

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
November 17, 2009
Slade Building**

Members present: Matt Castriotta, Chair
Ernest Newcomb, Clerk

Staff present: Deb Roussel, Town Administrator

Others present: Finance Committee members Ed Blanchard and Dave Simmerer and Gardner News Reporter Jean-Paul Salamanca

Meeting commenced at 6:10 pm

Ms. Roussel reported Ms. Casey called and is still at work, unable to make the meeting. Board attempted to plan another date to review DOR report, given the absence of Ms. Casey this evening. Mr. Newcomb indicated he had outpatient surgery scheduled for Friday and would not be available Thursday evening or Friday and possibly Monday.

A working meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Board scheduled a meeting for Friday, November 20th at 5:15 p.m. to sign paperwork for Highway Department to hire vendor for plowing Mile Road and appointment of part-time drivers.

Board reviewed warrant articles. Suggestion to move Article submitted by Park Commissioners regarding removal of town common maple trees to end of warrant, as last money article. Question from Mr. Blanchard as to why cost of tuition for technical school tuition was not considered under school choice and funded accordingly. Ms. Roussel indicated if the Regional Technical School to which the Town belongs does not have the program a student wants and it is available at another Tech School, the Town is responsible for tuition. If that student is a special education student as well, the Town is responsible for that cost also. In this case, it is only the tuition of \$17,000. Board asked for confirmation of law requiring and to have language available at Town Meeting.

Board requested change on article for computer maintenance funds as submitted by Police Department. Mr. Blanchard requested that an individual speak to each article prior to it being motioned, to explain the purpose. Mr. Blanchard went on to say that many people that do not understand what they are approving but may not feel comfortable standing up to question. Mr. Simmerer believed that was the intent of pre-town meetings. Mr. Castriotta agreed with principle of more information for voters as a good thing. Ms. Roussel noted it is up to the Moderator as to process for town meetings, but will submit suggestion to Mr. Leonard.

Mr. Newcomb explained reasoning for need of additional old cemetery funds, resulting from lack of volunteers and increased number of old town cemeteries including Pine Grove, Forest Hill and Parrish cemeteries running out of funds and requiring public funding. Mr. Castriotta requested date for meeting with Cemetery Commissioners. Ms. Roussel indicated was waiting

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for dates from Cemetery Commissioners, as requested by Mr. Newcomb at Board meeting discussed. Mr. Newcomb indicated had met earlier this evening and was unable to meet until January. Mr. Castriotta reiterated need to discuss public funding of private cemeteries, requesting invitation of Rural Glen cemetery association also.

Mr. Newcomb confirmed amount of \$392.66 needed for article for repair of cemetery fencing. Ms. Roussel questioned why Cemetery Commissioners had not submitted costs for reimbursement caused by December 2008 ice storm. Mr. Newcomb reported he did not have sufficient time to gather quotes and respond. Mr. Blanchard questioned why work is completed prior to appropriation. Mr. Newcomb indicated the gate was falling and was a danger.

Ms. Roussel presented the remainder of articles requested, without question.

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Park Commissioners to raise and appropriate a sum on money not to exceed \$5,000 for removal maple trees on Town Common. **Vote: All In favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article we submitted to raise and appropriate \$17,000 to fund Out of District Tuition. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Police Department to raise and appropriate \$3,183.50 for software maintenance and support. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article we submitted to raise and appropriate \$3,900 to cover baseline examinations for police and fire departments. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Planning Board to raise and appropriate \$4,500 for professional planning and engineering support for Earth Removal Bylaws. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Cemetery Commissioners to raise and appropriate \$2,000.00 for Old Cemeteries. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Cemetery Commissioners to raise and appropriate \$392.66 for repair of iron fencing at Cunningham aka Greenwood Cemetery. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Town Treasurer to raise and appropriate \$35,000 for Unemployment Funds. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Castriotta**
To approve the article submitted by Highway Superintendent to transfer from Highway Capital Stabilization \$15,000, raise and appropriate \$20,000, with the balance of a sum of money not to

exceed \$150,000 to be borrowed and repaid within a ten-year period for purchase of a six wheel dump truck. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Town Accountant to transfer prior year appropriations for special purposes, \$.46 from New Admin Training and \$256.27 from ACO Vehicle to Stabilization Fund. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article we submitted to raise and appropriate a sum of money not to exceed available levy capacity, currently considered \$185,000 to Stabilization. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Board of Assessors to transfer from Overlay Surplus \$64,591.73 to the 2008 Overlay Account. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Board of Assessors to transfer from Overlay Surplus 612.41 to 2007 Overlay Account. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

Failed for Lack of Second

To approve the article submitted by Finance Committee for Consolidation of Highway, Fire, Police, Facilities, and Library Targeted Stabilization Accounts to one Capital Stabilization Account.

Board agreed to discuss to put forth at Special Town Meeting preceding Annual in June of 2010.

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve two articles submitted by Board of Assessors to accept provisions of Chapter 182 §16, §17 and 117 of the Acts of 2008 and one article submitted by Tax Collector to accept provisions of Chapter 60, §23B **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Planning Board to extend the Rate of Development Bylaw through January 18, 2015. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Community Preservation Committee to appropriate from Budgeted Reserve \$26,000 as match for grant for APR on Sawyer Farm. **Vote: All In Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Castriotta

To approve the article submitted by Fire Department to transfer balances remaining in FY2009 appropriations for Ambulance Expense and Wage Accounts in the amounts of \$6,888.23 and \$11,160.88 respectively back to Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account. **Vote: All In Favor**

Mr. Blanchard requested Board of Selectmen reconsider article submitted by Finance Committee for consolidation of targeted stabilization accounts. Board declined reconsideration.

Ms. Roussel requested Board reconsider meeting date of December 2, 2009 due to conflicts for several members of CIPC and herself to be able to attend continuation of Solar Farm Public hearing for Special Permit. Board of Selectmen members agreed. Ms. Roussel also reported EAP facilitator would not be available evenings or Saturdays until after first of year due to spouse class conflicts. Board set date of January 9, 2010 at Fire Station. Agenda to include concise understanding of responsibilities of three boards, fiscal policies and future goals. Ms. Roussel to invite facilitator.

Ms. Roussel presented choice of dates from vendor on Energy Performance Contract. Board chose within meeting date of January 4, 2010, at 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Roussel,
Town Administrator

Approved: Dec. 7, 2009.

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