

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
Slade Building  
July 21, 2008**

Meeting commenced 6:00 PM

**Members present:** Paul Hale, Chair  
Kristie Casey, Vice Chair  
Matt Castriotta, Clerk

**Staff present:** Karen Chick, Town Accountant; Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary; Deb Roussel, Town Administrator

**Others present:** Walter Ducharme

**Motion: M. Castriotta** **2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Casey**  
**To approve Warrant#2 in the amount of \$829,527.67**  
**Vote: All in Favor**

There was discussion between the Board members and Ms. Chick about use of public cemetery trust funds for payment to seasonal workers for mowing a private cemetery due to a voucher submitted by Cemetery Commission. A memo will be sent to Cemetery Commissioners stating that future vouchers submitted for payment from public cemetery funds for mowing in a private cemetery will be pulled.

Ms. Roussel reported that the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has informed the town that we have satisfied all requirements to obtain grant funding towards the Malone Road purchase. Mr. Hale acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Roussel and the Open Space Committee. She added the 2008 Open Space and Recreational Plan has also been approved.

The meeting with the First Parish Unitarian Church representatives was postponed until Thursday July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**New business:**

**Montachusett Regional Planning Commission Community Development Strategy:**

Ms. Roussel reported she had a visit from John Hughes and Shelley Pack of MRPC concerning a potential \$900,000.00 regional housing rehabilitation plan. The Board of Selectmen would need to develop a community development strategy for implementation and hold a public hearing. The Town would sign a contract with the homeowner and a fifteen-year lien would be applied to the property. The loan amount would be reduced by 5% each year and after 15 years the loan is forgiven. MRPC will come and provide information to the town and provide administrative support as well as subordinating the mortgages. The Board would like to get feedback from the Housing Authority and Planning Board. This will be followed up at the next meeting on August 4.

**Mt. Jefferson Timber Harvest**

Ms. Roussel reported that the timber harvesting has begun again and they will be proceeding with the timber sale. Mr. Plourde has recommended that the town sell the remaining timber be sold for firewood. Ms. Roussel will be working with the DCR to find out the process for holding a sale.

*Board of Selectmen  
July 21, 2008*

### **Route 62 Order of Taking**

Ms. Roussel reported that the taking is being finalized and will be filed soon.

### **Fencing on property located on corner of Route 62 and 68**

Ms. Roussel reported that she has not received any response to two letters sent to the owner asking them to remove their fence off town property. During the winter it creates a safety hazard as plowed snow piles up and blocks vision.

### **Revocation of flammable storage tank license:**

Ms. Peterson reported the Town Clerk had requested the Board revoke the license for the old Mac Mae bus company located at the corner of Route 62 and 68. The Board requested more information from the Fire Chief before proceeding.

### **IRS rate for mileage reimbursement-**

Ms. Peterson reported that Ms. Chick had sent an email to the Board of Selectmen office stating that the IRS has recommended reimbursing the mileage rate at .585/mile due to the rising cost of gasoline. Ms. Chick had understood that the mileage rate has been changed effective July 1, 2008 to .505/mile but wanted the Board of Selectmen to be aware of the update. The Board took no action at this time.

### **Street Light Accounts**

Ms. Peterson reported that she had phoned National Grid and obtained a list of street light locations under the municipal light account and given a list to the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent to determine Where a public safety hazard might be affected. They had recommended keeping four lights on.

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

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

**To accept the recommendations from the public safety department heads for streetlights to remain on effective July 30, 2008 should the override election fail**

**Vote: All in Favor**

### **Minutes approval**

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

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

**To approve minutes of July 7 and July 16, 2008 as written**

**Vote: All in Favor**

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

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

**To approve the minutes of July 14, 2008 as written**

**Vote: M. Castriotta- yes, P.Hale- yes, K. Casey-abstained as she was not present for that meeting**

Ms. Roussel informed the Board that all approved meeting minutes from July 1, 2008 would be posted on the town website.

Ms. Peterson reported that Mike See, town website coordinator had waived charging the town for the month of June 2008.

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

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

**To send a letter of thanks to Mike See for all the fine work on the town website and waiving his bill for June 2008.**

**Vote: All in Favor**

**Motion: M. Castriotta**

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

**To approve the updated electrical fees effective July 1, 2008**

**Vote: All in Favor**

### **MART Van Trip**

Ms. Peterson informed the Board members that the MART van had taken a trip on July 12<sup>th</sup> to attend an outdoor concert in Gardner.

**Plumbing/Gas Inspector Vacancy**

Ms. Peterson reported that she had posted the Gas/Plumbing Inspector position and had received two applications to date. The Board should have recommendations for the August 4 meeting. Ms. Peterson will inform the applicants of the hiring process. The Board asked Ms. Peterson to ask the Building Inspector and the Fire Chief to assist in interviewing the applicants. Ms. Peterson will also inform Mr. Nordman of the hiring process.

**Center School Boiler update**

Ms. Roussel informed the Board members that the boiler part had arrived and the repair has begun.

**Other business:**

Ms. Roussel reported the Animal Inspector would be meeting with the Board of Health on July 29 regarding his request for mileage reimbursement.

Ms. Roussel informed the Board members that they each had a copy of the FY07 draft audit and management letter. She has also given copies to the Accountant, Treasurer and Town Secretary. Ms. Roussel asked the Board members to review and have comments back to her for collation by Monday July 28. She will invite the auditor to meet with the Board on August 18 meeting.

**Motion: M. Castriotta****2<sup>nd</sup>: K. Casey****To adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm****Vote: All in Favor**

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson  
Town Secretary

**Approved: August 4, 2008.**