

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
May 23, 2011
Slade Building**

Members present: Michael Stauder, Vice Chair
Ernest Newcomb, Clerk

Member not present: Matthew Castriotta, Chair

Staff present: Brian Bullock: Interim Town Administrator; Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary; Police Chief Dennis Perron

Others present: Ed Blanchard, Chris Norcross, Finance Committee Members; Tom Howlett, Walter Ducharme, Tom Bratko, Danielle Arakelian

Meeting commenced at 6:40 pm

Mr. Newcomb invoked the Rule of Necessity stating his conflict as a Highway Department employee and payroll being part of the warrant. As a result of disqualification of members due to conflicts of interests, the Board lacked a sufficient number of members necessary to take a valid vote and, as a last resort that all those disqualified may now participate under the Rule of Necessity.

Warrant #25

Motion: M. Stauder	2nd: E. Newcomb
To approve Warrant #25 in the amount of \$808,130.32	Vote: All in Favor

Town Election Warrants

The Board signed the annual election warrants required for posting by the Town Clerk.

Police Cruiser

Police Chief Perron presented credit approval confirmation from Ford Credit for the new police cruiser. He thanked the Board for their work and FinCom and TA for work on getting the police cruiser here. Mr. Stauder thanked the Chief as well.

Motion: E. Newcomb	2nd: M. Stauder
To authorize the Vice Chair to sign the lease/purchase agreement- amendment documents on behalf of the Board and Town	Vote: All in Favor

Appointments/Resignation:

Motion: E. Newcomb	2nd: M. Stauder
To appoint Richard Cunningham to Board of Registrars with a term to expire March 31, 2014; appoint Peter Jeffs to Planning Board as Associate Member with a	

term to expire June 30, 2012 and appoint Dolores Ordway and Patricia Ordway as election workers with a term to expire June 30, 2011 **Vote: All in Favor**

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Stauder**
To accept the resignation of Dave Simmerer from the Town Charter Committee effective immediately **Vote: All in Favor**

Minutes Approval

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Stauder**
To approve Minutes of April 25, May 9, May 16, 2011 as written **Vote: All in Favor**

Donations for Main Street Flags

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Stauder**
To accept the \$30.00 donations from Christine Banning, Edward Blanchard and Chris Norcross for the Main Street flags **Vote: All in Favor**

Slade Building entry door and Air Conditioner breakdown

Ms. Peterson informed the Board of recommendations made by locksmith Duncan Burns regarding the Slade Building door as a result of the keyless door knob malfunctioning and a request for a quote to replace the doorknob. Ms. Peterson has obtained three quotes for replacement in the range of \$2,000.00 for a commercial door with panic bar and door catcher. She will discuss with the Building Inspector before proceeding further on this. On another building issue, the air conditioning unit for the Slade Building/Police Department section has a broken part due to ice damage and the repair company is waiting for a replacement part to be shipped. Ms. Peterson was quoted a cost of \$500.00-\$600.00 unless the compressor is broken.

Town Clock Keeper & Assistant positions

Ms. Peterson presented correspondence and email from the Historical Commission recommending a Keeper of the Town Clock and Keeper of the Clock Assistant position be created in order to keep the clock running. There has been difficulty in obtaining access to the clock tower for various reasons. Resident and church member Brianna Whitney has submitted a letter of interest in the position. The Historical Commission recommended a stipend of \$8.00 per visit to be paid out of Historical Commission expense or Town Clock account.

Motion: E. Newcomb **2nd: M. Stauder**
To create the positions for the winding of the clock and to hire Brianna Whitney at \$8.00 per visit **Vote: All in Favor**

Emergency Management Planning Grant Authorization

Emergency Management Director Dennis O'Donnell has requested approval of a FFT2009 Emergency Management Planning grant application in the amount of \$3,000.00 to purchase "Blackboard Connect" software. This will allow the Town's emergency services to communicate to residents through a variety of methods (landline, cell phone, text and email), for localized, town wide or regionalized events. Cost of the software is \$3,500.00. Mr. O'Donnell will pay \$500.00 from the Emergency Management Expense

account and payment in kind of \$3,000.00 in the form of an estimated 200 hours of volunteer time at the prescribed rate of \$15.00 per hour. Volunteer hours will come in the form of installing and configuring the software to run with existing Town communication equipment as well as collecting contact information from residents for the software program. Training will be provided to authorized personnel to enter additional contact data as it is received.

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Stauder

To approve the grant authorization and authorize Mr. Stauder to sign on behalf of the town

Vote: All in Favor

Fire Department Wage Authorization

Chief Hayes has reported that Martin Scott has finished his probation period and has become a paramedic as required. Chief Hayes has requested his pay rate be increased to reflect his new position as firefighter/paramedic.

Motion: E. Newcomb

2nd: M. Stauder

To authorize Martin Scott's pay as \$17.42 per hour effective May 5, 2011

Vote: All in Favor

Employee Cost Of Living Allowance –Mr. Bullock requested confirmation on which employees would be receiving the 2% wage increase. It will be given to employees that are not under contract with the Town.

Mr. Bullock reported he had checked with Town Counsel regarding Mr. Stauder's request to have his Selectmen's stipend donated directly to a private organization that is currently seeking donations. Mr. Stauder will need to accept the stipend and then donate it to the organization directly.

Mr. Newcomb reported he had talked to a First Parish Unitarian Church of Hubbardston member and their lawyer is preparing something to present to Kopelman and Paige, PC. Mr. Stauder stated the Board still had no answer about the first right of refusal issue.

Mr. Ducharme asked what the Town intends to do with the approximately forty-three lots that are in tax title status located in the Pinecrest subdivision. Mr. Bullock reported an auction could be held if there is enough land to sell. Mr. Ducharme stated that with the tax owed plus interest on these parcels, the Town would be defeating the auction purpose if the lots are too expensive for an abutter to purchase. Mr. Bullock stated he would check on that.

Mr. Blanchard asked the Board if they would be selling the Ragged Hill Road properties to raise revenue for other needs. The funds from the land sale could be placed in stabilization for future municipal land purchases. Mr. Newcomb stated he was not in favor of selling the Ragged Hill property at this time due to the depressed real estate market.

Ms. Peterson reviewed the Memorial Day ceremony times with the Board. Mr. Stauder has to work so will not be present.

Motion: M. Stauder
To adjourn the meeting at 7:26 pm

2nd: E. Newcomb
Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Peterson
Town Secretary

Approved: July 18, 2011.