

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
December 17, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chm. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following persons were present: Chairman Julie Woods, Vice Chairman Kevin Kuros, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Dan Stack, Town Manager Jill Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Reminder of bylaw to not push excess snow in road.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:** No-one wish to address the Board.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

Administrative License Hearing: Motiva Enterprises: Fire Chief Peter Ostroskey: Chief Ostroskey reviewed his memo to the Board regarding the transfer of a license to store flammable or combustible liquids. (A copy is attached to these minutes).

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to authorize the transfer of the license to Motiva. The motion passed unanimously.**

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing: Consider Proposed Kennel Regulations: Chm. Woods opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. No-one was present to speak for or against the Proposed Kennel Regulations. Chief Freitas briefed all. Sel Kuros noted that the time was not quite 7:15 p.m. and for that reason the Board moved onto the Town Manager's report before voting.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT:** Ms. Myers reviewed her written report (A copy is attached to these minutes).

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS: Continued**

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing: Consider Proposed Kennel Regulations: Continued: Chm. Woods closed the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

**MSDV by Sel. Potaski, seconded by Sel. Kuros to adopt the proposed regulations and forms relative to kennels in the Town of Uxbridge. The motion passed unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Public Input Opportunity: To hear public comments as the Board considers adopting guidelines to honor deceased veterans and public servants, including the possible lowering of the Flag at the Town Common: Chm. Woods provided background information regarding the request by the Foley Family. She went on to explain why hesitance existed among individuals in town to lower the Flag. She mentioned that until recently only the President of the United States could order for the Flag to be lowered at half mast and as recent as June 2007 the 'Presidents Law' was adopted which now allows the President and Governors to make that decision. Chm. Woods also contacted former Town Officials who recall lowering the Flag but, a policy was not found. Phyllis Smyth of Uxbridge asked to address the Board in support of lowering the Flag and read a prepared statement (A copy is attached to these minutes). Dave Moriarty addressed the Board and provided them with a copy of the CRS Report for Congress regarding "The United States Flag: Federal Law Relating to Display and Associated Questions" update on July 5, 2007 (A copy of this document is available for review in the Town Managers office during normal business hours). Kathy Audette, daughter of deceased veteran Charles

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Foley presented the BOS with a draft policy for them to consider. Ken Trajanowski, Uxbridge Veterans Agent noted that several other communities in the state have chosen to lower the flag for deceased veterans. Chm. Woods informed the public that the Board did vote on November 30th in favor to lower the Flag for the Foley Family request. She then suggested that the Board take this issue under advisement until another rescheduled daytime meeting can be scheduled to hear more public input; possibly at the Senior Center. Sel. Stack stated that he has made multiple calls and discovered that there is not a unified Flag policy across the state. There was consensus to take this item under advisement and seek more input.

Blanchard Re-use Survey – Report on responses: Chm. Woods informed the public that the results of the Blanchard survey are available at the Town Manager's office for review during normal business hours. In summary, both the web survey and the Town Meeting survey results noted that the town has obtained enough information of the possibilities of using the building and the responses noted preference to sell the building and associated property. Thank you to FinComm member Mark Andrew for his assistance in compiling and presenting the results in a graphic format. Chm. Woods noted that the Board will need to review the results and decide on the next step. Sel. Kuros feels the Board just needs to understand the legal standing and then make a decision. Town Counsel will be asked to research if the building can be disposed/sold, and with what restrictions.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Update on Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Services: Fire Chief Ostroskey: Chief Ostroskey reviewed his written report (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes). He noted that his recommendation is to take the appropriate steps to go to the Paramedic level of service immediately vs. his original plan of FY10. Chm. Woods noted the bad timing due to the budget. Chief Ostroskey mentioned that he has already crafted a budget proposal for the Town Manager to see. Sel. Kuros suggested possibly hiring three or four of the paramedics being laid off from Milford Whitinsville Regional Hospital. Chief Ostroskey stated that the details are still being worked out. Neighboring Towns may temporarily fill the service gap via mutual aid or contract with a private service after April 2008. Chm. Woods asked Chief Ostroskey to keep the Board updated and allow for future discussions.

Consider Stabilization Balance Policy: Sel. Kuros briefed the public on the stabilization policy brought forward by the Finance Committee discussed at the IV Budget Summit. He went on to say that the Town has become accustomed to deplete stabilization at the SATM and replenish it at the FATM with free cash, a trend that needs to end. Mr. Genereux suggested the Stabilization Policy. Sel. Kuros stated that he feels this is a sound policy.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to support at Stabilization policy which provides for an annual amount of \$1,000,000.00 be held in the Stabilization Fund. Any funds in Stabilization in excess of the \$1,000,000.00, as of 12/31 shall be made available to the Capital Committee for proposed funding of the CIP. However, it was noted that if the proposal were to use Stabilization to balance the operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year, that amount would be subtracted from the available Stabilization fund balance as of the date (12/31). The Capital Committee would then provide a recommendation for funding priorities to the Town Manager in January, and the Town Manager will provide CIP recommendations on items to fund to the BOS and FinComm 150 days prior to the start of the fiscal year (end of January). Use of Stabilization funds would be included in the transfer warrant article for appropriation at the May Annual Town Meeting for a**

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**July 1 appropriation. In years when funds were insufficient or unavailable, no capital transfers would be recommended. The motion passed unanimously.**

Consideration of 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting schedule: Ms. Myers reviewed the draft 2008 calendar and informed the Board that they need to decide the dates of their December 2008 meetings, due to the holidays. The BOS agreed to hold their meetings on December 8<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Board the agreed to post the calendar after the December dates were updated on the attachment in the packet

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 11/30 Emergency Session: The Board reviewed the minutes.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 11/7 Budget Summit III: The Board reviewed the minutes.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER BUSINESS:**

Bernat Mill – Proclamation: Chm. Woods read aloud the Proclamation and asked for the Boards support in sending.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to approve. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chm. Woods read aloud a letter she had written on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to thank Ms. Myers, her staff, the Uxbridge Fire and Police Departments, member of the Emergency response Team, the Uxbridge department of Public Works, and the Water and Highway Divisions, Finance and Planning Departments for their outstanding work during and since the historic fire of July 21, 2007 that consumed the Bernat Mill complex on Depot Street. Chm. Woods asked for the Boards support in sending this letter.

**MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack to sign the letter. The motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At 8:47 pm with no business to follow

**MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Potaski to enter into executive to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government’s bargaining or litigating position. Also, an executive session now may be convened to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel: potential litigation settlement. The motion passed Potaski – aye, Kuros – aye, Woods – aye, Stack – aye.**

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**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:05pm

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Kuros to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

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Chairman Julie A. Woods

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Vice Chairman Kevin Kuros

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Clerk Michael Potaski

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Selectman Dan Stack

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