

**Board of Selectmen
MINUTES
September 29, 2008
Slade Building**

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

Staff present: Karen Chick, Town Accountant; Jim Dunbar, Treasurer; Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary

Others present: Walter Ducharme, Merriellen Moroney, Michael Moroney, Sue Flagg, Ernie Newcomb, Joyce Green, Richard Nalewski, Scott Burns

Meeting commenced at 6:01 pm

Warrant #8

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd:K. Casey

To approve Warrant #8 for the amount of \$171,723.99

Motion passed

Approvals

MART Van Trips:

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd:K. Casey

To approve MART van trips on October 3 and October 11 and including the trip taken on September 19, 2008.

Motion passed

Liberty Tree Memorial Program:

Ms. Peterson presented an offer of a free 14 foot Liberty Elm tree along with a 20" x 12" bronze tablet describing the historic planting of the original Liberty Elm tree in Boston in 1765. The Elm Research Institute of Keene, NH is sponsoring the Liberty Tree Memorial program. Tree warden, Jeff Bourque, has offered to be available for installation assistance and ceremony as needed. It was suggested to seek a volunteer organization that could plant and maintain the tree. Ms. Casey suggested planting the tree at the Millenium Information Park.

Other Business:

Mr. Ducharme requested the Board purchase a flag for the flagpole at the Recreation Field. He has already purchased one for the Town Common and would like to see one flying over the Recreation Field.

Mr. Ducharme inquired if the Golden Age Club was a town organization, as they had inquired about the use of the Pinecrest Lodge for their meetings. Mr. Ducharme was advised they were a private group and will contact them directly.

Notice of Removal from Ch. 61A status:

Ms. Peterson informed the Board members of receipt of land on Bemis Road being removed from Chapter 61A protection. Notice has been provided to Assessors, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Open Space requesting comments prior to the Board's meeting on October 27, 2008.

Facilities Use Request:

Cub Scout Pack 12 has requested use of the Recreation Field gazebo on September 30 and October 1 to hold registration sign up. The Park Commission has informally approved the request.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To approve use of the gazebo for Cub Scout registration

Motion passed

Wage Authorization:

Police Chief Perron sent a written request to elevate the pay scale of Dispatcher Lynn Wilkinson per collective bargaining agreement, to Step 2 retroactive to August 8, 2008, which was completion of her 6-month probationary period. Chief Perron confirmed the increase was included in the Dispatch budget.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize a wage rate of \$14.55 per hour effective August 8, 2008

Motion passed

DOR Fiscal Review:

Ms. Peterson presented a letter from the Finance Committee requesting consideration of a financial management review offered by the Department of Revenue at no charge. The DOR offers the review to towns free of charge with the intention of ensuring fiscal stability. The DOR makes a series of non-binding recommendations. The Board must vote in favor of the review and request it from the Department of Revenue.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To request the Department of Revenue perform a fiscal management review of the Town

Motion passed

Board members reviewed correspondence and meeting postings.

Chairman Mr. Hale and Town Administrator Roussel entered the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Meeting Minutes:

Motion: K. Casey

2nd: P. Hale

To approve meeting minutes of September 2, 2008 as written

Vote: Ms. Casey- yes, Mr. Hale- yes, Mr. Castriotta abstained as he was absent

Saturday Public office hour

Ms. Casey informed the Board that she and Sandra Knipe, Board of Health Chair held the first public hour on September 20th. Resident Tom Howlett came in and they discussed

the Senior Center and the Board of Health's trash collection research. Ms. Casey said Mr. Howlett thanked the Board for holding the office hour.

Mr. Hale will be holding the October 18 hour and Mr. Castriotta will participate in the November 15th hour.

Board Code of Conduct and Retreat agenda

Mr. Hale suggested all the Board members review the suggested items and send comments to Ms. Roussel.

School District Budget meeting

Ms. Roussel and Mr. Hale reported on the meeting they attended this afternoon at the Department of Education office in Malden with Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Rick Kingsley from DOR, Senator Brewer, Representative Gobi, a representative from Rep. Lew Evangelidis' office, Quabbin District Supt. Sue Gee, School Committee Chair, Director of Administrative Services, and representatives from each of the member towns.

\$25,000 Foundation Reserve Award

The Town received notice from Senator Brewer and Representative Evangelidis that Hubbardston has been awarded a \$25,000 Foundation Reserve Grant from Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Heating Oil bid award

Ms. Roussel reported on the bids submitted at this morning's bid opening:

People's Fuel 73 City Hall Ave. Gardner, MA	\$3.855 per gallon
Country Fuel 212 West St. Gardner, MA	\$3.6750 per gallon
R. J. McDonald 71 Worcester Road Barre, MA	\$3.478 per gallon

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To award the heating fuel #2 bid to R. J. McDonald

Vote: All in Favor

Telephone Services

Ms. Roussel reported she has not yet heard hear back from Verizon on expansion of Centrex Services. She, Ms. Peterson and Police Chief Perron met with a sales representative from Valley Communications on a telephone system that would provide equivalent services. We are awaiting both proposals that would include comparisons for long distance and local rates.

Surplus Property Auction at Malone Road property

Ms. Roussel reported that the auction of surplus property at Malone Road would take place on October 25, 2008 at the site.

Old Business

Route 62:

Ms. Roussel reported the Rte. 62 project, now that it has been bid by Mass Highway is under Mass Highway supervision. Mr. Castriotta thanked Mr. Hale for keeping the project active and bringing it to this point.

Town Common:

Ms. Roussel reported ability of Town to transfer property to Church is impeded by State procurement laws, requiring a formal bid process. The only alternative is filing special legislation, which would be a lengthy process. The Board requested a written report on the process with a recommendation at the next meeting

Rural Glen Cemetery Association Meeting

Merriellen Moroney, Michael Moroney, and Sue Flagg; members of the R.G. Association and Cemetery Commission Chair Ernie Newcomb entered the meeting in response to a letter from the Board regarding seasonal mowers working on private property. Ms. Roussel reported the question arose when a cemetery worker had been hurt on the job bringing the question as to whether the Association had their own insurance.

Ms. Flagg presented a copy of MGL, Ch 114, Section 19 stating the town can take care of public and private cemetery funds. Ms. Flagg asked the Board what is the town's goal in sending the letter? Ms. Roussel indicated intent was to confirm a conversation she had with the Town Accountant in regard to the Cemetery Commission paying wages from Town funds, which was a departure from past practice and request reimbursement.

Ms. Casey asked Mr. Newcomb to what extent the town was funding the care of private cemeteries with public funds. Mr. Newcomb indicated the Cemetery Commission had voted to spend only half of the trust interest for Rural Glen Cemetery so the interest would accumulate and that it was completely within Cemetery Commissioners authority to spend trust funds interest to pay town workers. Ms. Chick stated the town has historically used the trust funds interest to pay hourly wages. Board suggested contact with other towns regarding use of trust fund interests and town employees.

Ms. Flagg asked the Town to research all Town cemeteries to ownership, public or private and Board members agreed in principal, noting Rural Glen had become an issue as a result of questions that arose on receipts and expenses by the Cemetery Commission deviated from past practice.

Rural Glen Association indicated they do not have authority to transfer funds. Mr. Newcomb said this was a problem as the Cemetery Commission spent more money than they should have to take care of RG cemetery from old cemetery funds. Ms. Flagg disputed Mr. Newcomb's statement stating there is plenty of interest in the RG cemetery trust fund. Ms. Roussel suggested the Cemetery Commissioners meet with Ms. Chick to review available cemetery trust funds and compile in a report to the Board.

Pole Petition Old Westminster Road hearing (continued from September 15, 2008)

National Grid representative Richard Nalewski and Verizon representative Scott Burns presented for the pole petition on Old Westminster Road. Mr. Nalewski apologized to the

Board for not making the last meeting. Ms. Green entered the meeting noting her concern regarding removal of a tree on a scenic road. Mr. Nalewski reported the resident at 26 Old Westminster Road requested to have wires removed from their property on pole #74. Mr. Nalewski said while National Grid was looking at that situation they noticed the condition of pole #75. The guide wires in the tree near pole #75 are on town property. National Grid will only have to remove a branch or two, not the entire tree. Mr. Nalewski will ask National Grid's arborist to look at the situation and talk to Hubbardston tree warden. Ms. Green indicated concern with the extent of what is going to be cut, noting she would speak to her neighbor. Ms. Roussel recommended the tree warden perform a site visit and make a formal determination and report on whether or not the trees are in a public way.

Motion: M. Castriotta **2nd: P. Hale**
To approve the pole petition contingent on approval of the tree warden and conformance with MGL Ch. 40, section 15C, Scenic Road designations
Vote: All in Favor

Mr. Hale urged all members to attend the meeting at Narragansett Regional High School on November 12 for a report on the regional solid waste coalition between Hubbardston, Princeton and Templeton.

Motion: M. Castriotta **2nd: K. Casey**
To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm
Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson
Town Secretary

Approved: October 27, 2008.