

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
Slade Building
August 4, 2008**

Members present: Kristie Casey, Vice Chair
Matthew Castriotta, Clerk

Member not present: Paul Hale, Chair

Staff present: Karen Chick, Town Accountant; James Dunbar, Treasurer; Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary; Deb Roussel, Town Administrator

Others present: Walter Ducharme, John Harden, Dennis O'Donnell

Meeting commenced at 6:00 PM

Warrant #4

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd:K. Casey

To approve Warrant #4 in the amount of \$118,009.97

Vote: All in Favor

Discussion regarding the Cemetery Commission authorizing payment to seasonal workers from Old Cemetery accounts for mowing Rural Glen Cemetery, a private cemetery. Ms. Roussel provided copy of letter sent to the Cemetery Commission, copied to Town Accountant and employees stating that there are sufficient funds in Rural Glen Trust and requests reimbursement to the Old Cemetery Trust fund for any public funds expensed to date. The Board noted any work done involving Rural Glen Cemetery is not the responsibility of the Town, but the Rural Glen Cemetery Association and any future vouchers requesting payment from town cemetery trust funds for work performed in would not be paid.

Underground Fuel Storage Licenses

The Board took no action on the revocation of the underground fuel storage license for property located at corner of Route 62 and Route 68 until more research is done on the licensing process and related general laws. The fuel storage license from Mr. Mike's Market to Alliance Energy LLC was postponed until more information is obtained from the State Fire Marshall's office.

Municipal Lights

Ms. Peterson reported that she had spoken to the National Grid business agent and all lights listed under the municipal light account except for four located on Brigham St, Main Street and Worcester Road designated to be necessary for public safety, are scheduled to be shut off. The turnoff requires a one-year minimum period. The Town will continue to be billed for infrastructure such as poles and equipment, savings estimated at approximately 35% off the light bill.

Offer of gift of property

The Board reviewed correspondence forwarded from the Tax Collector regarding the offer of property at 47 Brigham Street as a gift. The Board took the matter under advisement.

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Personnel

Ms. Roussel reported notice of layoffs have been distributed including those who sustained a reduction in hours, including one highway worker, one full-time police officer and all part-time officers. The Fire Department has removed affected personnel from the active call list.

Massachusetts Municipal Personnel Association Dues

Ms. Roussel presented a renewal notice for MMPA dues. The Board decided to renew membership, as it is a valuable resource for wage surveys and other personnel information.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To fund the MMPA dues out of Board of Selectmen expense account

Vote: All in Favor

Audit

The Board received draft management letter from Melanson Heath & Company, PC. Town Administrator requested responses to by Monday August 11th to present to auditor at the August 18 meeting.

Meeting Minutes Approved

The Board Members reviewed meeting minutes from June 16, 19, 23, and July 21, 2008.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To approve minutes of June 16, 19, 23, July 21, 2008 as amended

Vote: All in Favor

Other Business

Ms. Peterson presented an agreement from Cartographic Associates, Inc. for 2009 tax map updating services for \$2200.00 for the Board of Assessors.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize Mr. Hale to sign the agreement between the Town and Cartographic Associates, Inc.

Vote: All in Favor

Appointments:

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To appoint Tom Monfreda as Gas/Plumbing Inspector as recommended by the Building Inspector to a term to expire June 30, 2009 contingent on reference checks

Vote: All in Favor

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To appoint Carol Whitney as Election Worker with a term to expire June 30, 2009

Vote: All in Favor

Common Victualer License:

The Board discussed the license application for the Wheeler Brothers Store owned by John Harden.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To award a common victualer license to John Harden for Wheeler Brothers Store

Vote: All in Favor

Quabbin Regional District Budget:

Ms. Roussel reported that she had been informed by QRSD Financial Director Cheryl Duval that the Town had not yet acted on the most recent assessment as per requirements of MGL, Chapter 71, sec.16b, requiring a town meeting vote on the revised assessment within 45 days, set to expire on August 24, 2008. The Board set a tentative date for a meeting for August 6^{th, contingent} on an opinion from DOE and DOR.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To open a special town meeting warrant for August 24, 2008 to be closed on August 6, 2008 at 2 pm.

Vote: All in Favor

NIMS Compliance Requirements

Board reviewed notice from Executive Office of Public Safety and Security regarding FY2008 compliance with National Incident Management System (NIMS) performance-based responses. Per the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security, jurisdictions will be required to comply with all FY 2008 NIMS requirements to receive FY 2009 homeland security and emergency preparedness funding. The Board requested Emergency Management Director O'Donnell to present for the next meeting an update on meeting the requirements.

Public Meeting Hours

Ms. Casey brought forward for discussion the ambition Board members had mentioned regarding public hours on a Saturday morning for those residents who can't or do not want to attend an evening meeting. It was deferred for the next meeting hoping for a full Board decision.

Timber Harvest at Mt. Jefferson

Board has reviewed an offer from Paul Bedau of Yankee Equipment to mow town fields in exchange for the residual slash left behind from the recent timber harvest completed at Mt. Jefferson Conservation area. Ms. Roussel reported it might be accomplished through a bid process, accepting a barter for services. Ms. Roussel to check with Open Space members.

Board reviewed:

Board of Assessors Minutes June 30, 2008
MRPC letter re: Commonwealth Capital Application Assistance
Dept. of Telecommunications & Cable notice of discontinuance of TYY Machine
Bridge inspection report for 62 Old Boston Turnpike with bridge over Ware River
7/28/08 MRPC letter re: Development of Draft Montachusett FY 09-2112 TIP
Grant Alert FY 09 Peer to Peer Program notification
Environmental notification for Route 62 construction

Motion: M.Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm

Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson
Town Secretary

Approved: September 15, 2008.

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August 4, 2008*