

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2008

Location: Town Hall – reconvening to the 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 6:15pm in the Main Hall of the Town Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sergeant Michael J. Bradley Jr. was sworn in as Upton’s Police Chief during a ceremony that featured numerous testaments to his character and qualifications. Chief Bradley has been a member of the Upton Police force for fourteen-years. State Senator Edward Augustus, numerous area Police Department officials, Town Officials, and many family and friends attended the ceremony to congratulate Chief Bradley. Late last year, Police Chief Thomas B. Stockwell announced his plans to retire.

Motion #1

Motion was made by Chairman Paul to appoint Sergeant Michael J. Bradley Jr., as Police Chief for the Town of Upton approving a three-year contract. Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by Selectman Picard.

Town Clerk Kelly McElreath sworn in Chief Bradley.

Jonathan Miguel, Cable TV Access Provider, provided videotaping for this special event. The Board of Selectmen recessed their meeting.

At 7:15pm the Board reconvened their regular meeting at the Fire and EMS Headquarters on Church Street.

Motion # 2

Selectman Picard motioned to release and make public, the Executive Session meeting minutes (and audio tapes) of the Maple Avenue (Upton Development Group) project. Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

45 Motion # 3

46 Chairman Paul motioned to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter
47 39, § 23B, exception # 3 to meet with the Pleasant Street residents. Seconded by
48 Selectman Fleming, unanimous by Selectman Picard.

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

50

51 The Board will reconvene their regular meeting upon completion of the Executive
52 Session.

53

54 At 7:45pm the Board reconvened their regular meeting. The meeting was not
55 videotaped.

56

57 Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 42e in the amount of \$205,897.53 was
58 signed.

59 Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 42P in the amount of \$77,727.78 was signed.

60

61 The Board welcomed Men's Club member Rick Binaco who gave an overview of
62 the recent Men's Club Auction that netted around \$55,000.00. Out of three hundred
63 raffle tickets, two hundred and forty-four were sold at \$20 each. Mr. Binaco asked the
64 Administrative Clerk, Karen Varney to draw the ticket for the 50/50 raffle for the name of
65 the lucky person who will receive a cash prize of \$2,440.00. The name drawn was Jon
66 Moss, 11 Jonathans Way. Mr. Binaco stated that the members of the Men's Club were
67 very pleased with the amount of money generated from this auction. These monies will
68 go back to the community for specific programs. The Board thanked Mr. Binaco and the
69 Men's Club for this great event.

70

71 Also on the Agenda, resident Rufin Vanbossuyt came before the Board to update
72 them on his research of the Rockdale Hill, Town Owned land for possible use as a Town
73 cemetery. Mr. Vanbossuyt stated that the nine-acre parcel of Town owned land, one-
74 acre (zoned residential) is located in Upton, and eight acres (zoned industrial) are
75 located in Northbridge.

76 This land (along with additional land) was purchased in the 1860's by William
77 Knowlton and remained in the Knowlton family for a number of years. In 1935, Knowlton
78 Farms sold some of that land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which became
79 State Forest. There were two-specific parcels of land that were not sold. A well, located
80 within this parcel of land, was part of the water system supplying the Hat factory. The
81 Knowlton Hat factory was sold to Merrimac Hat. In 1952 Merrimac Hat Company sold
82 the water and sewer operations to the Town of Upton for one-dollar. Unfortunately the
83 land does not border any Road, which is between Williams Street and Hartford Ave
84 South. After reviewing the assessor's map and with the research he has done along
85 with information he has received from Northbridge resident Bob Such, Mr. Vanbossuyt
86 found no means of access.

87 Reasonable access may be from Hartford Ave South said Mr. Vanbossuyt and
88 feels the most reasonable approach would be to obtain a strip of land from the
89 Commonwealth of Massachusetts right on the Town Boundary. An act of the Legislator

90 is required in order to acquire State Forest Land. In return, the Town could offer a parcel
91 of Town owned on Reservoir St.

