

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

**Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2008**

**Location:** Upton Fire and EMS Headquarter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training room.

**Present:** Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard and Administrative Clerk Karen L. Varney (Chairman Marsha A. Paul was not in attendance).

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

At 7:05pm Selectman Picard motioned to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, s. 23B exception #3. Majority vote by Selectman Fleming.

At the completion of the Executive Session, the Board will reconvene their regular meeting. Ken Picard "I", Robert Fleming "I".

At 7:30pm the Board reconvened their regular meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Videotaping provided by Jonathan Miguel, Cable TV Access Provider.

Selectman Fleming noted that Chairman Paul is not feeling well this evening and therefore will not be attending the meeting.

**Motion # 1**

Selectman Picard motioned to approve the meeting minutes of January 15, 2008. Majority vote: Selectman Fleming.

**Project Review List**

- Letter from Attorney Talerman Re: Noble Vista, LLC (*The BOS is waiting for an additional correspondence. The ConCom has been in touch with Attorney Talerman to help clarify issues*).
- Water rate increase: DPW Director (Director Soma will present his recommendations at next weeks meeting, January 29<sup>th</sup>).
- Copy of an email from Denise Baker, MMA Senior Member Service Coordinator, Re: Draft: Town Manager Bylaw. (BOS will review next week when Chairman Paul returns).
- Maple Ave project: the 2<sup>nd</sup> appraisal was received in the BOS office today and will be reviewed by the Board next week.
- In reference to John Zakian, Grant Writer, the BOS looking for confirmation.
- FY09 Budget: The BOS is close to finalizing their budget. The BOS attended the annual budget hearings on Saturday.

- 45      □ CPA funding for the Town Hall: Selectman Picard is working with Historical
- 46           Commission Chairman Barbara Burke.
- 47      □ Cemetery Land: Selectman Picard has some corporate land in mind for possible
- 48           cemetery use. The Selectman's office will contact the appropriate party to
- 49           research the deed for access purposes.
- 50      □ Town Manager Forum: The Board would like to meet with the Assessment
- 51           Committee to discuss moving ahead with a public forum. The Administrative
- 52           Clerk will contact John Robertson, Chairman of the Town Manager, Assessment
- 53           Committee.

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55      Selectman Fleming stated that the new Police Chief Search Committee conducted  
56      their first meeting last Thursday and after speaking with one of the members, the  
57      comment was, a well balanced Committee.

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59      Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 30e in the amount of \$26,579.49 was signed.  
60      Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 30P in the amount of \$74,143.54 was signed.  
61      Refund Warrant No. 30r in the amount of \$11,294.24 was signed.

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63      The Board welcomed Superintendent of Schools, Antonio Fernandes and School  
64      Committee members, Cynthia Robertson and Heather Applegate. Superintendent  
65      Fernandes thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet with the Selectmen. He said  
66      he is working on preparing for the 2009 budget. He wanted to extend an invitation to the  
67      Board to attend a meeting on the Chapter 70 formula and what it means to Upton. State  
68      Representative George Peterson is putting together this presentation. The meeting is  
69      scheduled for Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at Nipmuc Regional High School auditorium, at  
70      7:00pm.

71      Superintendent Fernandes noted the challenges ahead and looks forward to  
72      working with his liaison of the Finance Committee, Steve McCaw. When asked about  
73      enrollment figures for next year, Superintendent Fernandes stated he has a preliminary  
74      estimate from a consulting company that provides the information and that he  
75      anticipates a flat line. He spoke of shifting enrollment at Miscoe and Memorial.

76      The Board thanked Superintendent Fernandes and the School Committee  
77      members him for coming.

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79      **Motion # 2**

80      Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the amount of \$1,000.00 coming from  
81      the Ella Whitney Risteen Beautification Fund to be used for (ground) lot markers and  
82      liming of the cemetery. Majority vote: Selectman Picard.

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84      Relative to the above motion, it was noted by Selectman Fleming that the  
85      members had a brief discussion with the Cemetery Commissioners at the Budget  
86      hearing on Saturday about funds for lot markers and liming.

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91 *FYI*

92 ⇒ Copy of a letter from Attorney Kathleen Connolly to Inspector of Buildings Patrick  
93 Roche, Re: 6 Wood Street.

94 ⇒ National Grid Vegetation Management Treatments on rights-of-way scheduled.

95 ⇒ Email from State Senator Edward M. Augustus, Jr. Re: State Budget.

96 ⇒ Email from Dr. Taylor Re: Request for Verizon Fios (next weeks agenda)

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98 The Cemetery Commissions came before the Board last year informing them of the  
99 need for additional land. This evening, Selectman Picard talked about a parcel of land  
100 that may be a possible use as a cemetery. The property, formerly known as the  
101 Knowlton Farms property, borders the Upton Northbridge line. Selectman Picard asked  
102 that the (Selectmen's) office contact the appropriate party for the purpose of researching  
103 the deed for land access. He further stated that the land might be land locked, in which  
104 case the Town needs to gain access. It abuts the State Forest and the Town may be  
105 able to do a trade.

106 Selectman Fleming noted that the Town is in need of additional land for  
107 Cemetery purposes and sent kudos to the Cemetery Commissions for all they do.  
108 Selectman Fleming commented that the Town has a lot of corporate land and the need  
109 to find ways to utilize all appropriately.

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111 Motion # 3

112 Selectman Picard motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm, Majority vote by  
113 Selectman Fleming.

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116 Respectfully submitted,

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118 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk

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