

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
July 14, 2008  
Slade Building**

**Members present:** Paul Hale, Chair  
Matt Castriotta, Clerk

**Staff present:** Deb Roussel, Town Administrator

Meeting commenced at 6:07 p.m.

**Warrant #29**

Town Accountant Karen Chick presented final bill warrant for FY2008 for authorization.

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: P. Hale**

To approve Warrant# 29 in the amount of \$15,030.45

**Vote: All in Favor**

Ms. Chick exited the meeting.

**Quabbin Regional School District**

Ms. Roussel reported on the recent vote of the Quabbin Regional School Committee to reduce the FY09 budget from \$35,680,737 to \$35,592,570, a reduction of \$2,965 in Hubbardston's assessment.

**Town Common and Church**

Board members discussed intent of meeting with Church Monday evening's meeting, noting desire to have agreement reached prior to Monday's meeting. Ms. Roussel presented most recent revision received from Church's attorney Aveni dated February 2008. Board reviewed and agreed with all changes, requesting conversation with Ms. Casey on her meetings with church representative to date regarding sharing of costs. Board requested an outline of what remains to be done on the terms agreed upon thus far and specifically what was necessary to secure the Town's investment of CPA funds for the public purposes for which the property was supported and the estimated costs. Board discussed counter proposal on sharing of costs, as follows:

- A. *The Church agrees to pay one ½ of the amount incurred by the Town, not to exceed the sum of \$1,858.75 for the preparation of the proposed deed, MA Historical Commission Preservation Restriction, proposed Right of First refusal and the Preservation Restriction Agreement in and between the Town and the Church through August 15, 2007.*
- B. *The legal work agreed upon as necessary to complete the transfer, including the sums described in paragraph A, and to accomplish the items described in items three (3) through five (5) shall be capped at and are not to exceed \$10,000.00. The parties shall contribute equally in relation to legal fees and cost. The Church shall gift the sum of \$3,141.25 to the Town to be applied to the legal work described above and duly accounted for. Any non-disbursed funds shall be returned.*
- C. *Further work required to complete the terms of this agreement, including but not limited to the terms outlined in paragraph six (6) above shall be pursuant to a mutual agreement, as defined below, in and between the Town and the Church, as to the payment of legal fees and cost from the execution of this agreement forward. The mutual agreement as referenced above shall mean that a representative of the Town*

*and the Church shall meet and review any proposed legal fees and cost prior to legal counsel engaging in the task. The parties shall stipulate and agree to any and all remaining work to consummate the transfer and the value assigned to any such remaining work. The parties shall reduce the mutual agreement to writing and execute a written authorization of a sum certain. Any non-disbursed funds shall be returned shall be returned.*

Ms. Roussel to speak with Ms. Casey in the morning, prior to scribing, so as to not negate efforts to date between she and Mary Taylor, then forward to all members and Town Counsel for review. It was further the hope of the Board that Ms. Casey would meet with Ms. Taylor and obtain Church agreement on the modifications prior to Monday's meeting, so that the agreement could be signed at that time, so that the CPA funds could be released as quickly as possible.

#### **Financial Plan**

Mr. Hale requested an outline for a plan of action in regard to the Proposition 2 ½ Election scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> prior to meeting with the Finance Committee on Wednesday evening at 6 p.m.

#### **Board of Assessors Request**

Board reviewed email from Deputy Assessor Lanney regarding a meeting that was to occur between her Board and Finance Committee Liaison Ed Blanchard regarding FY2009 budget, inviting the Board of Selectmen's liaison to participate. Mr. Hale indicated intent to participate.

#### **Press Release**

Ms. Roussel distributed update of press release scribed, including changes as recommended by Board members after initial review. Mr. Castriotta indicated belief that writing was too complicated for voters to understand. Mr. Hale requested Mr. Castriotta make further revisions for further discussion.

Board discussed need to prepare press release in anticipation of Board coming to agreement with Church on Monday evening. Ms. Roussel hesitated as to her ability to include Mr. Castriotta's suggestion of timeline of entire process, since she had not been a part of the process until the final year. Mr. Castriotta suggested the Board appoint Trudy O'Connell, prior Town Administrator to scribe the release, given her advanced degree in English.

#### **Motion M. Castriotta**

To adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm

**Vote: All in Favor**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Casey**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Roussel,  
Town Administrator

Approved: July 21, 2008.