

Westborough Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2009
7:00 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.

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

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

Absent: **Vice Chairman Emery**

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

Approval of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

- March 12, 2009

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2009. Selectman Jane' seconded. 4-0

- April 14, 2009

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2009. Selectman Jane' seconded. 3-1(Thompson abstained/absent)

- April 28, 2009

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2009. Selectman Jane' seconded. 4-0

Request to Insert Mercury Recovery Program Flyer in August Tax Bills/Treasurer/Collector

Ms. Savignac requested that the Board approve the Mercury Recovery Program Flyer insert to be placed in the August property tax bills (flyer attached).

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Mercury Recovery Program Flyer to be inserted in the Town's August property tax bills. Selectman Jane' seconded. 4-0

Request to Insert the Call For Artists Flyer in August Tax Bills/Culture Culture/Lynn Watts

Ms. Watts, Chairman of the Culture Council, requested that the Board approve the Call For Artists Flyer to be inserted in the August property tax bills (flyer attached).

Selectman Goldblatt requested that Town Counsel look at the flyer to make sure that there isn't an unfair advantage to residents or business. Ms. Watts acknowledged the request.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve the Call For Artists Flyer in the Town's August property tax bills, subject to Town Counsel's review. Selectman Jane' seconded. 4-0

Minutes: May 12, 2009

I.

Request for a Common Victualer's Permit/ARKJ, LLC/Anna Smith

Ms. Smith requested that the Board approve a Common Victualer Permit for ARKJ, LLC d/b/a Fitness Fusions located at 35 Chauncy Street.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to approve a Common Victualer's Permit to ARKJ, LLC d/b/a Fitness Fusions located at 35 Chauncy Street. Selectman Jane' seconded. 4-0

Request to Hire a Dispatcher/Police Chief Gordon

Police Chief Gordon informed the Board that a vacancy has been created in the dispatcher's area and will need to hire a replacement. He said that this position will be paid from the Telecommunications Grant.

The Board agreed to Police Gordon's hiring of a dispatcher and thanked him for coming before the Board to explain the necessity.

Review Article 11/Westborough Treatment Plant Board

Present: Mike Stanton, Chairman; Francis Zarette, Vice Chairman; Jack Goodhall, Tom Burke, Tom Parece, AECOM Representative

Mr. Parece said that Article 11 requests a sum of \$56,000,000 for the construction costs and engineering services for the Wastewater Treatment Plan improvements. Mr. Parece reviewed in detail the following sections for the upgrade (handout attached):

- **Summary of Improvements**
- **Design Considerations**
- **What Has Changed**
- **Project Cost Summary**
- **Closing Thoughts**

Mr. Stanton noted that the bid for the improvements was awarded to a company in Methuen Massachusetts. Their bid was the following:

- Base with Alt 1 and Alt 2 \$44,143,095

Mr. Parece stated that they are anticipating starting the job in July 2009.

The Board thanked the committee for their presentation and all their hard work.

Discussion of Building & Grounds Budget/Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director

Ms. Bilodeau said that the following is a breakdown of the Buildings & Grounds Budget as requested by Selectman Dodd (report attached):

The Town is responsible for the up keep of the following buildings:

1. Town Hall
2. Forbes Municipal Building
3. Forbes Community Building
4. Senior Center
5. Country Club

6. Spurr House
7. Nathan Fisher House
8. Harvey Building

The \$213,900 expense portion of the budget covers the following:

Maintenance/Repairs of all eight buildings and outside grounds

Maintenance must pay prevailing wages for all repairs

Ms. Bilodeau said that the following maintenance/repair items do not qualify as a capital expenditure expense:

- Electricity
- Heat
- Miscellaneous Purchases/Clothing Allowance

The following are some cost containment measures that are continually taken:

- Replacing antiquated inefficient boilers with energy efficient boilers
- Replacement of incandescent lights with more energy efficient fluorescent lights
- The usage of the Sheriff's Community Service Program whenever possible

The Board thanked Ms. Bilodeau for her presentation.

