

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
July 20, 2009
Slade Building**

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

Staff present: Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary; Deb Roussel, Town Administrator;
Karen Chick, Town Accountant; Dennis Perron, Police Chief

Others present: Mary Taylor, Carol Whitney, Lori Prentiss, Anthony Petrone

Meeting commenced at 6:05 pm

Warrant #2
Motion: M. Castriotta 2nd: K. Casey
To approve Warrant#2 in the amount of \$224,787.50
Vote: Mr. Castriotta-yes, Ms. Casey-yes, Mr. Newcomb-abstained

Senate Bill 1229: An Act establishing a property tax exemption for members of the National Guard
Ms. Peterson presented information submitted by a resident on Senate Bill 1229. If passed, this bill would provide a real estate tax exemption for National Guard members that are called to active duty.
Motion: M. Castriotta 2nd: E. Newcomb
To send a letter from the Board in support of Senate Bill 1229 Vote: All in Favor

Letter of Appreciation
Ms. Peterson presented a letter of appreciation to resident Valerie Duggan for her assistance during the December 2008 ice storm emergency; acting on the request of Police Sergeant Newton The Board signed the letter.

Local Meals Option Excise and Amended Local Room Occupancy Excise Rates
Ms. Roussel presented information from the MA. Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, regarding the new local option excise tax of .75 percent on sales of restaurant meals originating within the municipality and increasing the maximum rate of the existing local option room occupancy from four and one-half to six and one-half percent. As a local option, it would require acceptance at town meeting. The Board took the matter under advisement.

Appointments:
Motion: M. Castriotta 2nd: K. Casey
To appoint Edward Blanchard as Finance Committee representative to Capital Improvement Planning Committee with a term to expire April 30, 2010
Vote: All in Favor

Motion: M. Castriotta

To appoint Jonathan Sturgis to the Computer Oversight Committee with a term to expire June 30, 2010

2nd: E. Newcomb

Vote: All in Favor

Open Session:

First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston: Lot 2 Conveyance

Mary Taylor, Carol Whitney and Lori Prentiss, members of the First Parish Unitarian Church, appeared regarding the church's Attorney Aveni's proposal to take a different course of action on the separation of Town Common from that which the Town and the Church formally agreed to in an Agreement signed one year ago. Ms. Roussel presented a copy of the July 16, 2009 letter from Katherine Klein of Kopelman & Paige, P.C. to the church members. Ms. Roussel pointed out Ms. Klein's letter stated adverse possession and a town meeting vote from October 7, 1772 is not a basis in fact or in law for the two claims made by the Church. Ms. Klein also believed the approach proposed by Attorney Aveni does not address potential zoning issues raised by the creation of Lot 2. Ms. Taylor reported Mr. Aveni approached the church with this option, as it looks quicker, easier and less expensive. Ms. Taylor added the church is not trying to back out of an agreement; they just want to get this done. Ms. Roussel emphasized all parties need to meet at one table to avoid miscommunication. The Board will wait to hear from Attorney Aveni to provide opportunity for review of the opinion letter from Attorney Klein.

Worcester Region Alerting System Initiative- Reverse 911

Anthony Petrone, on behalf of Sheriff Robert Noonan, provided a presentation on the Worcester Region Alerting System Initiative. This is a collaborative effort between Sheriff Guy Glodis and the Massachusetts Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council in partnership with Public Health BT Region II. It is a regional notification system that uses a combination of database, telecommunications, and GIS mapping technologies to deliver automated outbound notifications to various call groups. The program can be used for locating missing persons, HAZMAT or chemical spills or leak alerts, and public safety notifications and can deliver a message at a rate of 1300 homes every 30 minutes. All messages must go through the police department. The second half of the program provides in house messaging between public safety departments and can deliver to various devices including telephone, pagers, and emails. The cost is free for the community and is currently funded through June 30, 2010. If there should be a time when it is no longer funded, the fees would be based on population. Mr. Petrone offered to leave a memorandum agreement for perusal. He stated once the Town is signed on they can do a personnel training.