92 The Board agreed to move forward with the process. Mr. Vanbossuyt will contact
93 the DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation). Chairman Paul suggested
94 contacting Ellen Arnold of the Friends of the State Forest for input. Mr. Vanbossuyt
95 offered his time to further investigate. Selectman Picard said he and Rufin would contact
96 Ms. Arnold and the DCR. The Board thanked Mr. Vanbossuyt for his time and efforts.

97
98 The Administrative Assistant will have the final draft of the Annual Town Meeting
99 Warrant ready for the Board's meeting on Thursday for their final review and signatures.
100 Chairman Paul stressed that any Department that has not submitted the completed
101 Article by Thursday, will not be included in the Warrant.

102
103 Confidential material reviewed:

- 104 ⇒ Letter from Attorney Henry J. Lane Re: A settlement for Noble Vista.
- 105 ⇒ Vacation request

106
107 Review Project List

108
109 FYI's reviewed:

- 110 • Letter from COA Director Natasha Heimrath Re: Replacement of the flooring
111 for the Senior Center facility. **(Approved by BOS, Move forward with replacement).**
- 112 • Email from Stephen Bern, Co-Chair Finance Committee Re: Update of the
113 2009 Budget process.
- 114 • Letter from Michael Bradford, Sr. Re: Concerns about the impending report by
115 the Transition Committee.
- 116 • Copy of a letter to Worcester DPW from Chief Michael J. Bradford, Sr., Re:
117 Lighting Towers & Message Boards.
- 118 • Code Enforcement Mileage log.
- 119 • Announcement from Commonwealth of Mass Re: Community Unsung
120 Heroines of 2008: Barbara E. Burke. **(Selectmen congratulated Ms. Burke).**
- 121 • Copy of a correspondence from Tata & Howard dated March 31, 2008 Re:
122 NPDES Phase 2 Small MS4 Annual Report.
- 123 • Memo to officials Re: Request for Citation.
- 124 • Notification from Office of the Governor Re: Chapter 90 Local transportation
125 aid funding for fy09 for Upton is \$233,432.00.
- 126 • Letter from Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Treasurer
127 Re: School Budget.
- 128 • Correspondence from CMC Re: Projects that qualify form CPA funding.

129
130 Chairman Paul noted that FY09 is \$700,00.00 short. Selectman Picard stated
131 that all Departments were asked to level fund their budget. The Board is to review
132 budgets with the Finance Committee this week.

133
134 Brief discussion relative to the implementation of a Storm water By-Law as
135 requested by the DPW Director. This is required by the State.

136
137 General Mail folder was reviewed.
138

139 Reminder: Retirement Luncheon for Chief Stockwell will be held on Thursday from
140 12noon – 1:30pm.
141

142 Selectman Picard spoke of CPA funds and the need for formal plans and to
143 move forward with the Town Hall renovation plan. Currently, there is just over \$1 million
144 dollars in the CPA account. Selectman Picard also noted that he is in favor of putting an
145 Article on the Warrant to reduce the CPA percentage presently assessed to residents.
146 He is preparing a fact sheet to better inform the citizens. Selectman Fleming added that
147 the Town is in financial crisis, however the CPA funds received, are restrictive and can
148 only be used for specific reasons.
149

150 Chairman Paul informed the residents that Sergeant Michael J. Bradley, Jr. was
151 sworn in as Police Chief for the Town of Upton, during a ceremony held this evening.
152 The Board wishes former Chief Thomas B. Stockwell all the best in his retirement.
153

154 Motion # 4

155 At 8:45pm, Chairman Paul motioned to enter into Executive Session under
156 M.G.L. Chapter 39, § 23B, exception # 3. Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous
157 by Selectman Picard.

158 Poll taken: Marsha Paul "I", Robert Fleming "I", Ken Picard "I".
159

160 The Board will adjourn their regular meeting upon completion of the Executive
161 Session.
162

163 Respectfully submitted,
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165 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk
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