

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
May 29, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chm. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The following persons were present: Chair Julie Woods, Vice Chair Kevin Kuros, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Dan Stack, Sel. Jim Dwyer, Town Manager Jill Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

REORGANIZATION: Chm. Woods turned the gavel over to the Town Manager. Ms. Myers asked for a nomination for Chairman.

Motion by Sel. Potaski to nominate Sel. Dwyer as Chairman. There was no second.

MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack, to nominate Chm. Woods as Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Myers asked for a nomination for Vice-Chairman.

MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to nominate Sel. Kuros as Vice-Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Myers asked for a nomination for Clerk.

MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Kuros, to nominate Sel. Potaski as Clerk. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Congratulations to elected and re-elected BOS members; Memorial Day parade; Class of 2007 graduates; Whitin School band; DPW Superintendent Larry Bombara recipient of "Top 10" Award.

CITIZEN'S FORUM: No one wished to address the Board.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS:

Precision Engineering, Inc.: Application for Above Ground Propane Storage/3,000 Gallons

Chm. Woods opened the public hearing at 7:13 p.m. Precision Engineering is proposing to move a 1,000 gallon tank from one side of the building to another. There will be 5 balers surrounding the tank which will sit upon a concrete pad. Chief Ostroskey informed the Board that Precision Engineering is expanding their operation and the Fire Department has determined they have a need for a greater amount of storage. Chief Ostroskey endorsed the plan. Chm. Woods closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack, to approve Precision Engineering's application for above ground propane storage of 3,000 gallons. The motion passed unanimously.

Pledge of Liquor License: Quit-n-Time Package Store

Chm. Woods opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m. There was no one present to represent Quit-N-Time. No one wished to address the Board. Ms. Myers stated her recommendation is for the Board to approve the pledge.

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MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to approve the Pledge of Liquor License for Quit-N-Time. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT: (A copy is attached to these minutes) Sel. Kuros asked whether we should wait to move forward with the 43D Technical Assistance Grant until the Town has a new Planner. Ms. Myers stated she will coordinate the process with Attorney Bobrowski but does not want to fall behind schedule for a FY07 award by the state. Chm. Woods asked the RFP for Sutton Street will be completed in time for planting. Ms. Myers stated she is hoping for it to be completed by the end of June. Chm. Woods asked if the negotiations on insurance co-pays and deductibles have to be done with each individual. Ms. Myers stated that all unions must have the same level of offerings, however, the co-pays could be separate per union but we are not a large enough customer for the provider to offer that option.

OLD BUSINESS:

Draft Feasibility Study Review on the Blanchard Building: Blanchard Reuse Committee: Blanchard Committee Chair Sheryl Romasco stated she is not aware of any surviving family members and she believes the Deed restricts it to a school type use. Sel. Dwyer feels the only options are to sell or lease the building. Chm. Woods mentioned the idea of a long-term lease because a tenant could do the renovations at a far less cost than a municipality. Ms. Romasco reminded the Board that renovations would have to be approved by Mass Historic Commission. Sel. Stack feels the Board should let the citizens decide. Chm. Woods mentioned possibly turning the Blanchard Building into a New Town Hall. Ms. Myers stated that \$35,000 was originally appropriated and could be used toward maintenance repairs with approval of MHC. Ms. Myers informed the Board that they could choose to investigate selling or leasing the building but, they would probably incur Town Counsel costs. Chm. Woods feels before the Board investigates selling or leasing the Blanchard Building they should exhaust every possible option for municipal use. The Board agreed to have the Town Manager ask the architect whether the Blanchard could be used as a Town Hall based on square footage of current programming. Ms. Romasco stated the next step is for the BOS to either accept or decline the feasibility report and inform the architect of their decision.

ACTION ITEM: Continue discussion for 6/11

FY08 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Continued Discussion: (Attached Memo – FY2008 Budget Scenario – Reduction) Ms. Myers informed the Board she has asked the departments to provide her with budget reductions which would be 13% for most departments if the override fails, in an effort to balance the budget. Ms. Myers stated the towns fixed costs are the energy, health insurance and property/casualty insurance. Sel. Kuros asked if the school-choice in has an impact. Finance Director, David Genereux stated school-choice- in does not have an impact. Mr. Genereux explained the item comes in directly to the school department for expenditure without further appropriation. Ms. Myers reminded the Board when they were first shown the budget during the first of the year the town was facing a \$3.7 million dollar deficit and that's where departments proposed their budgets to maintain the same level of services. We worked diligently to present the budget at Town Meeting on May 8, 2007 with a deficit of \$1.4 million and that was eliminating many of the cost items in the warrant. The document Ms. Myers presented this evening goes a step further eliminating Mosquito Control participation and the participation in the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling. Ms. Myers then reviewed her document. Ms. Myers ended by saying if the override fails this is the plan we need to present. Ms. Myers asked the BOS for their consent for this document to be presented

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to Fin. Comm. for their recommendation because we need a budget that can be adopted when we reconvene on June 13, 2007. Chm. Woods invited Department Heads to read their impact statements. **(All statements attached)** The following individuals spoke: Gretchen Duffield, Chief Freitas, Chief Ostroskey, David Utakis, Nick Gazerro and Larry Bombara. Mr. Bombara asked the selectmen how they personally feel about the override, use of stabilization and the reduction of staff in general. Chm. Woods stated she supports the override and feels we should not use stabilization. Sel. Stack agrees with Chm. Woods. Sel. Potaski does not support the override and did not comment on the use of stabilization. Sel. Potaski ended by saying if cuts need to be made then so be it. Sel. Kuros does not support the override and feels a combination of stabilization and free cash is the way to solve the problem. Sel. Dwyer believes a combination of all is needed. Sel. Dwyer goes on to say he feels work still needs to be done to come up with the final solution. Ms. Myers asked to set-up a special BOS meeting on June 4, 2007 to continue discussions and prepare for Town Meeting, the Board agreed. Chm. Woods ended by thanking the Selectmen for making everyone aware of what they are hearing in public and allowing the BOS to discuss the validity of the rumors. Ms. Myers ended by saying what it all comes down to is if the override fails there will be an impact throughout the municipal and school side.

Town Counsel RFP: Responses, Interview Scheduling: The Board of Selectmen agreed to postpone.

Douglas Street Purchase and Sales Agreement: Ms. Myers reviewed the amended P&S with the changes per executive session. Attorney Roberti asked that we postpone the signing the document until the input of the clause pertaining to an appeal. The Board agreed.

Crumbling Wall & Sidewalk: Crown & Eagle Apartments: The Board agreed to postpone.

Consider Policy to Release Executive Session Meeting Minutes: Draft Policy (Sel. Dwyer): The Board agreed to postpone.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town Manager (and BOS) Goal Setting: Initiate Process: The Board of Selectmen agreed to postpone.

Election Procedure Report: Town Clerk: Town Clerk Joe Kaplan thanked the BOS for their support. Mr. Kaplan explained the term inactive voter is a state term we must use. Mr. Kaplan explained that someone is considered an inactive voter if a first time voter registers through the mail or someone does not answer their census. Mr. Kaplan informed the Board that he and his staff will be reviewing the census process in the future. Mr. Kaplan explained that the use of inactive voters is meant to protect people from being removed from the voter list if they did not answer their census.

Signing of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting:

**MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT: At 10:35 p.m.

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MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Potaski to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Tracy Leavitt, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen*

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

Chairman Julie A. Woods

Sel. James F. Dwyer

V. Chairman Kevin J. Kuros

Sel. Dan Stack

Clerk Michael Potaski

MSDV: Moved, Seconded, Discussed & Voted
RCV: Roll Call Vote