

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2008

Location: Upton Fire and EMS Headquarter, 2nd Floor Training room.

Present: Chairman Marsha A. Paul, Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard and Administrative Clerk Karen L. Varney,

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Videotaping provided by Jonathan Miguel, Cable TV Access Provider.

Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 39e in the amount of \$704,970.87 was signed.

Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 39P in the amount of \$68,274.12 was signed.

Refund Warrant No. 39r in the amount of \$3,377.00 was signed.

Motion # 1

Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2008, Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

Motion # 2

Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the Executive Session (Police Chief candidate) meeting minutes of March 18, 2008, Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

Motion # 3

Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the Executive Session (Local 3338A) meeting minutes of March 18, 2008, Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

Motion # 4

Selectman Fleming motioned to approve the Executive Session (COA Director's grade level) meeting minutes of March 18, 2008, Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

Selectman Picard wished to acknowledge two Nipmuc Regional Middle / High School students, Dan Rogers and Patrick Riley for their participation in a fundraiser for the ALS race and thanked them for their work in the community.

45 The Town of Upton received the 2008 E-Government Award for posting all key
46 government records on its website. Chairman Paul thanked Town Clerk Kelly McElreath.
47

48 The Board welcomed Michael Gorman of Gorman Richardson Architects in
49 Hopkinton. Mr. Gorman, an Upton resident, gave a brief summary of his employment
50 with Gorman Richardson Architects. The purpose of his visit is to discuss a few
51 concepts for brining new life to the Town Hall by restoring full function and ADA / AAB
52 compliance and accessibility. By investing the funds required, the Town Hall will serve
53 the community for an additional fifty-years. He spoke of the existing structure, which has
54 a total of seven separate levels, which makes access difficult. In addition, he noted the
55 lower level, which has a lot of unutilized space, i.e. large boiler room, fuel storage and a
56 maze of offices. In his well-detailed presentation, Mr. Gorman spoke of adding an
57 elevator, additional egresses and relocating offices during the construction phase. It was
58 noted by Selectman Picard that Mr. Gorman prepared these drawings and the scope of
59 work process at no charge to the Town. Selectman Picard said that if the Board decides
60 to move forward with a more detailed plan, Mr. Gorman should be compensated. The
61 Board agreed. The drawings and information will be available to the public in the Board
62 of Selectman's office and the Town Clerk.
63

64 Also, Michael Gorman was asked to evaluate an area at the COA on Centennial
65 Court and give a proposal for insulation work that would improve energy costs. A
66 detailed proposal including description of services, schedule and terms and conditions
67 were submitted to the Board. They will review the full document and possibly make a
68 motion at their April 1st meeting. Chairman Paul commented that perhaps the owner of
69 the building would assist with some of the costs.
70

71 Motion # 5

72 At 8:02pm Chairman Paul motioned to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L.
73 Chapter 39, § 23B, exception # 3, to have a discussion with the Police Chief candidate,
74 Police Sergeant Michael J. Bradley, Jr. Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by
75 Selectman Fleming.

76 The Board will reconvene their regular meeting upon completion of the Executive
77 Session. Poll taken: Marsha Paul "I", Robert Fleming "I" Ken Picard "I".
78

79 At 8:36pm the Board reconvened their regular meeting.
80

81 On the agenda for 8:30pm, was to update the citizens relative to the Grafton and
82 Upton Railroad. Chairman Paul began by addressing the twenty-plus residents who
83 came to talk about their displeasure with this railroad becoming active. She noted that
84 she has done a lot of research and has spoken with a number of individuals, including
85 one of the owners, Jon Delli Priscoli, who purchased 50% of the railroad in January.
86 Chairman Paul gathered the facts and wanted to clear up any misinformation. The
87 railroad will happen, it has been active and there is nothing the Town can do to prevent
88 it. Conservation Commission Chairman Chris Scott attended the meeting and told the
89 residents that the owners must comply with wetlands by-laws and file any appropriate
90 NOI.

