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Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2010

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

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

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

Motion #1: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the meeting minutes of October 5, 2010. Majority: Selectman Picard.

Motion #2: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve, with edits, the October 5, 2010 executive session meeting minutes relative to assistance. Majority: Selectman Picard.

Motion #3: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve, with edits, the October 5, 2010 executive session meeting minutes, to consider the purchase and value of real estate. Majority: Selectman Picard.

Discussion Items

- 1: Review STM Warrant
- 2 COA Appointment – Department Specialist
- 3: Bid Award: Chemical storage upgrades
- 4: Pleasant St paving
- 5: Funding / recommendation: Street Lights
- 6: Utility Pole Banners
- 7: Memorandum of Understanding: Central Massachusetts Region
8. Town Manager’s Goals

The Board welcomed Lauren Goldberg, Esq. from the Law Firm of Kopelman and Paige. Attorney Goldberg came before the Board to assist them with proper language and answer any procedural questions they may have regarding the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Fifteen warrant articles were reviewed.

Articles 1 – 3 approved as submitted. Articles 4 and 5 to be renumbered to place Article 5 before 4. Article 6, adding an additional \$2,000 and a language change: “including expenses incidental and related thereto”. Article 7, approved as submitted. Article 8: remove the words Town Counsel Expense. Article 9: approved as submitted. Article 10: edit the word payment to

45 paving. Article 11: Sweetwilliam Farm. Selectman Fleming said he has voiced his non support of
46 this matter in the past, and he has not changed his mind. The Town has many other needs that
47 need to be addressed. Selectman Picard had two issues, saying the Open Space was not looking
48 for the full amount however that amount appears in the Article. Second, he feels this Article
49 should be voted on during an annual Town Meeting. Chairman of the Open Space Committee
50 Mike Penko explained that the \$1.3 million was necessary to buy the land, however the
51 committee would look for at least \$570,000 in reimbursement grants which would reduce the
52 Community Preservation Act cost to \$715,000.

53 After further discussion, Chairman Goodwin stated the Board needs to make a business
54 decision and therefore Article 11 and 12 concerning Sweetwilliam farm will not be put on the
55 November 16th Special Town Meeting Warrant.

56 Poll taken: Article 11: Ken Picard , no, Robert Fleming no, Michael Goodwin no.

57 Poll taken: Article: 12: Ken Picard no, Robert Fleming no, Michael Goodwin no.

58 During an inquiry, it was conveyed to the attendees that if a Warrant petition was signed
59 by 200 registered voters, it could be placed on a future Special Town Meeting, but not the
60 November 16th.

61 Article 13: approved however there may be a modification to this Article before the
62 Board gives their final approval next Tuesday October 26th. Article 14: approved as submitted.
63 The Board did ask for a copy of the recommendation from the Planning Board. Article 15:
64 approved, although the Article structure may be changed by the time the Board meets on October
65 26th. The Board asked the Town Manager to contact the Moderator Dave Loeper for his input
66 regarding this Article.

67
68 Town Manager Blythe Robinson presented her weekly Managers report to the Board
69 outlining compliance regarding the revised open meeting law, the pilot testing at the Richard
70 Well field and the rating report from Standard & Poor's to name a few. This full report is
71 included on the last page of these meeting minutes.

72
73 Regarding the part-time Council on Aging Department Specialist position, Town
74 Manager Blythe Robinson informed the Board that after interviewing the pool of candidates, it is
75 her recommendation that Jennifer DeLuca be offered for this position based upon her work
76 experience and enthusiasm.

77
78 Motion # 4: Selectman Picard motioned to authorize the Town Manager to hire Jennifer DeLuca
79 to the position of Council on Aging Department Specialist and to waive the fifteen-day waiting
80 period. Second: Selectman Fleming, unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

81
82 In a memo to the Board, the Town Manager outlined the bid process for the chemical
83 storage facilities upgrades at the Glen Avenue and West River water pump stations and
84 recommended the award to the low bidder, LaFleur Electric, Auburn Mass.

