

Board of Selectmen

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes November 3, 2009

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

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

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

Appropriation Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$421,386.83 and Payroll Treasury Warrant in the amount of \$67,949.65 approved as submitted.

Meeting minutes of October 27, 2009 will be reviewed next week.

The Board welcomed Representative George N. Peterson, Jr., who gave an update on the financial status of the State. Governor Patrick has filed a six-hundred million dollar “fix” for the FY 2010 budget. He has cut six-different local aid accounts. Some of which he has authority to cut, others, he will need approval. Public libraries and regional public libraries by 4%, regional transportation (which effects the M-U School District) by 44%, charter re-imbusement 6.4%, payment in lieu of taxes, 39% and the Quinn bill was cut by another 50%. Representative Peterson noted that the rainy day fund is down to \$500 million dollars.

He continued by saying if you look at the revenue stream used in 2006, and the revenue stream used this year, 2006 revenues were \$300 million dollars higher. This years budget is \$3.5 billion dollars more than 2006’s budget. He stressed that the State has a massive problem going into 2011. Chairman Picard reiterated by saying is it correct to say that the State has less revenue, with increased spending. The FY2011 stimulus money of over a billion (they thought they would have), has transferred \$400 million for the short term fix for FY2010, so there isn’t a lot left of one time money. The budget base for FY 2011 will be drastically reduced. Representative Peterson’s fear is that the \$600 million problem that is estimated now, feels it is closer to a billion.

In responding to a question brought up by Chairman Picard about charging students for transportation, Representative Peterson said under the law, the Regional School District cannot charge for busing, but he will look into this for more detail.

The Board thanked Representative Peterson for his update.

Mike Penko, Co-Chair of the Open Space Committee came before the Board to bring them to date on the Open Space Plan. The proposed time line schedule is as follows: November 12th the Committee will provide a draft plan to the Open Space Committee and the Selectmen

45 which will be reviewed by both. December 3rd, revise the report, post on the Towns website and
46 distribute copies to all Town Boards. Written comments are to be submitted to the Open Space by
47 January 21st. A public meeting will be held on December 17th for discussion. Final draft will be
48 sent to the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen on January 28th. It is anticipated that by
49 February 11th, final approval draft will be made by the Conservation Commission.

50 Mr. Penko also gave the Board an update regarding the Sweet William Farm property
51 saying that he recently met with the Planning Board. It is not known at this time the number of
52 approved lots. Mr. Penko spoke of obtaining another appraisal next year. He commented that
53 there are two ways to preserve open space, #1: Direct acquisition, #2: Conservation Commission
54 restrictions.

55 Also there will be a walk to view new trails at the Town owned property bordered by
56 Mechanic and Orchard St, known as Stefan's Farm this weekend.

57 The Board thanked Mike for coming and appreciates the Committee work.
58

59 Chairman Picard, noting the uncomfortable discussion regarding the FY2010 budget, said
60 the Board needs to begin meeting with Department Heads and the Finance Committee and take a
61 hard look at possible cuts. Selectman Goodwin attended the Assessors FY2010 recapitulation
62 meeting held on October 28th and gave the Board a summary of this meeting. After all
63 calculations, the proposed tax rate will increase by .34¢ \$12.77 per \$1,000, with the average
64 property assessed at \$350,000.00, the tax increase will be approximately \$122.00 year.

65 Selectman Fleming noted a difficult year financially and need to take a conservative
66 approach adding that sooner or later the Town needs to invest in Roads and DPW equipment.
67 Chairman Picard agreed saying it's the Board's job to set constraints, maintain level funding, as
68 the revenues are not coming in and the need to investigate other alternatives, i.e., reduce staff,
69 hours of operation and looking to regionalize and have creative ideas.

70 The Regional School District's dilemma in their \$600,000.00 plus deficit, Selectman
71 Fleming said in his option, if there was an override, he would include an amount for the Town.
72 Unanimous agreement by the Board to direct the AA to send a notification to all Department
73 Supervisors of a non-essential spending freeze. The Finance Committee will be meeting
74 tomorrow, Selectman Fleming plans on attending. Chairman Picard will be attending the CPA
75 hearing also scheduled for tomorrow.
76

77 Regarding mileage rates, the Board will check with Town Accountant Fred Aponte for
78 rate verification.
79

80 Chairman Picard added that the litigation between Anita Sundelin and the Town has been
81 settled and at the advice of the Court, is now a public record. Therefore these Executive Session
82 minutes are released.
83

84 Selectman Fleming motioned to release the Executive Session meeting minutes of former
85 employee Anita Sundelin. Robert Fleming 'I', Michael Goodwin "I", Ken Picard 'I'.
86

87 Discussion regarding the Town Hall window replacement study. The Committee last
88 week had recommended two options, Interior sash or replacement sash. The Board was
89 unanimous on the decision of the replacement sash however they were split with wood or
90 aluminum clad. The Majority agreed with the aluminum clad.

91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135

The worn flags on the poles lining Route 140 were recently taken down by the Fire Department and will be replaced next spring with perhaps a banner type flag.

Chairman Picard gave an update of the Main Street water main project stating it is nearing completion.

Regarding the possibility of a wireless communications facility on Town owned property at the Town Beach area, the Board briefly reviewed the sample RFP's received from Town Counsel and will ask Attorney Cantor for her recommendation.

Motion # 1 Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the request from David Adams to fill the Memorial School ice rink from the hydrant with the assistance from both the Fire Department and the Water Department. Second: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Chairman Picard.

Correspondence reviewed:

- ⇒ Kelly McElreath & Don Arthur request appointment to serve on the Town Hall Renovation Committee.
- ⇒ Letter of support from SMOC.
- ⇒ Summary of Services from DPW Consultant Larry Bombara.
- ⇒ Copy of a letter (6 Wood) from Inspector of Buildings

In a discussion about Town Hall renovations, Selectman Fleming asked for reconsideration not to move forward at this time with the renovations noting the financial constraints of the Town.

Motion # 2: Selectman Goodwin motioned to appoint Kelly McElreath and Don Arthur to the Town Hall Renovation Committee. Majority: Chairman Picard.

The Board gave a summary of the Warrant Articles for the STM scheduled for November 17th.

In closing, Selectman Fleming noted that the Fire Chief Search Committee will be scheduling their first meeting within the week or two.

Motion # 3: Chairman Picard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Seconded: Selectman Goodwin, unanimous: Selectman Fleming.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Varney, Department Coordinator