 year term and Michael Goodwin for a 1 year term. Second:
106 Selectman Brochu, unanimous: Selectman Picard.
107

108 Motion #7: Selectman Brochu motioned to appoint Timothy Tobin to serve on the Town Hall
109 Renovation Committee. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.
110

111 Motion # 8: Selectman Brochu motioned to appoint Alan Miano to the Conservation
112 Commission for a one year term as recommended by Chairman Chris Scott. Second: Selectman
113 Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.
114

115 Motion # 9: Selectman Brochu motioned to support the Town Manager's decision regarding
116 disciplinary action and to waive the 15 day requirement. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous:
117 Chairman Fleming.
118

119 The Board received a notification from Town Clerk Kelly McElreath regarding the
120 resignation of Finance Committee member Herman Meisner due to his relocation out of State.
121 The Board thanked Herman for his many years of service and wished him well. A joint election
122 will be held for the remainder of Mr. Meisner's term. Letters of interest are to be sent to the
123 Board of Selectmen or the Finance Committee.
124

125 In regards to the West River St Athletic Field dedication, Chairman Fleming said the
126 general consensus for a date is Sunday, July 24th. He will confirm this with the Henderson and
127 River's family.
128

129 Selectman Brochu reminded everyone of the Town's 4th of July events sponsored by the
130 Men's Club this weekend June 25th at the Blackstone Valley Technical High School. The Upton
131 Police is sponsoring the PMC Kids Bike Challenge for the Jimmy Fund and there will be a craft
132 fair and fireworks. He sent a thank you out for a great job done by all the volunteers.
133

134 In reference to a citizen's petition recently received by the Board asking for consideration
135 in setting up a Committee to study the financial consequences of the dissolution of the MURSD.
136 The Board is in agreement to set up a committee consisting of 5-7 members. The mission

137 statement will be drafted by Chairman Fleming. It was noted that the School Committee will
138 need to supply data to the members but have separation in this process.

139

140 Town Manager Blythe Robinson gave a few updates before adjournment.

141 The land closing of Sweetwilliam Farm came to fruition this afternoon. Preconstruction phase on
142 the Memorial school field will begin around July 4th and will be completed by Labor Day. Hot in
143 place road construction to begin around July 1st and good news with the cell tower approval as
144 the Wampanoag Tribe has signed off on this project and after a 45 day waiting period, cell tower
145 construction can begin in August.

146 Ms. Robinson also noted that she is in the process of sending in the TIP project
147 paperwork to the State.

148

149 Dates for a possible district wide school meeting were discussed. The Board has also
150 agreed to meet on either Tuesday, August 9th or 30th and have an informal conversation with the
151 school committee all parties and to try and work together for a resolution on future year's
152 budgets. As the Liaison to the school district, Selectman Brochu will follow up.

153

154 In regards to the July 12th Board meeting, Ms. Robinson will invite the Planning Board
155 and Conservation Commission so they can be present during Tata & Howard's update on
156 Stormwater management. Also her plan is to invite the Board of Health regarding recycling
157 contract, and the Executive director of the 495 Partnership for a 15 minute overview. Ms.
158 Robinson gave an update on her meeting last week with the CMRPC in regards to the TIP
159 program.

160

161 Both Selectman Picard and Selectman Brochu attended the MMA Training Session last
162 week regarding Conflict Resolution through mitigation.

163

164 The members are on summer schedule therefore their next meeting is July 12th.

165

166 Motion # 10: At 7:30pm Selectman Brochu motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second: Selectman
167 Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

168

169 Respectfully submitted,

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171 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator

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