

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2010

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

Present: Chairman Kenneth E. Picard, Selectman Michael E. Goodwin, Selectman Robert J. Fleming and Department Coordinator Karen L. Varney.

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

Motion was made by Selectman Goodwin to enter into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 39, section 23B, exception #3. The reason for this meeting is for the Board to have a discussion with the COA Director James Gardner to evaluate the operations of the Center.

The Board will reconvene regular session at the completion of this Executive Session. Poll taken: Michael Goodwin "I", Ken Picard "I", Robert Fleming "I".

At 6:40pm the Board reconvened.

Appropriation Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$750,978.49 and Payroll Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$80,064.58 approved as submitted.

*Motion #1:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2010. Majority: Chairman Picard.

*Motion #2:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 11, 2010 Executive Session meeting minutes with Local Union 170 and to insert on line 15 "DPW Teamsters". Majority: Chairman Picard.

*Motion #3:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 11, 2010 Executive Session meeting with Local 3338A. Majority: Chairman Picard.

*Motion #4:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 11, 2010 Executive Session meeting minutes with Local 162. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.

*Motion #5:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 12, 2010 meeting minutes. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.

*Motion #6:* Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 15, 2010 meeting minutes. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.

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46 Motion #7: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 17, 2010 meeting minutes with  
47 Tata and Howard with a modification on line #27. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous:  
48 Chairman Picard.

49  
50 Motion #8: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the January 21, 2010 meeting minutes.  
51 Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.

52  
53 The Board reviewed a request from Timothy W. Cornu, President of New England Fleet  
54 Service at 138 Milford Street requesting to increase his Class 2 Dealers License from ten to 25  
55 vehicles. Mr. Cornu attended the meeting and answered questions from the Board. The Board is  
56 in agreement that this request should follow the standard procedural process by scheduling a  
57 public hearing. The Selectmen's Office will follow up with Mr. Cornu once this hearing is set up.

58  
59 Chairman Picard noted that the Board met on January 11<sup>th</sup> with Local 3338A and based  
60 on that meeting, it was agreed by the Board to forward the language regarding the Contract  
61 section (steps) they discussed to Union President Bonnie Lopez with a side note that the Board  
62 would like to get this resolved as soon as possible.

63  
64 A request from the Upton Conservation Commission dated January 20, 2010, for  
65 approval of the Conservation Restriction (12.32 acre portion of land located on West River St)  
66 pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 1 of the General Laws were signed by the Board.

67  
68 The Board supported placing a Warrant Article for the Special Town Meeting in the  
69 amount of \$10,000.00 to help defray the costs of Upton's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

70  
71 Regarding the Town Manager position, Chairman Picard informed the citizens that the  
72 Board has met twice with the three candidates over the past two weeks, presented each with a  
73 series of questions, and have reviewed their notes. Selectman Fleming said he has deliberated  
74 and prepared to make a Motion.

75  
76 Motion # 8: Selectman Fleming motioned to extend an offer for the position of Town Manager to  
77 Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. Seconded for discussion purposes by Selectman Goodwin disagreeing  
78 with the motion and noted his reasoning for not supporting this candidate. He further stating his  
79 leadership style would not work for Upton. Chairman Picard although recognizes Mr. Coughlin's  
80 longevity and feels the Board should appoint someone who is not constantly looking for another  
81 job. He agrees with his colleague Selectman Goodwin that he is not a good fit.

82 Vote taken: In Favor of Michael J. Coughlin: Selectman Fleming "I" opposed: Chairman  
83 Picard "I", opposed Selectman Goodwin "I".

84  
85 Motion lost.

86  
87 Motion # 9: Selectman Goodwin motioned to extend an offer for the position of Town Manager  
88 to Michael P. Gilleberto. Seconded for discussion purposes by Chairman Picard.