91
92 Chairman Paul informed the residents that the railroad is a class 1 rail, which
93 limits the speed to 10 to 20 mph. Residents; say their property values will plummet.
94 Residents noted safety concerns and the need to keep in touch with the local
95 representatives. When speaking with Mr. Priscoli, Chairman Paul said as soon as he
96 has a plan, he would come before the Board to update them. He wants to work with the
97 Town. The Board of Selectmen will contact the owner regarding a timeline to come
98 before them. Information can be posted on the web and Chairman Paul will speak with
99 Town Clerk Kelly McElreath. The Board and will keep the community informed, it's
100 important to monitor the situation and get all the facts.

101
102 Project list reviewed by the Board:

- 103 • Main St water main: J. Bates working with Pare Corp.
- 104 • Town Manager Forum: 4/8/08 meeting with the Board. Town Crier notice
105 approved.
- 106 • Employee Benefits Forum: To be scheduled.
- 107 • Enterprise fund: committee 4/1/08 BOS Meeting
- 108 • BOS Budgets: Ken spoke about increase for the Cemetery Commissioners.
109 BOS agrees (see Motion). Add to the DPW budget.
- 110 • Beautification Pratt Pond: Final notice of Intent for the jetties coming from
111 ConCon.
- 112 • COA Insulation: Recommendation from M. Gorman to be reviewed by the
113 BOS.
- 114 • Cemetery Land: Ken walked the land.
- 115 • Westborough Road traffic light: BOS looking for short term solution. Ken will
116 speak with Director Soma.

117
118 Motion # 6

119 Selectman Picard motioned to approve a salary increase to the Cemetery
120 Commissioners of \$1,200 each. Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by
121 Chairman Paul.

122
123 The Administrative Assistant will notify the Finance Committee.

124
125 In other business, the Board talked about a request they recently received for
126 consideration for a grade level adjustment to mid range and salary increase for a
127 Department Manager. At their meeting last week, the Personnel Board told Selectman
128 Fleming that they are holding on their original decision to decline the request.

129
130 Discussion on CPA funding and the Town Hall renovations are to be put on the
131 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

132
133 A memo relative to longevity pay for an employee needs to be forwarded to the
134 Personnel Board.

135
BOS/mm

136 The Board has requested a draft Warrant of the Annual Town Meeting for their
137 next meeting on April 1st.

138
139 FYI's reviewed:

- 140 ⇒ Copy of a letter from the BOH to a Mendon Street resident.
- 141 ⇒ FY09 Insurance Expense Estimate
- 142 ⇒ M-U Regional School District Debt Service Assessments for fy09.
- 143 ⇒ Blackstone Valley Vocational quarterly payment schedule.
- 144 ⇒ Certificates issued to DPW Director Stephen Soma.
- 145 ⇒ E-Government Award to Town of Upton
- 146 ⇒ National grid: Storm / emergency issues
- 147 ⇒ Motion to approve Gary Harper, regular full-time employee. (Approved)
- 148 ⇒ Memorandums from DPW Director Steve Soma Re:
 - 149 ○ School Street (AA to invite Chief Stockwell for discussion)
 - 150 ○ Flooding: 145 / 154 Milford St.

151
152 Motion # 7

153 Selectman Picard motioned to approve the request of DPW Director Stephen
154 Soma in a memorandum dated March 20, 2008, to approve Gary Harper, from a six-
155 month probationary status to a regular full-time DPW / Parks employee and increasing
156 his hourly rate from \$15.58 to \$18.58 per hour retroactive to March 20, 2008. Seconded
157 by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

158
159 In closing the Board asked that the Personnel Coordinator, Jim Bates, post
160 internally, the Town Accountant and the Administrative Clerks position to the town
161 Accountant.

162
163 Motion # 8

164 Selectman Picard motioned to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L.
165 Chapter 39, § 23B exception # 3. Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by
166 Selectman Fleming.

167 The Board will adjourn their regular meeting upon completion of the Executive
168 Session.

169 Poll taken: Marsha Paul "I", Robert Fleming "I" Ken Picard "I".

170
171 Respectfully submitted,

172
173 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk
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