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Board of Selectmen

Town of Apton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2009

Location: Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street

Present: Chairman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Michael E. Goodwin and Administrative Clerk Karen L. Varney. Selectman Kenneth E. Picard arrived at 7:33pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 39e in the amount of \$659,874.11 was approved.
Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 39P in the amount of \$60,122.02 was approved.

Selectmen Picard was not present when the meeting was called to order, but is planning on attending the meeting later on this evening.

The approval of the meeting minutes were put on hold until next week.

The Board signed off on the Goss Pond stipulation agreement dated January 6, 2009.

Relative to Warrant Article 8 of the March 31st Special Town Meeting submitted by Assessor Chair Charles Marsden, which is to see if the Town will vote to revoke Article 8 of the Special Town Meeting that was held on March 20, 2003 known as the Community Preservation Act. In a reply from Town Counsel Patricia Cantor, she states there is not sufficient time for a ballot question to revoke acceptance of the Community Preservation Act to appear on the ballot for the May 4, 2009 Annual Town Election. There is not 35 days between the Town meeting of March 31, 2009 and the Town Election on May 4, 2009. The 35th day is May 5, 2009, one-day short of the requirement. This Article will either be passed over or if voted on, will appear on next years Annual Town Election.

Selectman Goodwin an advocate in support of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Worcester County Sheriff's Office for activation to the Regional Alerting System saying it would be in the best interest of the Town to sign this agreement. The Board had previously discussed and approved entering into this Agreement. Chairman Fleming and Selectman Goodwin signed the Agreement. Selectman Picard will sign off when he arrives later this evening.

Warrant Articles for the STM March 31, 2009 were read aloud.

45 FYI's reviewed

46

47 * Memorandum from the Conservation Commission Re: Hartford Ave drainage plan. (*A*
48 *letter will be drafted to Fred Ruland, Mgr. Noble Vista, LLC requesting a reply to this*
49 *correspondence*).

50 * Letter from Rena Richard, Chair CPC Re: CPA surcharge.

51 * Copy of a letter of support from State Senator Moore.

52 * Copy of a letter from the BOS to CMRPC Re: Grants

53

54 Motion # 1: Selectman Goodwin motioned to recess the meeting until 7pm so the Board can
55 attend State Night (annual BVFA). Majority vote: Chairman Fleming.

56

57 At 7:19pm the Board reconvened their meeting.

58

59 The Board welcomed the Finance Committee members, Paul Flaherty, Steve Bern, John
60 Calianos, Joan Shanahan, Karen Glowacki, Steve McCaw and Herman M. Meisner. Chairman
61 Fleming acknowledged that according to the summary prepared by the Finance Committee, there
62 is a short fall (\$242,380.00) within the FY2010 budget that needs to be addressed by either
63 reducing services or finding additional funding. Total expenses of \$16,491,875 includes the
64 \$325,000 requested from the school, the Compensation and Classification (employee) survey as
65 required by the Town's By-law with a recommendation from the Personnel Board for specific
66 salary increases (\$25,000) to bring in line with the grade levels. Also there is no acquisition of
67 capital equipment.

68 At 7:33pm Selectman Picard arrived at the meeting.

69 Selectman Goodwin stressed the need to get the word out and educate the voters.

70 Discussion of a possible General Override. If agreed, the Finance Committee will present the
71 override in the best possible way they can to the voters as the decision is with them. After debate,
72 it was agreed by the Board of Selectmen to recess their meeting so they may attend the Finance
73 Committee's meeting tomorrow evening. This will give the parties time to debate and review
74 options so they will be on the same page. The Selectmen thanked the Finance Committee and
75 looks forward to joining in their meeting tomorrow night.

76

77 At 8:11pm, the Board agreed to recess for five-minutes.

78

79 The Board reconvened their meeting at 8:16pm.

80

81 Personnel Board Chairman Seema Kenney and member Greg Trussell came before the
82 Selectmen to update them on the process for the employees Classification and Compensation
83 Study which is a By-Law requirement every five years. The process began July of last year with
84 the hiring of Brown Consulting. In order to properly rate grade levels, the Consultant and the
85 Personnel Board determined the fourteen-criteria's with seven-different levels, also the points for
86 each rating based on market data. There are seventy-one positions/job descriptions within the
87 Town that once reviewed, will be forwarded to the Department Supervisors for further review
88 then to the employee by May 12th. Their recommendation was a wage increase of \$25,000.00 for
89 specific non-union employees, thus keeping within the grade level. The Personnel Board will be

90 meeting with the Finance Committee tomorrow night. As always, the Selectmen are appreciative
91 of the work this Board accomplishes.

92
93 *Motion #2:* Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the request the United Parish for
94 permission to display four sandwich signs advertising a fundraiser (Mexican Fiesta) for April 4th.
95 Signs may be displayed from March 25th to April 4th at the locations specified in the March 18th
96 request letter. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

97
98 In other Business, Selectman Picard spoke of the position of Town Manager and noted
99 that the job description is currently being drafted by consultant, Rachel Brown and should be
100 finalized soon.

101 The Board spoke of modifying the wage line item #40 to an additional \$60,000 and
102 adding the position title of Town Manager for a salary of \$120,000.00.

103 Also to increase the wage line item #165 to \$20,000 increasing the salary to \$95,000 for
104 the Fire Chief and removing BOFE. The approved structure change under MGL Chapter 48,
105 s42A (Weak Chief) approved by the voters and to increase this salary. The Board members were
106 in favor of these changes by signifying "I".

107 This is to be addressed with the Finance Committee at their meeting tomorrow night.

108
109 Chairman Fleming noted that he is planning to speak with the Town Accountant
110 tomorrow relative to the Enterprise fund.

111
112 In response to the resignation letter received from the COA Director Natasha Heimrath
113 the Selectmen made the following motion;

114
115 *Motion #3:* Selectman Picard motioned to accept, with regret, the resignation of COA Director
116 Natasha Heimrath effective April 3, 2009. Second: Selectman Goodwin, Unanimous: Chairman
117 Fleming.

118
119 In closing, Chairman Fleming expressed that once the Board has more information
120 regarding the FY2010 budget and is able to receive a recommendation from the Finance
121 Committee tomorrow night, the Board will make a decision on Tuesday before the Special Town
122 Meeting.

123
124 *Motion #4:* At 9:10pm Selectman Goodwin motioned to *recess* the meeting until tomorrow
125 evening to continue the FY2010 Budget discussion with the Finance Committee. Second:
126 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

127
128 Respectfully submitted,

129
130 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk