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Board of Selectmen

Town of Apton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2009

Location: Fire & EMS Headquarters, 20 Church Street

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

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

Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 43e in the amount of \$28,307.37 was approved.
Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 43P in the amount of \$67,483.14 was approved.
Refund Warrant No. 43r in the amount of \$7,620.38 was approved.

The Board welcomed Representative George Peterson who came before the Board to present them with his quarterly update. In review of the FY2010 Local Aid Estimates he presented the new numbers as estimated by the Department of Revenue based on House Ways & Means budget. It will be before the House for full debate next Monday. There has been about one-thousand amendments added stated Representative Peterson. This process will take between three to four days to complete before going the Senate. It is anticipated they will put another downward projection for revenues for this fiscal year (09).

Representative Peterson stated that there is a \$200,000.00 short fall in local receipts from last year. Relative to the Stimulus funds, there are several groups of funding; Capital Funds which are divided up between roads and bridges. He has pushed for the Town's Shovel Ready projects. The Schools will receive about \$300,000.00 above the Chapter 70 monies they received last year. He commented that the Schools are in better shape financially than the municipality side. Representative Peterson said he will prepare a spread sheet noting the distributions and forward to the Board. Chairman Fleming said the Town will just have to work through the numbers and find a way.

At 7:11pm Chairman Fleming motioned to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, section 23B, exception 3, Collective Bargaining, with Local 170. Seconded: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Selectman Goodwin.

The Board will reconvene their regular meeting upon completion of this Executive Session.

Robert Fleming "I", Ken Picard "I", Michael Goodwin "I".

At 7:58pm, the Board reconvened their regular meeting

44 Aquatic Weed Control Committee Members James R. Bates, Jr. and Charles E. Pederson
45 came before the Board to discuss the Sonar Treatment of Pratt Pond. This pond is 40% - 60%
46 covered with a pondweed that needs to be eliminated. A complete treatment will cost \$19,400.00.
47 The Committee has \$7,200 in their account but is short \$12,000.00 and has asked the Board for
48 assistance in finding additional funding. Charlie stressed that if a complete treatment is not done
49 this year, it will impact the Town Beach, fishing and other recreational activities that take place
50 at the beach. This problem will only get worse, as a shallow pond, the vegetation grows from
51 depths of ten-feet up to the surface. It is dangerous for swimmers and wildlife. The dilemma
52 stated Chairman Fleming is the Town does not have \$12,000.00 in available funds. He will
53 investigate the possibility of funding from other Trust Funds. The best time to treat the pond
54 would be in June to early July. Mr. Bates stressed the need for complete treatment of the ponds
55 every five-years.

56 Placing a line item in the budget under DPW-Parks Department weed control was
57 recommended by Selectmen Picard. The Board told the Committee members they would get
58 back to them within a week. While the pond is being treated, it is shut down for only one-day.
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60 Police Chief Michael Bradley was welcomed by the Board. On the Boards request, Chief
61 Bradley was asked to come before them to have a conversation about the Departments overtime
62 budget. Chairman Fleming said that during these financial times he would like to know if there
63 are ways to alleviate some of this overtime without compromising Public Safety and suggested
64 perhaps the hiring of an Officer to offset the overtime.

65 Chief Bradley began by saying one of this Sergeants just received orders to report for
66 active duty on May 4th and a formal mobilization order to Federal Active Duty for about one-
67 year. He is requesting the Town to continue his medical insurance and make up the difference in
68 base pay. The overtime budge stated Chief Bradley, consists of several line items; vacation,
69 holidays and shift replacement is the bulk of the overtime, with sick time, training, Officer in
70 Charge, Investigation, emergencies, court time and special events. An average Officer receives
71 about 37 days of vacation / holiday time. He noted back in July 2007, the Police Contract was
72 changed from a five and two schedule to a four and two schedule which gives Officers additional
73 sixteen days off. In July 2007, the Town was staffed with thirteen Officers, currently there are
74 twelve and with the deployment of Sergeant Cyr, the Town will be down to eleven. In an effort to
75 help reduce overtime cost, Chief Bradley has instituted on line training component and has
76 applied for a grant under the Federal Stimulus program, for the hire of a full time Police Officer.
77 If approved, this program will pay the salary of this Officer for three-years. It would be up the
78 Town to pay for the fourth-year and after that the commitment is up. He will have confirmation
79 in the fall.

