

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2007

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

Location: Upton Town Hall, main floor, 1 Main Street - The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

The meeting was audio taped by the Board. Jonathan Miguel, Cable TV Access Provider was at Nipmuc Regional High School preparing to videotape the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:30pm. The Board will recess at 7:10pm to attend.

Appropriation Treasury Warrant No. 51e in the amount of \$81,627.89 was signed.

Payroll Treasury Warrant No. 51P in the amount of \$58,388.32 was signed.

Motion # 1

Selectman Fleming motioned to grant a three months unpaid medical leave of absence as requested by Assistant Wiring Inspector David Stanley, dated June 18, 2007 and as recommended by the Wiring Inspector John G. Poirier, Jr. in a letter dated June 19, 2007. Seconded by Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

Selectman Paul attended the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee meeting last night and updated the Board on the results of the sewer study. The study has been completed; however there is no cost estimate for the O&M (operation and maintenance). The Committee will have all the pertinent data by the time it is brought to the community in September. In reviewing the General Fund summary it was suggested that \$5,000.00 remain in the Water/Wastewater Sewer Study account and transfer \$23,600.00 to the Water/Wastewater O&M. In speaking with Director Soma, he indicated to Chairman Paul that the full \$30,000.00 (Article #3) was not needed. A figure of \$22,000.00 was noted.

Appointments for the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee are on hold.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent Ron SanSouci informed Chairman Paul last night that he is very concerned about the sewer system malfunctioning due to the Department's antiquated computer system. The needed funds to fix the computers and upgrade the software were pushed off until the meeting September in the debt exclusion. These computers (1 main and 1 back-up) control the pumping station and if it

45 malfunctions so does the entire sewer system. It was noted that the software cost would
46 be about \$15,000.00.

47 Chairman Paul states she would like to talk with the Finance Committee this
48 evening regarding Article # 3, proposing to adjust it to \$15,000.00 (per quote) so that
49 this particular company can do the upgrades before July 1st. Selectman Picard
50 questioned Article 6, which notes \$5,200 for Technology expense account for
51 replacement of computer equipment in various Town Departments. Chairman Paul said
52 those funds are not specifically for the sewer system, it is for various Town
53 Departments. Selectman Fleming noted that the Water stabilization fund has over
54 \$88,000.00 in the account and he prefers to take the needed funds from that account to
55 rectify the problem. Chairman Paul stated that Director Soma would be brining the
56 quote to her this evening to the Special Town Meeting.

57

58 *Motion # 2*

59 Selectman Fleming motioned to appoint Gary Harper to the position of (PFC)
60 Heavy Equipment Operator as recommended by Director Soma with a start date of July
61 2, 2007 with a pay rate of \$15.58 per hour. After completing a favorable six-month
62 probationary period, a rate increase to \$18.58 will apply. Seconded by Selectman
63 Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

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65 In a brief discussion, it was the unanimous decision of the Board to support the
66 need to enact the Municipal Partnership Act. The Administrative Assistant will send a
67 letter of support to the Legislators.

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69 *Motion # 3*

70 Selectman Paul motioned to recess the meeting to attend the Special Town
71 Meeting at Nipmuc Regional. Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by
72 Selectman Picard.

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74 After the completion of the Special Town Meeting, the Board reconvened their
75 meeting in the auditorium at Nipmuc.

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77 The Board had a brief discussion on the upgrading of the Town's computer
78 equipment. Citizen Al Holman suggested that perhaps leasing computer equipment
79 might be a solution. Chairman Paul asked that the Administrative Assistant, Jim Bates to
80 contact Rob Bonnell of Worldband and to research other competitive bids.

81

82 As a recent appointed member of the Fire/EMS Management and Study
83 Committee, Selectman Fleming asked Mr. Holman if the Committee has had their first
84 meeting. In response Mr. Holman noted that they are in the process of considering what
85 night to meet. Selectman Fleming stated he would like to be able to attend some of the
86 meetings but would be unable to attend if they are held on Tuesday's.

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88 *Motion # 4*

89 Selectman Picard motioned to accept the meeting minutes (with a minor change
90 on line #119= delete grant) Majority vote by Chairman Paul.

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93 According to Mr. Bates, the ad recently placed in the Beacon for a Grant Writer,
94 produced seven applications.

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96 The Board requested the Administrative Assistant Mr. Bates to contact Town
97 Counsel, Kopelman and Paige for an update on the Pleasant Street matter.

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99 In reference to the Mass Electric Energy Audit, it as determined that the Town
100 Hall did not generate enough usage for a cost reduction.

101
102 Further debate continued regarding the computers and the hardware and
103 software funding issues for the water department. According to DPW Director Stephen
104 Soma, the Water Superintendent Ron SanSouci received a quote from DLT Solutions
105 for about \$28,000.00. Chairman Paul stated she spoke with Mr. SanSouci who told her
106 the quote was for \$22,000.00. However In reviewing the quote, it stated \$28,000.00.
107 The Board questioned the amount and asked Mr. Soma to meet with Mr. SonSouci and
108 come up with an accurate figure with justification, put it in writing and submit to the
109 Board by Friday, June 22nd for their consideration.

110 The Board will be meeting on Sunday, June 24th for the dedication ceremony for
111 Moe Capistran. The Administrative Clerk will post a meeting for 1:30pm. Selectman
112 Fleming noted that he is unable to attend next Tuesday's meeting and if the Board does
113 not come to a resolution on the funding for the computer upgrades on Sunday, he will
114 support the Boards decision on Tuesday, June 26th.

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116 Selectman Picard volunteered to serve on the Local Community Housing
117 Partnership Committee (LCHPC).

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119 *Motion # 5*

120 Selectman Fleming motioned to elect, not to oppose the MCR 07-5280 Petition,
121 dated May 7, 2007 and voluntarily recognize Teamster Local #170 as the petitioned-for
122 positions exclusive bargaining agent for the DPW Supervisors and agree to include
123 them in the existing bargaining unit, DPW Local #170, on a going-forward basis.
124 Seconded by Selectman Fleming, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

125 Chairman Paul noted the need to update the job descriptions.

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127 *Motion # 6*

128 Selectman Fleming motioned to adjourn their meeting at 8:36pm, Seconded by
129 Selectman Picard, unanimous by Chairman Paul.

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131
132 Respectfully submitted,

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134 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk
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