

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

June 11, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chm. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following persons were present: Chair Julie Woods, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Jim Dwyer, Sel. Dan Stack, Town Manager Jill Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Firefighter Sunday; Quaker Deli donation for swearing in ceremony.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Conservation Commission Chair Gretchen Duffield introduced the Chair of the Mendon Land Use Committee Ms. Anne Mazar. Ms. Mazar spoke in regards to the Merchant Property under Chapter 61A and the Town's first right of refusal options. Attached is a written statement.

Mrs. Martha Callahan encouraged the citizens of Uxbridge to vote no on Proposition 2 ½ override. Ms. Merl Lawler also spoke in opposition to the override and encouraged citizens to get out and vote. Ms. Carol Intoccia encouraged people to let the Governor/Legislature know it is time they "stepped-up".

Mr. Edward Poddles stated that the Blanchard Building needs to be put up for auction.

Mr. Peter Baghdasarian stated that he hopes new Town Counsel will eliminate a retainer. He noted the crumbling wall at Crown & Eagle, and urged the Town to file a law suit against the condo. Association. He also noted that the deed restriction on the Blanchard Building needs to be renewed every so many years and last time it was investigated it was discovered it had not been renewed.

Mr. Harry Romasco outlined 3 motions he intends to propose at Town Meeting: Transfer \$600,000.00 from stabilization to the FY08 revenue sheet; Re-designate the cable fund balance as of 6/30/07 but, not to exceed \$500,000.00 as part of the FY08 revenue sheet; and propose a blue ribbon committee of Uxbridge citizens to study the operations of the Town and school government and make recommendations for efficient and cost effective changes. The study will begin on July 1st and continue through September 30th.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Election/Poll Worker Appointment - Kathryn Mayo:

MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Dwyer, to appoint Ms. Mayo as a poll worker. The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT: Ms. Myers reviewed her written report. She noted that due to the pending special ballot vote, a budget recommendation will be presented at the 4 p.m. meeting on 6/13/07.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY08 Budget, Continued ATM, STM: Chm. Woods acknowledged that the Moderator, Harold Klei was present. She asked Ms. Myers to continue with the budget update. Ms. Myers noted that the financial situation is tenuous and that if stabilization is used to fund the FY08 budget, it is apparent that we will be on the same path as Northbridge fro FY09. Ms Myers informed the Board that notification of potential lay-offs and notices to employees were sent out in compliance with the respective union agreements. Ms. Myers noted that the budget before Town Meeting has a deficit of apprx. \$1.4m, and that the motion is contingent on the special ballot vote tomorrow. The Board discussed the possible use of the Charter cable franchise/contract revenue to balance the budget.

MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack, to contact Charter to find out if there is any legal restriction and/or objection on their part of transferring those fees into the general fund. The motion passed 4-0-0 (Sel. Kuros was not present).

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Discussion ensued about the budget motion and e-mail exchange between Selectmen Dwyer and Moderator Harold Klei. Mr. Klei explained that the assembly will need to start fresh on the motion for the budget article (article 5) as he felt they were confused, and he does not feel they would be able to make an honest vote. Sel. Dwyer said that he disagrees with the Moderator's decision to forget all previous discussions. Mr. Klei informed the Board that he spoke with Town Counsel Goldberg and decided that his actions protect the "will of the majority and the rights of the minority" and this is how the Town Meeting continuation will proceed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Inter-municipal Agreement – Regional Animal Control Officer: The Town Manger summarized that Town Meeting voted to authorize the Selectmen to enter into an Inter-municipal Agreement for animal control services. Ms. Myers stated that she, Sgt. Emerick, Animal Control Officer Joyce Garreri and Chief Freitas have begun negotiating with Mendon and Douglas for a regional Animal Control Officer, as those towns also had favorable Town Meeting votes to participate. MS. Myers said the benefit to Uxbridge would be cost savings, and economy of scale fro various services. Ms. Myers explained hat the first year budget reflects existing cost distributions, but some savings to Uxbridge. We would pay \$ 7,000.00 plus health insurance, Mendon will pay \$9,800.00 and Douglas would be responsible for \$24,900.00. She noted that the revenue from the fines will go to the town where the fine occurred.

MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack, to accept the Inter-municipal Agreement for the Regional Animal Control Officer. The motion passed unanimously.

FY08 Budget, Continued ATM, STM (continued):

MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack, to support the article. The motion passed unanimously.

Crumbling Wall and Sidewalk: Crown & Eagle Apartments: The Town Manager briefed the Board on a recent meeting. Chm. Woods reminded the public that this situation is very complicated and has been going on for more than 10 years. Sel. Kuros suggested possibly investigating installing a sidewalk on the peaceful pond side of the street.

Consider Policy to Release Executive Session Meeting Minutes - Draft Policy (Sel. Dwyer): Sel. Dwyer stated that the policy he drafted and presented tonight (a revision to the previous draft policy provided by staff) may also be considered for use by other Boards/Committee.

MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack, to accept this as the policy of the Board of Selectmen. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Send out policy with a cover letter to all other committees/boards as the BOS recommendation.

Town Manager (and BOS) Goal Setting - Initiate Process: The Town Manger distributed the survey form from last year and requested the BOS to submit responses to the Asst. to the Town Manager so that she may compile them fro the June 25, 2007 meeting. The responses to the survey from last year will be e-mailed to the board.

Sutton Street RFP: The Town Manger spoke briefly in regards to performance measures. The current tenant suggested extending ding the lease. She stated that she has been unable to reach him for details, but expects to make contact with him this week.

FY08 Town Counsel Services/Appointment RFP Analysis/Interviews to schedule: Ms. Myers suggested that the Board schedule the first round of interviews. Ms. Myers referred to the previous memo highlighting the RFP

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responses, and suggested inviting 2 or 3 firms and 1 individual. Chm. Woods mentioned she is concerned with possibly having only a \$40,000.00 budget fro FY08 as approved on 5/8/07. Sel. Kuros reminded the board that they will know the budget before the interviews. The Board agreed to ask Town Counsel – Kopelman & Paige for a litigations status report and total amount expended per case. The Board agreed by consensus to interview candidates (firms) #1-3 as recommended by the Finance Director, and one individual.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 5/21/07: Postponed to the BOS meeting of 6/25/07.

CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER BUSINESS:

Sel. Dwyer suggested that action needs to be taken by the BOS on the status of the Blanchard Building.

ACTION ITEM: Schedule the Blanchard Building Status for BOS meeting 7/9/07.

Sel. Kuros asked to revisit the cable fee discussion. He noted that the fees are derived by subscribers and they receive the benefit; not a benefit to all town residents. He is not in favor of diverting it away. Sel. Stack and Chm. Woods agreed that the money should not be re-directed to the general fund.

ADJOURNMENT: At 10:25 p.m. MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Approved by:

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