

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2010

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

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

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

Appropriation Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$817,422.61 and Payroll Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$71,722.45 approved as submitted.

Motion # 1: Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2010 with change on line #45. Majority: Chairman Picard.

Motion # 2: Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of April 20, 2010. Majority: Chairman Picard.

Chairman Picard said he received information from FEMA relative to disaster assistance for homeowners, renters and business owners. Anyone interested can call 800-621-3362 or go only to www.disasterassistance.gov.

The Board welcomed Senator Michael Moore. In his update, Senator Moore said there will be a 4% reduction in local aid next year. In reference to the States raining day fund, there is currently seven hundred million dollars and if these funds are utilized this year, it could jeopardize the double A Bond rating. Also it depletes resources that would be needed in 2012. He is looking at mid June for the final budget numbers to be available. The maximum reduction of 4% in Local Aid, brings the House number for Upton to \$25,708.00. Unrestricted general aid is \$450,225.00. Chapter 90 reimbursements are \$239,024.00 and a reimbursement of \$4,139.00 for Upton to help defray the cost of the Special Election to fill the U.S. Senate seat.

In other matters, he processed budget requests in working with the AA Mr. Bates for the Architectural Study for a new library for \$25,000.00 and \$25,000.00 for the Historical Commission for opening of the historic cave. He indicated he was not very optimistic due to the current financial situation.

Senator Moore continued his report by saying in 2008 the State received \$2.1 billion dollars in capital gains, in 2009 the State received \$27 million, which was a net loss of seventy-five percent of capital gains revenue for the Commonwealth. Over the last 3 years educational

45 spending has increased by three-hundred million dollars with an additional three billion dollars
46 in stimulus money. He said the financial indicators are positive as there has been a reduction in
47 unemployment and the stock market is up indicating the economy is moving forward.

48 The Board thanked Senator Moore for the update.
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50 Men's Club President Mike Oliver and member Frank Aniello came before the Board to
51 request funding for a beautification project they are planning in the area of Route 140 from
52 Dunkin Donuts to the corner of Route 140 (in front of the Upton Housing Authority) has become
53 an eyesore with dead grass and sand left behind from the winter plowing. Their plan is to clean
54 the area and plant a variety of perennial plantings and mulch. The Men's Club is asking for
55 \$5,000 to cover the cost of the materials. The members will supply the labor. Mr. Oliver said he
56 spoke with the Highway Supervisor John Johnson who is in favor of this project. After reviewing
57 the quote from Weston Nurseries, Chairman Picard said he would like to see at least one other
58 quote. Mr. Oliver said he will obtain another quote and submit it to the Board by next week for
59 possible approval. The members would like to start this project soon to be ready for the 275th
60 Anniversary celebration. Funding would be coming from the Risteen Beautification fund. The
61 Board will consider this request at their May 4th meeting.
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63 Special Town Election Warrant date discussed.
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65 Motion # 3: Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve June 8, 2010 as the date for the Special
66 Town Election. Majority: Chairman Picard.
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68 Selectman Goodwin noted that the footings for the new flag poles for the Cemetery and
69 Town Common are in place and the Veteran's monument for the Cemetery is complete and we
70 look to a two-week delivery once the base is in place.
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72 In a discussion regarding additional space for the COA, Selectman Goodwin said he is
73 out of ideas but perhaps Town Counsel could give the Board some other options. The Board
74 originally thought funds from the Town's Ella Risteen Trust fund would pay for additional rental
75 space at the former Curves building across the street, however when Town Counsel reviewed the
76 Trust Fund document, that was not possible. The Town Manager will be meeting tomorrow with
77 Town Counsel for a formal introduction and at that time she will talk with Attorney Cantor as to
78 what direction the Town should go.
79

80 Town Manger Blythe Robinson gave her weekly report outlining the first staff meeting
81 with Department Supervisors, tasks completed and observations and key issues for follow up.
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83 Motion cards for the STM and ATM Warrant Articles were drafted and will be reviewed
84 by Town Counsel.
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86 The Board discussed the use of the ATM Warrant Article Justification Summary format
87 vs. the standard format. It was agreed by the Board and the Town Manager that the Justification
88 format be available to the public at the Special Town Meeting and in reference to the Annual, this
89 format will be passed out with the Motion cards to the respective Departments who submitted the
90 Articles.

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Correspondence received:

1. Request from the Friends of the Upton State Forest to erect signs for the May 15th CCC Day. (The Town Manager will consider this request for approval).
2. Appointment request for Veteran’s Services Officer. (BOS with take into consideration)
3. Copy of a correspondence from Senator Moore Re: Funding for municipalities to help defray costs of the special election. (Upton to receive \$4,139.00).
4. Fire Chief Committee Meeting minutes of April 22nd

In reference to the Blackstone Valley Economic Development Council membership, it is believed that Selectmen Fleming participates in this Council. It is Chairman Picard’s feeling is that the Board participate to some extent.

Town Manager Blythe Robinson informed the Board that she has received a request for handicapped parking spaces during the 275th Anniversary Celebration and she will follow up with Chief Bradley to implement this request. Also a discussion regarding telephone pole flag banners along Route 140. Chairman Picard asked Ms. Robinson to speak with Town Clerk and Committee member Kelly McElreath to investigate.

The Warrant Articles for both the Special and Annual Town Meeting were summarized by the Board.

In a statement from Selectman Goodwin, the Board welcomes letters of interest from citizens interested in appointments to any Boards, Committee’s or Commissions in Town. Appointments will be made during the Board’s May 11th and 18th meeting.

In response to the of the Fire Chief Screening Committee’s meeting minutes noting the Committee will conduct two rounds of interviews with the candidates, the Board voted to amend the Mission Statement that the Committee may elect to conduct two or three interviews as they deem necessary.

Motion # 4: Selectman Goodwin motioned to amend the Fire Chief’s Screening Committee Mission Statement to read, the top candidates shall be interviewed two or three times as the Committee feels necessary. Majority: Chairman Picard.

Key issues for the May 4th Agenda, reorganization of the Board of Selectmen and the Annual Public Safety Appointments.

Motion # 5: Selectman Goodwin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm. Majority: Chairman Picard.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator