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Board of Selectmen

**Town of Upton**



**Massachusetts**

Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2010

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

*Present:* Chairman Michael E. Goodwin, Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard, and Department Coordinator Karen L. Varney. (Town Manager, Blythe Robinson was not in attendance).

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

*Motion # 1:* Selectman Picard motioned to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of 11/9/10. Second: Selectman Fleming, unanimous, Chairman Goodwin.

Regarding Town Counsel, the Board has received positive feedback relative to the work Attorney Lauren Goldberg of Kopelman and Paige has done in preparing and attending the November Special Town Meeting. The Board had a favorable conversation about appointing her as lead Attorney.

*Motion # 2:* Selectman Picard motioned to appoint Attorney Lauren Goldberg of Kopelman and Paige as the Town's lead Attorney. Second: Selectman Fleming, unanimous, Chairman Goodwin.

Selectman Picard prepared an Energy Conservation lighting project overview for 3 Town buildings, Town Hall, Police Station and DPW Department after receiving input from Police Chief Michael Bradley, DPW Consultant Larry Bombara and DPW Supervisor John Johnson. The Board has agreed to place this proposal on the January Special Town Meeting Warrant.

*Motion # 3:* Selectman Fleming motioned to place the Energy conservation proposal as submitted by Ken Picard on the January 11, 2011 Special Town meeting Warrant. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous; Chairman Goodwin.

The Board discussed offering employees a corporate BJ's Wholesale card as a way of giving back to the employees as they did not receive a pay raise for FY11. It was agreed that any employee who is eligible for Town benefits, receive the card, i.e., employees working at least 20 hours per week. A letter will be sent to eligible employees and it was stressed by the Board that this is a privilege this year and not necessary a long term benefit. Funding for this membership will come from the William Knowlton fund. It was noted that the facility managers can purchase Town supplies at BJ's. The Town Manager will set a policy.

44 Motion # 4: Selectman Picard motioned to enter in a membership agreement with BJ's  
45 Wholesale Club and offering this benefit to Town employees working 20 hours or more a week.  
46 This membership will be reviewed annually by the Board. Funding coming from the William  
47 Knowlton fund. Second; Selectman Fleming: unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

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49 In regards to a letter received from a North Street resident who is planning on  
50 selling his 5.5 acre property that falls under Chapter 61A, the Board declined the Town's right,  
51 under M.G.L. c 61A, to purchase this parcel. The Board asked that the Town Manager send the  
52 property owner a letter to this effect.

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54 Motion # 5: Chairman Goodwin motioned to approve an additional payment of \$90.00 to  
55 Whitinsville Monument for the Henderson-Rivers plaque from the E.W. Risteen D fund. Second;  
56 Selectman Picard; unanimous; Selectman Fleming.

57  
58 Review of the Special Town Meeting Warrant: After a discussion on listing account  
59 numbers on the Warrant, it was decided to list them. In a recommendation from Attorney Lauren  
60 Goldberg, Chairman Goodwin agreed on combining the 3 CPC Articles into one.

61  
62 Regarding placing the Sweetwilliam Farm State land grant as a Warrant Article for the  
63 voters to decide was considered. In Selectman Picard's option, he would like the voters to  
64 provide guidance to the Selectmen as to whether or not they should accept the grant. Selectman  
65 Fleming will support putting it on if it is placed before the SWF Article as the voters need to  
66 decide if they want to support the State grant before the Article goes forward and if there is  
67 favorable action, then the SWF Article language would need to be amended.

68  
69 Motion # 6: Selectman Fleming motioned to approve, placement on the January 11, 2011  
70 Warrant, prior to the Sweetwilliam Farm Article, an Article of a non-binding referendum asking  
71 votes to express their opinion relative to accepting a State Grant or to appropriate though the  
72 Town of Upton treasury. Also with any legal clarifications that Town Counsel feels appropriate.  
73 Second: Selectman Picard: unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

74  
75 Selectman Fleming commented on the appraisals done on the Sweetwilliam Farm noting  
76 he was uncomfortable with the way it was handled. Selectman Picard added saying it is expected  
77 to be done objectively.

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79 At 6:46pm the Board recessed.

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81 At 7:00pm the Board reconvened to meet with the Financial Team for a workshop  
82 session. In attendance; Town Accountant Fred Aponte, Finance Committee Chair Joan Shanahan  
83 and member Steve Bern, Board of Assessor Chair Charlie Marsden, members Glenn Fowler and  
84 Teresa Ambrosino, Clerk Tracy Tardy and Collector / Treasurer Ken Glowacki.

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86 Motion # 7: Selectman Fleming motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Second: Selectman  
87 Picard, unanimous: Chairman Goodwin.

88 Respectfully submitted,  
89 Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator

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