85
86 Motion # 5: Selectman Picard motioned to authorize the Town Manager to execute a contract
87 with LaFleur Electric for the Chemical Storage upgrades as recommended by the Town Manager
88 and not to exceed \$75,000.00 to cover any incidentals that may arise or change orders for the
89 upgrade of the Glen Ave and West River water pump stations. Second: Selectman Fleming,
90 unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

91
92 The Board of Selectmen reviewed a report prepared by Police Chief Michael Bradley
93 regarding the Town's street lights and to determine the feasibility of reducing the Town's
94 electrical cost by eliminating 93 street lights. With the fees incurred from National Grid to
95 permanently turn off these 93 street lights, the first year savings would be \$2,745.00. Going
96 forward the annual savings would be \$6,000. Selectman Fleming's opinion is the savings is not
97 significantly enough for him to move forward. Selectman Picard disagrees and is in favor of
98 turning these lights off. Chairman Goodwin feels this move does not make sense dollar wise and
99 is not in favor of moving ahead. Majority of the Board is to take no action. This information will
100 be filed and perhaps revisited at a later date.

101
102 In looking to add additional utility pole banners, Selectman Picard prepared a
103 specification outlining where these banners can be placed on these poles. He would like to have a
104 discussion with the Board at a future date once Chairman Goodwin and Selectman Fleming have
105 had time to evaluate this information. He would like to have additional banners in place by
106 Memorial Day.

107
108 The Town Manger asked the Board to look over the changes made to the MOU
109 (Memorandum of Understanding) relating to the Comprehensive transportation planning and
110 programming for the Central Mass Region. The Board agreed with the MOU as submitted.

111
112 In a draft report submitted by the Town Manager outlining her goals, the Board
113 welcomed the idea of her working on the development and recommending policies and
114 procedures appropriate for Town operation. Priorities include Investment policy, debt policy and
115 electronic monitoring policy. Selectman Picard would like to see Ms. Robinson create a
116 guideline for a Town Meeting Calendar, including financial guidelines. It is the intention of the
117 Board to meet with Ms. Robinson in a work shop type meeting every six or eight weeks.

118
119 Selectman Picard applauded the Library Director, for his detailed monthly reports. Town
120 Manger Blythe Robinson informed the Board she has spoken to other departments about
121 submitting monthly activity reports.

122
123 A formal request was received from the law office of Johnson & Borenstein in connection
124 with the Glen Echo subdivision Street acceptance process. This request was copied to the
125 Planning Board who will schedule a public hearing. This will be slated for the Annual Town
126 Meeting acceptance in May.

127
128 The Upton VFW Post #5594 held its first 5K road race on October 5th. Proceeds from the
129 race will go towards the VFW for handicapped upgrades. Chairman Goodwin sent
130 congratulations to Peggy Laneri and the Police Department for a successful Run to Remember
131 5K road race that took place during Upton's Heritage weekend.

132
133 In a discussion about the G-U Railroad becoming more active in the following months,
134 the Town Manger inquired about the G-U Railroad Advisory Committee that was formed in
135 August 2008 and asked the Board their thoughts if additional members should be added.
136 Selectman Fleming said he sees no need to continue with this Committee as the Railroad is

137 governed by State guidelines and regulatory boards. Selectman Picard agrees and noted that the
138 Federal Transportation Board drives the bus. Chairman Goodwin also agrees this Committee has
139 no purpose. Fire Chief Aaron Goodale is up to speed on this Railroad and is monitoring the
140 activities at the site.

141
142 Motion # 6: Selectman Picard motioned to dissolve the G-U Railroad Advisory Committee.
143 Second: Selectman Fleming, unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

144
145 It is the Board's intention to enter into two Executive Sessions. At the completion of the
146 2nd Executive Session, the Board will reconvene only to adjourn.

147
148 At 7:44pm Selectman Robert Fleming motioned to enter into Executive Session under
149 M.G.L. Chapter 30A, s21, exception #6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of
150 real estate. The Board will reconvene their regular meeting at the completion of this Executive
151 Session and motion to enter a 2nd Executive Session.

152 Poll taken: Robert Fleming aye, Ken Picard aye, Michael Goodwin aye.

153
154 At 8:37pm the Board reconvened their regular meeting and motioned to enter into a 2nd
155 Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, s21, exception #1, to discuss the physical
156 condition of an individual. The Board will reconvene their regular meeting at the completion of
157 this Executive Session to adjourn.

158 Poll taken: Robert Fleming aye, Ken Picard aye, Michael Goodwin aye.

159
160 At 8:45pm the Board reconvened.

161
162 Motion # 7: Selectman Fleming motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm. Second: Selectman
163 Picard, unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

164
165 Respectfully submitted,

166
167 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator

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