

Westborough Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2008  
7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Emery, Selectmen Goldblatt, Dodd and Jane´

Also, Present: Henry Danis, Town Coordinator; Maryanne Bilodeau, Assistant Town Coordinator; Town Counsel Gregory B. Franks

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Thompson. Town and School payroll and expense warrants were approved and signed.

### **Pledge of Allegiance/Open Forum**

Mr. Walden, Department of Public Works Manager (DPW), introduced Richard Voutas the new Assistant Director of the DPW. The Board welcomed Mr. Voutas as the new Assistant Director for DPW and also thanked him for accepting the position.

On a separate note the Board thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and the DPW Department for all their dedication and good work done during the rain and ice storm last weekend.

Mr. DeSiata, Director Recreation Department, introduced Brandi Philips the new Administrative Assistant for the Recreation Department. The Board welcomed Ms. Philips to the Town Hall.

The following committee vacancies were announced to the public by Chairman Thompson. Anyone interested in serving may submit a letter of interest to Nidia Ruberti, Town Hall, Selectmen's Office, 34 West Main Street:

### **Committee Vacancies:**

County Club Operating Committee 1-Non Voting Associate  
Open Space Preservation Committee (2) 1-Non Voting Associate

### **Approval of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

- December 2, 2008

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2008. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 5-0

**Request to Appoint Member(s) to the Economic Development Committee/Selectman Jane'**

Selectman Jane' requested that the Board appoint the following individuals as business members at large to the EDC with a term ending June 30, 2009: Bonnie Sullivan, Senior Vice President MassDevelopment; Joe MacDonough former President of Westborough Bank and Lester Hensley.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to appoint Bonnie Sullivan, Joe MacDonough and Lester Hensley to the EDC with a term ending June 30, 2009. Selectman Dodd seconded. 5-0

**State Re-Elect Representative Polito**

Representative Polito thanked the Board for inviting her today and said that she is looking forward to continue the relationship that she and the Town of Westborough has already created and looks forward to adding to the relationship in the future. She said that she is in support of the Legislative Liaison Subcommittee proposal and offered her assistance in anyway possible. Representative Polito noted that the Governor has announced that he is seeking additional powers to expand his budget cut authority (9C) and she is opposed to that extra authority and strongly believes that there are wasteful spending areas in this budget and does not agree in having to ask the towns and cities to cut their budgets. After the new body is sworn in on January 7, 2009 the state will have a better idea of their budget figures. January 14, 2009 is the deadline for legislatures to file new bills.

Representative Polito said that she is assembling a municipal relief reform package with some feedback from Shrewsbury and Westborough officials and asked that Board to take a look at the package and provide some further feedback or ideas to her. She said that once House Counsel has reviewed the packet a copy of it will be mailed to the Board. Representative Polito said that she is meeting with the School Superintendent on Friday to gain some understanding on the education reform and to ensure that Westborough has the tools to help reduce their budgets at the local level. Representative Polito believes that the Towns and Cities should be the last resort for the Governor to look for budget cuts.

Selectman Jane' asked Representative Polito why the Governor is merging the Massachusetts Turnpike with the Massachusetts Highway Division and having it split from east to west and also having MassPort controlling it from Route 128 in. Representative Polito agrees that it is a very complex issue but the simplest way of looking at it is that the Turnpike from Route 128 to the western boarder is one segment of the turnpike with its own debt, the second segment is a separate debit (the Big Dig Debt/\$2.2 Billion) that is related to the Metropolitan Highway System (tunnels and big dig project) and that it is the infrastructure from Route 128 in.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Representative Polito for her informational update and congratulated her on her re-election.