Motion M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize Ms. Casey to enter into agreement with the Worcester County Sheriff's office for system implementation

Vote: Mr. Castriotta- yes, Ms. Casey-yes, Mr. Newcomb-abstained

Police Personnel

Chief Perron came in regarding some personnel changes. His first request was to accept the resignation of Part-time Officer Shaun McAuliffe effective July 20, 2009. He has accepted a position with the Immigration Department.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: E. Newcomb

To accept the resignation of part-time officer Shaun McAuliffe effective July 20, 2009

Vote: All in Favor

Chief Perron requested permission to hire two new part-time officers.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To hire Jeffrey Giles and Matthew Letendre as part-time officers with a wage rate of \$14.42/hour effective July 20, 2009 with a term to expire June 30, 2010

Vote: Mr. Castriotta- yes, Ms. Casey-yes, Mr. Newcomb-abstained

Quinn Bill Funding

Ms. Roussel reported on the implications of the decrease of state funding for Quinn Bill reimbursement. Chief Perron stated the Town had already approved police wages funding for this year so the town should not take any action at this point and wait for legal determinations. As a local option, Town Meeting would have to retract the acceptance of Quinn Bill legislation and would only be effective for new officers hired after the retraction. The Board took the information under advisement.

Motion: Matt Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and return to open session at conclusion

Vote: Mr. Newcomb-yes, Mr. Castriotta -yes, Ms. Casey- yes

*****Executive Session Minutes Are Separate*****

The meeting resumed at 7:35 pm.

Chapter 90 Project Request

Ms. Peterson presented a Chapter 90 project request submitted by Highway Superintendent Gauthier for resurfacing sections of New Templeton Road and Cross Road. Estimated cost for the project is \$333,473.84.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd:K. Casey

To approve the Chapter 90 project request for New Templeton Rd and Cross Rd.

Vote: All in Favor

Automatic Amusement Device License

Ms. Peterson presented an application for two automatic amusement devices for STG Pizza Corporation doing business as Pizza Palace at 53 Gardner Road. One is for a video game and the other a toy retrieval game.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd:K. Casey

To approve two automatic amusement device licenses for STG Pizza Corporation d.b.a. Pizza Palace at 53 Gardner Road

Vote: All in Favor

Emergency Management Vehicle Request

The Board reviewed a written request from Dennis O'Donnell, Emergency Management Director, to reassign the 1998 Ford Expedition currently assigned to Highway Superintendent to the Hubbardston Emergency Management Department (HEMD). Highway Department will receive a 2003 Ford Expedition from the Police Department upon their lease of a new Expedition approved by Town Meeting. In his request he stated the HEMD has a 22-foot emergency trailer that could serve as a mobile command post, and the '98 Expedition has a trailer hitch that could accommodate the trailer. Mr. O'Donnell stated he had \$505.00 in his expense account that could be used for towards vehicle maintenance.

Ms. Roussel has checked with insurance and the annual premium for the '98 Ford Expedition is \$1,342.00. The Board discussed and determined the cost of keeping the vehicle on the road was not reasonable and other town vehicles could be used to pull the trailer if needed.

Personal Property Assessment Agreement

Ms. Peterson presented an agreement submitted by the Board of Assessors with Patrick J. Harring, MAA of 128 Quincy Avenue, Marshfield, MA for fiscal year 2010 valuation of personal property. Ms. Roussel reported she has reviewed the documentation of the Request for Proposals with Ms. Lanney. Ms. Roussel indicated some confusion with the difference between "Requests for Bids" indicated in the advertisements and "Request for Proposals" in the document. Ms. Lanney had informed Ms. Roussel that only one company had met minimum criteria, most notably providing data entry in house. Therefore no comparative evaluation criteria were reviewed and the Board of Assessors is requesting the award be made to Mr. Harring. Ms. Lanney has made note for future procurement on requirements of requests for proposals and will clarify in house criteria as well.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: E. Newcomb

To authorize the agreement between the Town and Patrick J. Harring for personal property appraisal services for a fee of \$12,169.00

Vote: Mr. Newcomb-abstained, Mr. Castriotta –yes, Ms. Casey- yes

Debris Monitors Hired

Ms. Peterson presented three agreements between the Town and Ed Casey, Sr., Paul Hale and Walter Kauppinen for duties and responsibilities as Debris Monitors through September 1, 2009. The positions are temporary and have no benefits.