89 Selectman Goodwin feels this candidate represents the style the Board is made up of. His  
90 background and experience was noted. Selectman Fleming disagrees, saying he lacks the small

91 Town experience. Chairman Picard commented on Mr. Gilleberto’s background and he received  
92 praise from the Town Manager of Worcester. Chairman Picard addressed his concerns about  
93 someone coming from the City of Worcester of over 100,000.00 residents vs. 7,000 residents and  
94 making the transition. He does however rank Mr. Gilleberto ahead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Candidate.

95 Vote taken: In favor of Michael P. Gilleberto” Selectman Goodwin “I”. Opposed:  
96 Selectman Fleming “I”, opposed Chairman Picard “I”.

97  
98 Motion lost.  
99

100 Motion # 10: Selectman Fleming motion to extend the position of Town Manager to Blythe C.  
101 Robinson. Seconded: for discussion purposes by Selectman Goodwin. Selectman Fleming noted  
102 that Ms. Robinson possess very personable skills, clearly understands small Town Government  
103 and has the background for the job. Selectman Goodwin agrees she will do a great job. It was  
104 between Ms. Robinson and Mr. Gilleberto. Selectman Goodwin had a conversation with the now  
105 retired Avon Town Manger and is comfortable with the appointment. Chairman Picard said she is  
106 clear; her responses were well thought out, she has followed up with thank you letters to the  
107 Board, demonstrates good communication skills and is engaging.

108  
109 Vote taken: In favor of Blythe Robinson: Selectman Fleming “I”, Selectman Goodwin  
110 ‘I”, Chairman Picard “I”.

111  
112 Blythe Robinson is the Board first choice for the Position of Town Manager. Chairman  
113 Picard opened up discussion to vote on ranking a second candidate.

114  
115 Selectman Fleming stood on his first motion for Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., both Selectman  
116 Goodwin and Chairman Picard apposed.

117  
118 Motion # 11: Selectman Goodwin motioned for Michael Gilleberto as their second choice for the  
119 Town Manager position. Majority: Chairman Picard.

120  
121 The Board reviewed the Employment draft agreement that was sent by Town Counsel and  
122 made some modifications. Changes to this Agreement will be forwarded to Town Counsel. Each  
123 candidate will receive a phone call this evening informing them of the Board’s decision. A follow  
124 up letter will also be sent to each candidate.

125 Chairman Picard extended his thanks to the Town Manager Search Committee Members  
126 for a great job done. He asked that the Committee send a correspondence, in writing a brief  
127 narrative to the Board outlying the process and what they would do if anything to change the  
128 process.

129  
130 Correspondence reviewed:

- 131  
132 1. Qtly payment schedule from Blackstone Valley District Treasurer.  
133 2. Letter from the DCR Re: Decision on the proposed Land swap.  
134 3. Follow up letter to Inspector Roche Re: BP signage illumination.  
135 4. Request from the United Parish to place fundraiser advertising signs. (approved)  
136 5. Town Common & Historic Village Center Master Planning.

- 137 6. Copy of a correspondence to Senator Moore from the  
138 Town of Uxbridge.  
139 7. Town of Shirley Government Study questionnaire completed.  
140 8. RBC Account Statement for December.  
141 9. Update from Dog Officer Kate Hawkins.  
142 10. Letter from Upton Fire/EMS Advisory Committee  
143 11. Memorandum to Municipal Clients from Kopelman & Paige  
144 a. Open Meeting Law (3 sections)  
145

146 Motion # 12: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the request from the United Parish to  
147 display four sandwich type board signs for their March 27<sup>th</sup> fundraiser from March 14<sup>th</sup> – March  
148 27<sup>th</sup>. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.  
149

150 The Board tentatively set up Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> for an Executive Session with Ms.  
151 Robinson to discuss contract negotiations. This may change pending the availability of Ms.  
152 Robinson.  
153

154 Motion # 13: Selectman Goodwin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm. Second:  
155 Selectman Fleming, unanimous: Chairman Picard.  
156

157 Respectfully submitted,  
158 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator  
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