**Request for Common Victualer Permit/Ruscito Management, LLC. / 166 East Main Street (McDonalds)/Joe & Lori Ruscito**

Mr. and Mrs. Ruscito requested that the Board approve a Common Victualer Permit for Ruscito Management, LLC., d/b/a McDonalds of Westborough located at 166 East Main Street.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve a Common Victualer Permit to Ruscito Management, LLC., d/b/a McDonalds of Westborough located at 166 East Main Street. Vice Chairman Emery seconded. 5-0

**Site Plan Review/169 Flanders Rd/Indoor Recreational Facility/Mike Dryden, Waterman Design**

Mr. Dryden requested that the Board approve the Site Plan Review for an Indoor Recreational Facility located at 169 Flanders Road. He said that the applicant is proposing to construct a one and half story, indoor recreational facility with a parking area and site improvements. The structure will accommodate eight (8) badminton courts, a reception area, locker rooms and offices.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve Site Plan# 7/2008 located at 169 Flanders Road for an Indoor Recreational Facility, subject to all of the various town departments written recommendation and comments. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 5-0

**Legislative Liaison Subcommittee Vote/Board of Selectmen**

Chairman Thompson requested that the Board approve the proposed Legislative Liaison Subcommittee and asked for the Board’s comments.

Selectman Jane´ said that he supports the establishment of this subcommittee.

Selectman Dodd said that he support the formalization of the subcommittee but still has a concern under the composition section “appointed by Chair of BOS” and suggested that the language be taken out and discussed before a vote is taken.

Selectman Goldblatt said that she is in agreement of the subcommittee and requested to have more meetings with the representatives and senator than stated. Selectman Goldblatt also supports having the Chairman appoint Selectmen members to committees.

Vice Chairman Emery requested that the Conservation Commission be included under the composition section.

At this point, Vice Chairman Emery moved to add under the composition section a member of the Conservation Committee. Selectman Dodd seconded.

After a brief discussion Chairman Thompson said that the Department Heads should be by invitation instead of having them as members. The rest of the Board agreed with Chairman Thompson’s statement.

Selectman Jane requested to move forth for now and take this item up afterwards. The motion was withdrawn.

Selectman Dodd moved to amend the composition section by eliminating the following language: “Board of Selectmen members appointed by Chair of Board of Selectmen”. Vice Chairman Emery seconded.

After a brief discuss of Selectman Dodd’s motion the Board voted the following:

3-2 (Vice Chairman Emery and Selectman Dodd)

Chairman Thompson requested that the Board approve the Legislative Liaison Subcommittee as presented.

Vice Chairman Emery moved to approve the Legislative Liaison Subcommittee as presented. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 5-0

### **Wastewater Treatment Plan Update/Vice Chairman Emery**

Vice Chairman Emery gave a very extensive and detailed update regarding the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and the NPDES Compliance Schedule. She referenced a letter from Thomas Parece, P.E. dated December 8, 2008 from Earth Tech which outlines each section and its past and future time frame in accordance to the NPDES schedule and also noted that the newly estimated cost for the project is now between \$55-\$60 million (letters attached).

The Board thanked Vice Chairman Emery for her extensive update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

### **Discussion of Joint Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee/School Committee Meeting/Selectman Dodd**

Selectman Dodd presented his proposal (see attachment) and briefly said that the primary purpose of the tri-board is to provide a whole view approach to budgeting and financial management in the Town of Westborough.

Chairman Thompson requested that Selectman Dodd speak and share this proposal with the Finance Committee Members and the School Committee members and wait for their comments. He also requested to have this discussion again at the Board’s first January meeting.

Selectman Jane’ voiced his concern about the jurisdiction overlapping but is still willing to have the discussion at the Board’s January meeting after having the Finance Committee and the School Committee review the proposal.

Chairman Thompson encouraged every member of the Board to speak with the committees themselves about this proposal.

## Senior Center Program Awareness and Resident Information

\*At this item the Board recessed at 7:55pm. The Board resumed at 8:00pm

*Present: Alama DeManche, Director Senior Center, Council on Aging Members: Sue Abladian and Dan Povolis*

Ms. DeManche informed the Board and the public of how the Fuel Assistance Program is advertised and its process.

