

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
Slade Building
October 20, 2008**

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

Staff present: Deb Roussel, Town Administrator
News staff present: Carla Charter, Worcester Telegram and Daniel Kittredge, Gardner News.

Chairman Hale opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Board reviewed Special Town Meeting warrant and revised revenue estimates. The Board suggested another article be added to transfer any remaining levy capacity to the stabilization account. After further discussion the Board agreed to transfer the limited levy capacity to the Reserve Fund, to replace the funds, which had been approved for Veteran's payments to date.

Ms. Roussel to clarify confusion on the need for the Town to indicate an appointing authority in regard to recent state law requiring permitting for trenches, as she had been informed by another Town Administrator it was only necessary if you intended to levy fines, however it doesn't appear that the law provides for levying fines. Ms. Roussel to provide clean copy of warrant upon completion.

Board questioned amount of money necessary for housing study with CPA funds. Recollection of MRPC having offered provision of similar housing study cited. Under MGL Chapter 40B, towns who do not meet the mandated minimum supply of affordable housing may be subject to developers who can come in and are able to bypass local zoning in regard to density and types of housing if their project includes a given percentage of affordable housing. It is understood that having a housing plan in place allows the Planning and Zoning Board broader discretion.

Motion: K. Casey **2nd: P. Hale**
To approve Article 1 as presented, pending approval of Legal Counsel.
Vote: All in Favor. M. Castriotta abstained to avoid appearance of a conflict.

Motion: K. Casey **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve Articles 2 through 13 as presented and amended, pending approval of Legal Counsel.
Vote: All in Favor.

Mr. Hale reported on office hours on Saturday, noting he had moved the location to the Library Book and Bake Sale, reporting two lengthy discussions both focusing on the funding of the library. Mr. Hale had requested the Town Administrator draft a letter of support to MA Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in support of a waiver of the annual funding requirement necessary for certification. Board requested a copy of the draft be provided to the Trustees and request Legislators support of the effort.

Motion: K. Casey **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the draft letter to the MBLC and request Legislators support of the effort.
Vote: All in Favor.

Board reviewed list of active projects as presented by Town Administrator. Board ranked list regarding to priority from one to three, one being the most urgent and three being the least.

Board agreed on need for Quabbin Regional Advisory Board to focus on issues relating to the definition as originally set up in accordance to the recommendation of the Department of Revenue.

Board cited need to confer with Finance Committee for areas suitable for regionalization efforts, directing Ms. Roussel to invite to Board's next working meeting for discussion.

Rating on public facilities deferred until after meeting with Capital Improvement Planning Committee scheduled for October 27th.

Ms. Roussel urged further discussion on energy audit and performance contracting, which provides analysis of replacement costs relative to a term of payback.

Ms. Roussel to update list according to prioritization this evening and bring back to the Board at their next meeting to further prioritize.

Ms. Casey provided an update on regional meeting she had attended on Saturday, noting she was advised of an effort to petition the legislators for a State dispatch service, removing the responsibility from Cities and Towns, as is the case in many other states. Paxton and Sterling started the petition and will be forwarding a copy for other towns' consideration.

Mr. Hale agreed to meet with the Finance Committee at 7 p.m. on behalf of the full Board.

Motion: K. Casey
To adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm
Vote: All in Favor

2nd: M. Castriotta

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Roussel,
Town Administrator

Approved: October 27, 2008.