

Westborough Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2009
7:03 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Thompson, Selectmen Goldblatt and Jane´

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

Absent: Vice Chairman Emery, Selectman Dodd

Chairman Thompson requested a brief moment of silence for the loss of Alan F. Dodd former Town Counsel and Selectman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Thompson. Town and School payroll and expense warrants were approved and signed.

Pledge of Allegiance/Open Forum

Mark Stockman introduced himself to the Board as the new MIS/GIS Director for the Town of Westborough. He said that he was employed by the Town of Wellesley Massachusetts as their MIS/GIS Director. The Board welcomed Mr. Stockman to the Town of Westborough.

Len Mead, Milk Street, voiced his concerns regarding the state’s current and future local aid cuts along with the Town’s estimated deficit. He suggested that the Town make financial cuts across the board so Town employees do not lose their jobs.

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:

Country 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 16, 2008

Selectman Jane´ moved to approve the Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2008. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 3-0

Request for Hawker/Peddler Permit/Balloon All Over/164 Milk Street/Michelle Rowe

Ms. Rowe requested that the Board approve a Hawker Peddler Permit for Balloon All Over located at 164 Milk Street to be able to sell hot dogs and balloons at the Town's special events.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve a Hawker/Peddler Permit for Balloon All Over located at 164 Milk Street. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Report of the Government Study Committee II on Town Manager Residency

Present: Sue Abladian, John Arnold, Lynn Watts, Karen Heitzman and Maryanne Bilodeau

Ms. Abladian explained to the Board and the public the Committee's process of coming up with a recommendation in great detailed and stated that the Government Study Committee II recommends that the residency requirement for the Town Manager stay the same as it is currently publish in the Town of Westborough's By-Laws (report attached).

Selectman Jane' requested that the Board have a full discussion when all the Board members are present.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the Government Study Committee II for all their dedication and efforts. The Board also requested that the committee submit their pros and cons to them. The committee acknowledged the request.

Request to Restrict Parking/Police Chief

Police Chief Gordon requested that the Board approve a "no more than two hour overnight parking" restriction for all commercial vehicles at the South Street Parking Lot (Municipal Parking Lot). He said that the surrounding businesses are leaving their commercial vehicles there for days at a time. This hinders the town's plowing efforts during the winter months.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the traffic order of "no more than two hours overnight parking" restriction for all commercial vehicles at the South Street Parking Lot (Municipal Parking Lot) as recommended by the Police Chief. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Ratify DPW Manager Contract

Selectman Goldblatt moved to ratify the Department of Public Works Manager Contract for John Walden that was approved by the Special Town Meeting of 2008 and which includes a 4% percent salary increase. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

The Board congratulated Mr. Walden on ratifying his contract.

Representative Peterson Update

Representative Peterson said that he and Representative Polito met with representative of the Secretary of State's Office and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) in regards to the Nathan Fisher House. He said that both representatives have written new language for the Nathan Fisher House bill that is favorable to them (new language attached). The bill will be filed as a regular bill tomorrow by 5:00 p.m.

Representative Polito said that it is his understanding that the issue with the initial Nathan Fisher House bill was that the language was written by the Department of Housing and Community and Development which is not the proper agency to write the language for the Nathan Fisher House bill. Representative Peterson said that the Town will need to vote to give the Board authorization to request that the MHC release the historical preservation restriction on the property. After the town's approval the Board of Selectmen will need to mail a letter with that authorization and the request to remove the historical preservation restriction on the property. The MHC will schedule a public hearing and will hear the request. The MHC will render a vote within thirty (30) days of the hearing.

Mr. Danis recommended that the Board of Selectmen sponsor a warrant article at the annual town meeting to take action of disposing the property after the MHC renders its decision, if they vote in favor. Mr. Danis stressed in the time and the liability issues if having this vacant house on town property for this length of time.

Budget:

Representative Peterson said that the Governor has asked the Legislature for 9C authority. The House of Representatives have asked the Governor to outline where the cuts will be taken. As of today, the House has not yet received anything from the Governor. He said that his concern is that the governor is looking at cutting 500 million dollars from local aid and no one at this point knows from where.

At this point of the conversation, Selectman Goldblatt moved to write a letter to the Legislature opposing the Governor's 9C authority request. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Mr. Danis said that he will send an email to all of the Representatives.

Appoint Town Manager/Contract Amendment

Selectman Goldblatt moved that the Board vote to appoint Henry L. Danis, Jr., to the position of Town Manager for a period ending June 30, 2009; and further moved that his current contract be amended to replace the word Coordinator with the word Manager wherever it appears in the contract. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Selectman Goldblatt moved that the Board vote to ratify Mr. Danis' appointment of Maryanne Bilodeau as the Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director for an indefinite term; and further moved to change the current job description to replace the word Coordinator with the word Manager wherever it appears. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Request to Reactivate the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee

Ms. Allen, Chairman of the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee requested that the Board reactivate the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee. She said that in 2001 the Board of Selectmen members appointed the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee to ensure that the surplus of parcels is followed by the Town's Lyman School Master Plan which was adopted in 1989.

In 2002 after presenting the committee's plan to the Department of Capital Assets Management (DCAM) they decided not to pursue the surplus of the Lyman School at that time. Ms. Allen said that DCAM have contacted her and are now interested in pursuing the surplus of the Lyman School.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to reactivate the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee, ad Hoc. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Selectman Jane' requested that a member of the Economic Development Committee be appointed as a representative. Ms. Allen acknowledged the request by Selectman Jane'.

Motion Amended:

Selectman Jane moved to reactivate the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee, ad Hoc and to also add an Economic Development Committee member as a representative. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 3-0

Selectman Goldblatt moved to appoint the following people to the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee, ad Hoc:

Chairman of the Lyman School Affordable Housing Committee-**Kristina Allen**

Board of Selectmen Representative-**Leigh Emery**

Economic Development Committee-**Rod Jane'**

Town Manager-**Henry Danis**

Town Planner-**Jim Robbins**

Chairman of the Planning Board or Designee-**Trevor Beauregard**

Chairman of the Housing Partnership or Designee-**Steven Liedell**

Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals or Designee-**Don Gillis**

Housing Authority Executive Director-**Linda Strand**

Town Counsel Report

Town Coordinator Report

Issues and Correspondence of the Selectmen

Selectman Jane announced that the EDC had its first meeting and that Sandy Spinella has graciously accepted the position of secretary and that he will be chairing the committee. He said that for the next few meetings the committee will focus on the business outreach section.

Selectman Goldblatt sends her sympathies, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, to the Dodd and Berberian families and requested that we continue to keep our servicemen and women in our prayers so far away from home.

Chairman Thompson echoed Selectman Goldblatt's sentiments and also extended his sympathies to the Weir family for their loss.

Chairman Thompson said that because of the local aid cuts throughout all towns and cities he would like to have the Board take up, at a later date, a discussion whether to ask the Town Manager to reopen the union contracts in regards to layoffs and contract bargaining. Chairman Thompson also announced that he will run for re-election this May.

Adjourn Open Session

Selectman Goldblatt moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:10 p.m. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-0

Submitted by Nidia L. Ruberti

Chairman George Thompson

Vice Chairman Leigh Emery

Selectman Lydia Goldblatt

Selectman Timothy A. Dodd

Selectman Rod Jane'