

Minutes of Meeting
May 14, 2008

Board members present: Chairman Kathy Wilfert, Lynn Watts, James Parker Jr., and Christine Gundling. Others present: Bill Carrier, Patrick Purcell and Chief Walter Perron, all from the Fire Department.

7:05 p.m. The Chairman called the meeting to order. Patrick Purcell wished to ask a question during Open Forum. Mr. Purcell noted that he is trying to finish his Masters degree this year. He asked if he would be allowed to add one summer class. It was noted that Mr. Purcell has already requested approval for the maximum of 12 credit hours this fiscal year. Mr. Purcell added that this particular class is an accelerated class which runs from May 20 through June 28, and that it is one which he would very much like to take and does not come up that often. The class is a customer service for firefighters class, which he felt could greatly benefit the town. He noted that he would take the class regardless of the Board's approval for reimbursement. The Board brought up concerns that this could potentially set a precedent, and also that the Board would need to review the budget figures. Lastly, Chief Perron provided a list of firefighters who had requested educational aid benefits in the FY '08 budget, but who had actually never taken courses, believing that this would allow for extra funds in the budget.

MOTION: Ms. Watts moved to approve reimbursing Mr. Purcell for this additional class, pending available funds. She also added that this is not precedent setting. Mr. Parker seconded and was so voted by a unanimous vote.

7:20 p.m. Bill Carrier, firefighter/paramedic, and his supervisor, Chief Perron, appeared before the Board to request educational aid benefits. Mr. Carrier stated that he plans to return to school to work towards a nursing degree. He currently has a Bachelors degree, and is enrolling in a program in which he will first get a Paramedic Associates, and can then bridge to a nursing program. He added that some of his credits would transfer.

Mr. Carrier then reviewed how certain medical advances and changes have affected the medical care that the ambulance staff needs to provide. He noted that having a Nurse on staff, along with a Paramedic, would provide enhanced care and a tremendous value to the department. Ms. Watts inquired if his work would still be under the supervision of a doctor. Mr. Carrier said that yes, Medical Director Dr. Srebnik, would still oversee all of their work. Then Mr. Carrier said that a nursing background would help the transport team better communicate with hospitals. Ms. Watts also asked if this would affect his pay scale. Chief Perron answered that it would not affect Mr. Carrier's pay rate. Lastly, Mr. Purcell added that Mr. Carrier's nursing degree would be a tremendous benefit to the Fire Department staff, as well as the town.

MOTION: Ms. Watts moved to support reimbursement for Mr. Carrier's courses. Mr. Parker seconded and was so voted by a unanimous vote.

7:35 p.m. Ms. Wilfert noted that the Board needed to review and revote on a revised Article 6. Specifically to eliminate the Administrative Assistant/Secretary position from the Assessor's office.

MOTION: Mr. Parker moved to approve Article 6 as changed in the Warrant (delete Assessors Administrative Assistant/Secretary N-10, 35 hours, 1). Ms. Gundling seconded and was so voted by a unanimous vote.

7:40 p.m. Ms. Wilfert also brought to the Board's attention that on 2/13/08, the Board voted to create a COA substitute driver position. She added that the Board did not get that into the Article to be added to the Warrant. Ms. Wilfert spoke to Mr. Danis and Mr. Harrington and they do not want the Article changed on the Town Meeting floor. Instead, they would like the Board to vote to approve the position and start using substitutes. It can be heard at the next Town Meeting, either Fall 2008 or May 2009.

MOTION: Mr. Parker moved to vote to approve the COA substitute bus driver position (H-7, Step1) at the Fall 2008 or May 2009 Town Meeting. Ms. Watts seconded and was so voted by a unanimous vote.

7:42 p.m. The Board decided that the following people would present at Town Meeting:

- Article 6 Kathy Wilfert
- Article 7 Bob Titus

7:45 p.m. The Personnel Board approved the following:

Steps:

Ross Eldridge, Firefighter to Lieutenant Promotion	F-2, 25 th yr to F-3, 25 th yr
Leslie MacAfee, Technical Services Asst.	H-9, MAX
Judi Masters, Library Asst.	H-8, MAX

Approval To Take:

Kathy Brault, URI, 1 Course	\$1,215.00
Christopher Weinwurm, Anna Maria, 1 Course	\$1,272.00

Approval To Pay:

Umass Memorial for William Grey (DPW)	\$ 65.00
Umass Memorial for Anthony Voutas (DPW)	\$ 65.00
Community News for Legal Ad	\$ 18.89

Minutes:

April 9, 2008 (Regular)

The Board adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Susan Smith
Administrative Assistant

Kathy Wilfert, Chairman