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To authorize the agreements between the Town and Ed Casey, Sr., Paul Hale and Walter Kauppinen as temporary debris monitors at a rate of \$15.00 per hour as recommended by Kurt Leslie

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Peterson reported she had consulted with Town Accountant Chick regarding the wage authorizations for the Fire Department and two changes were suggested. The first was to amend Peter Laitinen's hourly rate from \$17.68 to \$18.21 per hour. The other was to maintain the student intern hourly rate at \$8.47 per hour.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To amend the wage authorization for Medic Peter Laitinen to \$18.21 per hour and Student Intern Nicole Lanney's hourly rate to \$8.22 per hour

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Roussel presented an amendment to the original agreement with J.M. Cook Company Inc. for the 2008 ice storm debris removal stating if the work consisting of removal of unsafe hanging limbs, hazardous trees and stumps goes beyond the count of units as estimated by the Town, the Town agrees to pay the contractor the unit price per size of trunk, as allowed by FEMA and attached as Exhibit A. Such additional sum is limited to no greater than 25% of the total price of the original contract.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize the amendment to the agreement dated July 6, 2009 between the Town and J.M. Cook Company, Inc. contingent on approval from legal counsel

Vote: All in Favor

Fire Department Grant Authorization

Acting Fire Chief Hayes submitted a grant application authorization to apply for \$2,000.00 for a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant to purchase 1,500 feet of forestry hose, hose trays and body repair of rust holes on Forestry Truck 1. The required matching funds will be taken from the Brush Permit revolving account.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize Ms. Casey to sign the VFA Grant application on behalf of the Board

Vote: All in Favor

Wage Authorization Request

Ms. Roussel reported Deputy Assessor Diane Lanney had submitted a request to change the wage authorization regarding her salary. The appropriation approved at annual town meeting is short by around \$200. Ms. Roussel stated Ms. Lanney is requesting \$20.05 per hour, however her pay is salary based not hourly. Ms. Roussel recommended holding off approving until funding is provided as the Finance Committee has withheld approval of reserve fund transfer until requested by the remaining members of the Board of Assessors. The Board agreed to defer any action until funding is present.

Police Cruiser

Ms. Roussel reported on the financing of the replacement of the replacement police cruiser. The Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommended a five-year lease for the purchase. Chief Perron submitted for a four-year lease. Town meeting approval is required for anything agreement over three years. Ms. Roussel presented two possible solutions; either an article on the next town meeting to authorize a four year lease or pay the remaining \$2,428.55 from the police maintenance account.

Wiring Permit Processing

Ms. Roussel reported she had spoken with Wiring Inspector Sweeney regarding Ms. Burke processing electrical permits. He is going to speak with Ms. Burke also. Ms. Roussel suggested changing the job description to Building Inspectional Services Clerk since Ms. Burke already provides clerical assistance to both the plumbing/gas and electrical inspectors.

Motion: M. Castriotta

2nd: K. Casey

To authorize Ms. Roussel to meet with Building Department Clerk to clarify job description

Vote: All in Favor

Pathfinder Regional School Tuition

Ms. Roussel reported the town had received a bill for an additional student without prior notification from Quabbin or Pathfinder adding additional cost of \$34,000.00 for transportation and tuition at Pathfinder Regional High School. Ms. Roussel stated she was waiting for Quabbin Regional School District Acting Superintendent Duval to return her call to her requiring her inquiry if QRSD had included the student in this years' assessment. If so, the Town is effectively paying twice for the same student, suggesting QRSD pay for the first year bill.

Quabbin Media Initiative

Ms. Roussel reported she had received the document Craig Shibley had presented on the Quabbin Media Initiative. She has also received a response from Kopelman & Paige, P.C. Mr. Shibley was amenable to all suggestions from Kopelman and Paige, but there is apparent hesitation from the Barre Cable Commission. Ms. Roussel recommended the Board take no action until she hears from Mr. Shibley after his meeting with Barre Selectmen tonight.

Vacation Notification

Ms. Roussel informed the Board she had notified Ms. Casey in accordance with personnel policies that she would be taking three of the four vacation days remaining from FY 09 this week and one in the following week coming from FY 10 vacation benefits.

Motion: K. Casey

2nd: E. Newcomb

To enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, and in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to adjourn at end of session

Vote: Ms. Casey-yes, Mr. Newcomb-yes, Mr. Castriotta-yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine M. Peterson

Town Secretary

Approved: August 31, 2009.