Budget Update/Town Manager

Mr. Danis informed the Board that the Senate budget is due to come out tomorrow and does not know what will be in the budget until he receives it.

Mr. Danis informed the Board that the Legislature has announced a new program under the Municipal Relief Commission called "Authority to Mandate all Health Decision and Costs in Binding Arbitration". He said that the Commission will be discussing this program shortly which is proposing to impose a binding arbitration that would allow an outside arbitrator to make all decisions regarding all health insurances in all cities and towns.

Mr. Danis gave the Board the following outline of what the arbitrator would make decisions on:

- The health insurance coverage the municipality must provide;
- Whether the municipality will join the GIC;
- What the premium contribution split must be (potentially increasing the municipal share and decreasing the employee share);
- What the municipality must contribute to Medicare Part B;
- Whether Health Reimbursement Accounts must be provided; and
- How the cost savings will be shared with employees if the mediator orders the municipality to join the state plan or change plan design

Mr. Danis urged that the Board send a letter rejecting the Commission's plan. He said that this will create another bureaucracy and will take out of the towns and cities hands the ability to make decisions.

Selectman Jane' moved to write a letter rejecting the Commission's plan to the health care reform and to have the Board sign it. Selectman Dodd seconded. 4-0

Minutes: May 12, 2009

Vote Article Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting/Board of Selectmen

Article 1- Annual Town Election

Board recommends passage

Article 2- Rule of the Meeting

Board recommends passage

Article 3-Town Reports

Board recommends passage

Article 4- Prior Year's Bills

Board recommends passage

Article 5- Amend Salary Administration Plan

Board recommends passage

Article 6- Amend Section 25 Wage and Salary Schedule

Board recommends passage

Article 7- Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budgets

Board recommends passage

Article 8- Regularly Recurring Articles A-I

Board recommends passage A-F, H, I

Board recommends to support article 8-G

Article 9- Nathan Fisher House Property Release of Preservation Restriction

Board recommends passage

Article 10-Demolition By-Law

Board recommends passage

Article 11-Improvements to Sewer Treatment Plant

Board recommends passing over this article

Article 12- Meadow Road Parcels

Board recommends passage

Article 13-Meadow Road Taking

Board recommends passage

Article 14-Valley View Estates Easements Release

Board recommends passage

Article 15-Various Town Buildings and Grounds Repairs

Board recommends passage

Article 16-Repairs at Various Schools

Board recommends passage

Article 17-Improvements to Library Building

Board recommends passage

Article 18-Groundwater Monitoring at Vee Arc Property

Board recommends passage

Article 19-Increase In Demand Fees

Board recommends passage

Article 20-Purchase Voting Equipment

Board recommends passage

Article 21-Purchase New Defibrillator

Board recommends passage

Article 22-Purchase Equipment

Board recommends passage

Article 23-Purchase Equipment

Board recommends passing over this article

Article 24-Reconstruction and Improvement of Town Roads

Board recommends passage

Article 25-Work on Town Sewer System A & B

Board recommends passage

Article 26-Work on Town Water System A-D

Board recommends passage

Article 27-Zoning Bylaws and Zoning Map Amendment

Board recommends passage

Article 28-Zoing Bylaw Amendment

Board recommends passage

Article 29-Amendment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocation H.S. District Agreement

Board recommends to vote at town meeting

Article 30-Request for an Additional License for the sale of All Alcoholic Beverages To Be Drunk on The Premises (Citizen's Petition)

Board recommends passage

Article 31-Request for an Additional License for the sale of All Alcoholic Beverages To Be Drunk on The Premises (Citizen's Petition)

Board recommends passage

Article 32-Accept Cordials and Liqueurs License Provisions

Board recommends passage

Article 33-Accept Gift of Land

Board recommends to vote at town meeting

Selectman Jane´ moved to approve the Articles as presented in the warrant with the exception of the following for discussion purposes:

Article 8-G

Article 11

Article 23

Article 29

Article 33

Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 4-0

Held out for Discussion:

Article 8-G Regularly Recurring Articles

Mr. Danis requested that the Board support the funding both the Mosquito Control and Hazard Waste Programs as has been previously done. He said that the Finance Committee recommends defeating this article and believes that the Finance Committee's action is shortsighted. He said that he looks at these programs as public safety issues and the town residents have always funded both these programs.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to support funding Article 8-G. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 4-0

Article 11 Improvements to Sewer Treatment Plant

Selectman Dodd moved to pass over Article 11. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 4-0

Article 23 Purchase Equipment-Sweeper (DPW)

Mr. Danis informed the Board that the Finance Committee has recommended to defeat this article because of the financial situation and also recommended placing the article on the fall town meeting warrant. Mr. Danis said that he and John Walden, DPW Manager, have discussed the recommendation and agree with the Finance Committee.

Selectman Jane´ moved to recommend to pass over Article 23 and to revisit this issue at the fall town meeting. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 4-0

Article 29 Amendment to Assabet Valley Regional Vocation H.S. District Agreement

Selectman Dodd moved to recommend voting Article 29 at town meeting floor. Chairman Thompson seconded. 4-0

Article 33 Accept Gift of Land

Selectman Jane´ moved to recommend passage for Article 33. **Motion failed for lack of a seconded.**

Selectman Dodd moved to recommend voting Article 33 at town meeting floor. Selectman Goldblatt seconded. 4-0

Selectman Goldblatt moved to recommend passage on Articles 8-G, 11, and 23 with the exception of Articles 29 and 33. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 4-0

Selectman Dodd requested that the warrant article recommendations of the Board be posted on the Town’s Web Site. Mr. Danis acknowledged the request. 4-0

Town Moderator Joe Harrington requested that the Board vote recommending passage of **Article 1 - Improvements to Sewer Treatment Plant** for the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Selectman Goldblatt moved to recommend passage of Article 1 for the Special Town Meeting. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 4-0

New Town Manager Reception Discussion/Vice Chairman Emery

Selectman Goldblatt suggested that the Chairman nominate two members to gather information and come back to the Board with their recommendations of what will be done (Reception Sub-Committee). Selectman Jane´ moved to have Chairman Thompson nominate two members to the Reception Sub-Committee for the New Town Manger’s Reception. Chairman Thompson seconded. 4-0

Town Counsel Report

Town Counsel inform the Board that he has started drawing up use regulations for the Bay State Park, if the town accepts it, and requested that if the Board has any suggestions to let him know.

Town Manager Report

Issues and Correspondence of the Selectmen

Selectman Dodd announced that the Liaison Program is at the end of its first full year and suggested that at the following: “Reorganize and Reappoint the Liaisons Program” be placed on the Board’s agenda.

Selectman Dodd also requested to place a Recognition Program Discussion for all employees and volunteers for their services whom have reached 10, 15 or 20 years. Chairman Thompson suggested placing this discussion at the Board seconded meeting in June. Mr. Danis acknowledged the suggestion.

Selectman Goldblatt requested that we keep our servicemen and women in our thoughts and prayers and also encouraged everyone to attend the Memorial Day Parade.

Chairman Thompson thanked the Town Clerk and her staff along with everyone who volunteered at the poles last Tuesday (Town Election). Chairman Thompson noted that he attended the Council on Aging’s meeting, as their liaison, with Representative Dykema last night and that the Council was very engaged in asking questions concerning local aid, state taxes, and the state budget.

Reorganization of the Board

Selectman Dodd moved to appoint Leigh Emery as Chairman. Selectman Jane´ seconded. 4-0

Selectman Goldblatt moved to appoint Rod Jane´ as Vice Chairman. Selectman Dodd seconded. 3-1 (Selectman Jane´)

Adjourn Open Session

Selectman Dodd moved to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Selectman Goldblatt seconded.

Submitted by Nidia Ruberti

Chairman George Thompson

Selectman Lydia Goldblatt

Selectman Timothy A. Dodd

Selectman Rod Jané