

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 22, 2008**

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, Finance Director David Genereux, and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sel. Kuros congratulated the Education Foundation on the success they had with their Vegas Night.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:

Poll Worker Appointments: Kris Koehler and Joshua Wright: Chm. Woods read aloud Kris Koehler's talent bank form and invited Mr. Koehler to introduce himself.

MOTION by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack to appoint Kris Koehler as a poll worker. The motion passed unanimously.

Chm. Woods read aloud Joshua Wright's talent bank form. Mr. Wright was not present.

MOTION by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to appoint Joshua Wright as a poll worker. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Send appointment letters to Kris Koehler and Joshua Wright, and notify the Town Clerk

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilization Fund Policy; Continued discussion from 1/2/08: Chm. Woods re-capped the discussion that occurred at the joint meeting with the Finance Committee regarding the Stabilization policy. Sel. Kuros stated that he feels the amount in stabilization should be a percentage rather than an actual number, he suggested using 3%. He ended by saying anything beyond the 3% should be flexible and not automatically given to the Capital Committee. Sel. Stack stated that sometimes flexibility is not flexed in the correct direction. He would like to see the excess money go to the Capital Committee until we get caught up. Sel. Stack said he would like to create a policy that when we have a surplus the money will be used for the things not in our budget that we need to keep up. Sel. Potaski said he is in completed agreement with the notion of \$1,000,000.00 in stabilization and have flexibility. Chm. Woods suggested that the Board set a goal to adopt a policy in April (2008) when the DOR comes in for a "friendly audit". Chm. Woods stated that she feels the citizens of Uxbridge are spending money from Stabilization because they want to preserve the town's services. Sel. Potaski stated that the citizens are asking the town to live within their budget.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 12/17/07 Regular Session:

MOTION by Sel. Potaski, seconded by Sel. Stack to accept the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 1/2/08 Special Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee:

Chm. Woods asked the Board to delay acceptance of the meeting minutes. Sel. Kuros noted a spelling correction.

ACTION ITEM: Continue the 1/2/08 minutes to the agenda for 1/28/08

NEW BUSINESS:

FY09 Budget; Summary of Municipal Department Budget Requests: Town Manager's initial consultation with the Board of Selectmen (Article 6, § 4 of the Charter): Ms. Myers reviewed the document entitled “*FY2009 Budget, Departmental Submittals*” (A copy is attached to these minutes). She noted a minor correction regarding the Conservation budget. She informed the Board that the assigned budget was incorrectly listed as being \$43,758 rather than \$30,106. Ms. Myers noted that the School Committee has not yet held their budget hearing. Chm. Woods spoke of “open space” and asked what the status was regarding the Conservation Design Bylaw. Ms. Myers said the area is Aldrich Estates and there have been recent discussions between the developer and the Director of Planning and Economic Development. Ms. Myers said the developer’s intentions are to use the space for “passive” recreation. She noted that the Conservation Agent will inspect the site. Chm. Woods asked if any discussion has been held regarding the maintenance cost that will be incurred for the Conservation restriction. Ms. Myers was not sure if potential maintenance costs were presented to Town Meeting or included in the bylaw, but that she will inquire of staff for details. Discussion ensued. Chm. Woods suggested that the Town Manager review the specific language of the Conservation Design Bylaw and then advise the BOS or converse with the Planner if need be so that the potential economical issues will be kept in line. Ms. Myers returned to the budget discussion relating to the Department directives for a balanced budget. They, including the School Department, were provided an overall budget reduction number and it was up to their discretion to cut from salaries and/or expenses. She noted impact statements will be provided for the supplemental requests, along with staffing history and performance indicators. Sel. Potaski spoke of “staffing levels” and questioned whether the town is aware that they are paying a lot in salaries for potentially positions that are not needed. Sel. Kuros stated that he feels regionalization is important and possibly an opportunity to offset some current expenses. He encouraged staff to begin conversations immediately regarding possible regionalization of the departments for FY10. Finance Director Genereux reviewed the remainder of the document. Ms. Myers requested that the Board provide her any comments or funding priorities. She noted that she will continue to consult with the Board at subsequent meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:20 pm (separate minutes)

MOTION by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski to enter into executive session #3 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 litigation position. Also, an executive session now may be convened to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. (Originally scheduled for 1/14)

#6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.

Roll call vote: Potaski – aye, Kuros – aye, Woods – aye and Stack – aye.

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ADJOURNMENT: At 10:05 pm

MOTION by Sel. Potaski, 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:

Chairman Julie A. Woods

Vice Chairman Kevin Kuros

Clerk Michael Potaski

Selectman Dan Stack