

1 Board of Selectmen

2 **Town of Upton**



3 **Massachusetts**

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7 Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2011  
8 Board of Selectmen's Meeting

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10 Location: Nipmuc Regional Middle / High School – Pleasant Street PDC room.

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12 Present: Upton Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Member Kenneth E. Picard, Member  
13 James A. Brochu, Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson, Department Coordinator  
14 Terry Palmer, Board of Assessors Chairman, Charlie T. Marsden, Glen H. Fowler  
15 and Teresa Ambrosino.

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

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19 Approved: *12-5-11*

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21 The Board recites the Pledge of Allegiance.

22  
23 Chairman Fleming reviewed the agenda for the benefit of the television audience.  
24 Chairman Fleming welcomed the Board of Assessors to the meeting

25  
26 1) Tax Classification Hearing

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28 Motion #1 by Selectmen Picard to open the Tax Classification Hearing, Selectmen Brochu  
29 second. Unanimous; Chairman Fleming.

30 Chairman Fleming turned the hearing over to Chairman Marsden who read the hearing  
31 notification from the Milford Daily News. Chairman Marsden then reviewed the Recap for the  
32 Board going over the following:

- 33
- 34 • Debt exclusions
  - 35 • Levy limit
  - 36 • Local receipts –Chairman Marsden stated this number is \$16,000 less than  
37 anticipated from last year.
  - 38 • Tax rate recapitulation – Chairman Marsden stated that these are estimated  
39 numbers until our rate is approved by the DOR.
  - 40 • Tax rate summary – Chairman Marsden recommended the tax rate at an estimate  
41 of \$15.03 per thousand and a single tax rate

42 Selectmen Picard asked Mr. Marsden to review the overlay account. Chairman Marsden  
discussed with the Board that the overlay account is used to pay for tax abatements granted by

43 the Board or the Appellate Tax Board, (ATB). He noted that some ATB cases are habitual and  
44 the wireless accounts go back as far as 2009. He also stated they have been filed with the state  
45 but they do not have a list of them, so they are unsure what the total exposure for abatements  
46 may be.

47  
48 Motion #2 by Selectmen Picard to approve the one rate classification as recommended by the  
49 Board of Assessors, Selectmen Brochu second. Unanimous; Chairman Fleming.  
50 The Board of Selectmen signed the tax levy percentages for fiscal year 2012 as presented by the  
51 Board of Assessors.

52  
53 Chairman Fleming requested deferring the meeting minutes to the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
54 Chairman Fleming asked Ms. Robinson to give her report.

- 55 • Ms. Robinson told the Board that on Monday Murray Construction completed the  
56 reclamation of a portion of Grafton Road. The roadbed has been removed from  
57 Oak Knoll Lane to the Town line, and that they are waiting for a removal of a tree  
58 stump so the paving can commence. The entire stretch of this road will then be  
59 chip sealed during the next construction season.
- 60 • Ms. Robinson told the Board that the new sidewalk machine was delivered on  
61 Wednesday to the DPW and the staff will receive training on it shortly.
- 62 • Ms. Robinson discussed the Roadway/Beaver Dam Issues – she stated that she  
63 has spent a considerable amount of time on Beaver issues this week and asked the  
64 Board to review her report for the details.
- 65 • Ms. Robinson said that a staff person from Natural Heritage contacted the  
66 Conservation Commission this week regarding the dragonflies, and they will  
67 come out next week to assess the situation.
- 68 • Ms. Robinson told the Board that the drainage project got underway this week and  
69 the contractor has been able to replace two culverts per day starting on  
70 Westborough Road.
- 71 • Ms. Robinson stated that the first round of interviews has been scheduled for the  
72 Director of Public Works position and that the interviewing committee will meet  
73 with the candidates all day on November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 74 • Ms. Robinson stated that the trial involving the Town’s denial of a large lot  
75 frontage reduction permit for 142 North Street was due to start on November 21,  
76 2011, she also told the Board that they have filed for a continuance and may bring  
77 back a new plan for consideration.
- 78 • Ms. Robinson told the Board that the Police Department just completed the two  
79 day on site evaluation process for full accreditation by the State. The process  
80 went very well and the Department can expect to receive their award for this in  
81 January.
- 82 • Ms. Robinson told the Board the COA has completed the paperwork that the  
83 Board of Assessor’s need for the past year of the Senior Work Off program. She  
84 also stated that in the process they have identified some inconsistencies with how  
85 the program has been managed, and when they start the program again in January  
86 those issues will be addressed.

87  
88 2) Review/Approve appointment of Personnel Board Department Assistant

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90 Ms. Robinson told the Board that she has received an email from the Personnel Board  
91 Chairperson, Mike Goodwin stating that the Personnel Board has interviewed the two candidates  
92 for the position of Department Assistant to the Personnel Board and that they are recommending  
93 Karen Varney to be appointed to the position. She also told the Board that having had the  
94 opportunity to work with Karen since she came to Upton that she wholeheartedly concur with  
95 their recommendation and asked that they vote to approve her appointment and waive the 15-day  
96 waiting period.

97  
98 Motion #3 by selectmen Picard to appoint Karen Varney to the position of Assistant to the  
99 Personnel Board; also to waive the 15 day waiting period, Selectmen Brochu second.  
100 Unanimous; Chairman Fleming.

101  
102 3. Discussion Regarding Sewer Line Easement across G&U Property  
103

104 Ms. Robinson discussed with the Board the letter from FST Engineers who have been  
105 engaged to advise the Town on the appropriate way to address the issue of the Town's sewer line  
106 that runs across railroad property to deliver sewage to the treatment plant. The Board discussed  
107 with Ms. Robinson the following options:

- 108 1. Relocate the sewer line – this is beneficial to the town but quite costly to the rail road.
- 109 2. Install new pipe next to the existing pipe – Ms. Robinson said  
110 this would be the better route to go because there is a life span of the pipe from 75 to 100  
111 years and it is less costly to install.

112  
113 Chairman Fleming would like to have more dialog with the rail road before any action is  
114 taken on this project.

115  
116 Selectmen Picard asked about the potential election for the School Committee. Chairman  
117 Fleming will reach out to the Chairman of the School Committee. Ms. Robinson requested  
118 having the Housing Authority election also on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December if the Board members are  
119 available to participate.

120  
121 At 6:47pm Chairman Fleming motioned to enter into Executive Session under MGL c. 30A, sec.  
122 21 exception #6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate. The Board will  
123 recess to attend the MURSD Multi Board meeting upon completion of this executive session:  
124 James Brochu, aye, Ken Picard aye, Robert Fleming aye.

125  
126 At 7:00pm Chairman Fleming motioned to adjourned Executive Session to attend the  
127 MURSD Multi Board meeting at 7:00pm. Jim Brochu, aye, Ken Picard aye, Robert Fleming aye.

128  
129 Respectfully submitted,

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131 Terry Palmer  
132 Department Coordinator

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