80 Chairman Fleming suggested bringing in another Officer to offset the overtime aside
81 from the Federal Stimulus grant. Chief Bradley noted the possibility of hiring an Academy
82 trained Officer on a temporary one-year basis. This was well received by the Selectmen. In
83 closing, Chief Bradley said he will draft up numbers and report back to them.
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85 Next on the agenda, Cemetery Commissioners, Richard L. Randall, Robert R. Richard
86 and Chairman William H. Sadler were welcomed by the Board. The Commissioners were invited
87 to attend the Selectmen's meeting to have a discussion about sharing their equipment with the
88 DPW Department. In response, Chairman Sadler said they do share the Cemetery Departments
89 dump truck however in regards to other department equipment the Commissioners were not very

90 receptive to this idea. This equipment stated Chairman Sadler, is in use every day and therefore it
91 is difficult to share. The Commissioners have no problem sharing the truck as long as it is stored
92 at the cemetery and not the DPW garage. Chairman Fleming said he would have a conversation
93 with Highway Supervisor John Johnson.

94 In another matter, Selectman Goodwin informed the Commissioners that he will be
95 spearheading a beautification project for the Cemetery.

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97 Motion # 1 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 3/31/09, seconded:
98 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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100 Motion # 2 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of
101 4/07/09 with Local 3338A, seconded: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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103 Motion # 3 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of
104 4/07/09 with Local 170, seconded: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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106 Motion # 4 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 4/07/09, seconded:
107 Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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109 Motion # 5 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of
110 4/14/09 with Local 170, seconded: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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112 Motion # 6 Selectman Picard motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 4/14/09, seconded:
113 Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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115 Motion # 7 Selectman Goodwin motioned to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of
116 4/14/09, Local 3338A seconded: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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118 Open Public Hearing sponsored by the Finance Committee is scheduled for tomorrow
119 evening at Nipmuc Regional, 7pm for review and input of the FY10 budget.

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121 Town Counsel will attend the ATM on May 7th. The Board completed their final review
122 and approved the Warrant for posting.

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124 FYI's reviewed:

- 125 ■ Barking dog complaint (review of agreement)
- 126 ■ Correspondence to Senator Moore Re: Federal Stimulus fund projects.
- 127 ■ 2009 Federal Funding Stimulus Projects – Water Main Replacement.
- 128 ■ Response from the Executive Director / Community Preservation Coalition Re:
129 Use of CPA funds.
- 130 ■ Conservation Commission Beaver Maintenance updates.
- 131 ■ Town Hall heat energy saving for FY09 \$8,815.62.
- 132 ■ Memorandum to Municipal Clients from K&P Re: Regulation & Enforcement of
133 DEP Outdoor Wood Boiler Regulations & Verizon / Initial Cable Television
134 Licenses.

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- Memorandum from DPW Supervisor John Johnson Re: DPW Contracted Services and a list of Road paving during the next three years.
 - RBC Account Statement (March 1 – 31).
 - BVRSD Quarterly payment schedule received from the District Treasurer.
 - Petition by Verizon New England, Inc. for Amendment of the Cable Division’s form 500 Cable Operator’s annual Report of Consumer Complaints. Public hearing May 15th.
 - Thank you note to Chief Bradford from the Sherman ME Volunteer Fire Dept.
 - The Beacon

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145 Motion #8 Chairman Fleming motioned to approve the request of Police Chief Michael J. Bradley, Jr., to approve a base pay differential during Sgt. Alan Cyr’s deployment and to maintain his health insurance benefit. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Selectman Goodwin.

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150 In a conversation relative to the ATM Warrant Articles, Chairman Fleming suggested placing inserts of not only the Warrant Articles, but the fy10 budget in the local Town Crier. This will give the residents time to review these Articles before the ATM meeting May 7th.

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154 Motion # 9 Selectman Picard motioned to allow inserts to the Town Crier, of the ATM Warrant and Finance Committee fy10 budget. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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158 In closing, the Board reiterated that when a dog complaint comes into the Police Department, they are to call the Dog Officer, Kate Hawkins who will respond and monitor the situation.

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162 Motion # 10 Selectman Goodwin Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Second: Selectman Picard, unanimous: Chairman Fleming.

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165 Respectfully submitted,
166 *Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk*

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