Advertisements are announced by the following entities:

Cable

Television

Radio

Churches

News Media

When an individual calls for an application packet they are sent one with all of the information they need to submit back to the Senior Center. Everything is kept confidential. Once the packet arrives appointment times are set up with the individuals to review the packet (about 10 minutes or so) shortly afterwards. When the packet is completed it is sent to the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) for their approval it may take 6-8 weeks. Ms. DeManche noted and stressed very strongly that the Fuel Assistance Program is based on your **household income not your age or where you live.**

Ms. DeManche said that once an individual has been approved for fuel assistance they are automatically re-certified by SMOC for the following year. When there is an emergency situation the individual's application is faxed over to SMOC and they make a decision right there.

Ms. DeManche clarified to the Board and the public that the Friends of the Senior Center is a private organization which coordinates fundraising events and donates some funds to the Senior Center to help individuals that do not qualify for any programs that are offered by the Senior Center. The Friends of the Senior Center have given Ms. DeManche authorization to manage the donations as she sees fit for anyone in need.

Selectman Dodd suggested having brochures created about what the Senior Center offers to its residents and sent to the Schools to be distributed and also to have them in the Town Hall, the Library and the Police Department. Ms. DeManche acknowledged the suggestion.

Chairman Thompson suggestion to Ms. DeManche of having the Council of Aging's web site updated with the Fuel Assistance Program information along with anything else that would be good to have advertised on the site.

Ms. Abladian announced that the Senior Center will hold their third community dinner on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Abladian announced that if anyone is interested in donating some funds please mail them to the Westborough Senior Center, 4 Rogers Road; make check payable to the Friends of the Senior Center.

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The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. DeManche, Mr. Pavolis, and Ms. Abladian for their information on the Fuel Assistance Program and clarifications regarding the Friends of the Senior Center's role.

### **Town Counsel Report**

Town Counsel Franks informed the Board that the auction for 169 East Main Street was held today and that everything went well.

### **Town Coordinator Report**

Mr. Danis notified the Board of Selectman that H4853- Disposition of Property (Nathan Fisher House) did not pass. He noted that the Massachusetts Historical Commission refuses to sign the bill and that the Nathan Fisher house is now two years older and continues to deteriorate. Mr. Danis also noted that both our representatives worked very hard on getting this passed and thanked them for their efforts.

Mr. Danis announced that the Moderator and the Town Manager's bills are on the Governor's desk for his signature.

Mr. Danis said that a 9c cut gives authority to the Governor to cut revenues to all of the cities and towns even though the legislature had already funded it. Governor Romney executed this action a few years ago and Westborough lost a major portion of our funding in the middle of the fiscal year. If Governor Patrick does implement the 9c cuts Westborough maybe able to weather it (depending what is cut) with a possibility of having a potential deficit next year.

Mr. Danis thanked Barbara Smith for the tray of Christmas cookies and wished her a very Merry Christmas.

### **Issues and Correspondence of the Selectmen**

Selectman Jane' noted that a letter, from Beth Travis, complimenting the DPW for all their help that they received during the flood situation a few months back was received by the Selectmen and are greatly appreciated.

Vice Chairman Emery thanked Tim Reiter for filming tonight's Board meeting and announced that the Selectman Goldblatt and herself conducted and completed Town Counsel Franks' yearly review.

Selectman Dodd said that the Government Study Committee II met last week and will have a recommendation in regards to the residency requirement for the Town Manager as requested by the Board. Selectman Dodd said that the Lee Property Committee is requesting that the committee take a hiatus for the time being.

Selectman Goldblatt requested that we keep our servicemen and women in our prayers and thoughts and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Chairman Thompson thanked all of the Department Heads and town hall employees for their dedication and commitment and very hard work and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Adjourn Open Session**

Selectman Goldblatt moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:15 p.m. Selectman Dodd seconded.

*Submitted by Nidia L. Ruberti*

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**Chairman George Thompson**

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**Vice Chairman Leigh Emery**

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**Selectman Lydia Goldblatt**

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**Selectman Timothy A. Dodd**

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**Selectman Rod Jané**