

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
October 11, 2011
SLADE BUILDING**

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

Member absent: Matthew Castriotta, Clerk

Staff present: Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary

Others present: Tom Howlett, Walter Ducharme, Paul Hale, Claudia Provencal, Chris Norcross, Dave Thomas, Peter Jefts, Barre Gazette Reporter

Meeting commenced at 6:33 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 conflict 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 # 8

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb
To approve Warrant #8 in the amount of \$122, 327.48
Vote: All in Favor

Resignation of Community Preservation Clerk

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb
To accept the resignation of Lucinda Oates as CPC Clerk effective September 28, 2011
Vote: All in Favor

Resignation of Library Trustee

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb
To accept Mary Blanchard's resignation as Library Trustee effective October 11, 2011
Vote: All in Favor

The Board members requested a letter of thanks be sent to both.

Resolution of Support of House Bill H1972- Ms. Peterson reported the resolution, "An Act Regulating Election Primaries," is pending before the General Court at the State House. In summary, the resolution will ensure that votes of the troops serving overseas as well as overseas voters and their families will count on election day. The Board asked for feedback from Town Clerk concerning the impact on dates of elections and annual

town meeting in Hubbardston before deciding whether or not to support the resolution. Ms. Peterson will request a statement from Ms. Green.

Highway Rock Salt Bids

Ms. Peterson presented two agreements submitted by the Highway Superintendent for delivery of #1 grade bulk mineral rock salt with anti-caking agents.

Mr. Stauder asked if the Town would be obligated to purchase materials from both companies. The Board took no action until more information is obtained.

Ms. Peterson reported Town Administrator Brian Bullock has requested the Board ratify the Chief Procurement Officer to sign the lease paperwork for the 2007 F-250 for the Fire Department.

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To ratify the Chief Procurement Officer, Brian Bullock, to sign the lease paperwork for the Ford F-250 truck for the Fire Department

Vote: All in Favor

New Police Part-time Personnel Hires

Police Chief Perron has requested to hire Christopher Thibodeau and Scott Chatigny as part-time police officers.

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To hire Christopher Thibodeau and Scott Chatigny as part-time police officers with an hourly rate of \$15.45 per hour contingent on successful completion of physical and psychological examinations and in-service training

Vote: All in Favor

Open Agenda:

Senior Center Design Committee members Paul Hale and Claudia Provencal presented a letter requesting to change their name to Senior Center Expansion Committee and their charge to work over the next year to increase senior center participation. The committee has decided not to apply for a CDBG grant this year until they increase participation of seniors at the center. Mr. Newcomb asked why Hubbardston and Westminster did not regionalize their centers. Ms. Provencal said it depends on the needs of the senior center(s) and regionalizing presented the question as to which town would have it placed in their town and who is going to run it. Ms. Provencal added she was approached by the Town of Princeton at one point and it is still not out of the question to regionalize with another town.

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To change the name to Senior Center Expansion Committee and the charge of the committee to increase senior center participation effective immediately

Vote: All in Favor

The Board discussed a letter concerning a personnel complaint received from Detective Hans Carlson. Ms. Peterson asked the Board if they had read Town Administrator Brian Bullock's recommendation that no further action be taken by the Board. Mr. Stauder

stated he was willing to support Mr. Bullock's determination. Mr. Newcomb stated there are always two sides to any story and wanted to invite him to a Board meeting.

Motion: E. Newcomb 2nd: M. Stauder

To invite Detective Carlson to hear his complaint

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Peterson will contact Detective Carlson.

Minutes Approval

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To approve minutes of September 26, 2011 as written

Vote: All in Favor

Authorization requested:

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To authorize the Town Administrator to sign the new application for the radio tower permit

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Peterson reported she had not heard back from MRPC representative Jennifer Siciliano regarding the sewer and water feasibility study report.

First Parish Unitarian Church

Mr. Stauder requested if the national organization for the First Parish Unitarian Church, the UUA, had responded to their request for clarification regarding the right of first refusal waiver. Ms. Peterson said she had received a phone call from a church member stating they were close to getting a response from them.

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb

To set a new deadline and last extension for the church by November 7th or all negotiations will be suspended

Vote: All in Favor

Ms. Peterson shall inform Church Representative Mary Taylor and Legal Counsel Joel Bard of the Board deadline.

Other Business:

Ms. Peterson reminded the Board of the tax classification hearing set for November 14th.

Ms. Peterson requested permission to attend the regionalization meeting with Lt. Governor Murray and staff in Barre on October 20th regarding regionalization of services as Mr. Bullock is unable to attend. The Board approved.

Mr. Stauder asked if Building Inspector Brandt had reported back on the lapsed Class II Auto Dealer licensees and ensuing bylaw violations/fines. Ms. Peterson will follow up with Mr. Brandt and report back.

Ms. Peterson reported the Building Inspector has changed his office hours from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, Tuesday through Thursday. The clerk' hours will now overlap with the Building Inspector's to enhance communication between them. This will go into effect next week.

Mr. Stauder asked how the cable recording procurement is proceeding. Ms. Peterson reported she was meeting with Charter Cable technical representative Andrew Shanley and his supervisor tomorrow regarding recommendations for equipment and logistics.

Ms. Peterson reported she had conferred with Council on Aging Director Claudia Provencal about attending MART meetings in Fitchburg for the Board. Currently Ms. Provencal has another obligation on Wednesday mornings. Mr. Stauder stated the person he was hoping could attend as the MRPC representative for the Town is not interested. The Board requested Ms. Peterson advertise for the two volunteer positions.

Ms. Peterson reported that the Pinecrest lot owned by the Heerwagons, that was donated to the Town is not grandfathered and therefore not a buildable lot. A letter from the Building Inspector to the Board of Assessors will be required to assess the accurate value of the parcel. Mr. Ducharme stated it currently is valued at \$45,000, but the true value is probably around \$1,000. There are other parcels in Pinecrest in the same category that will need to have an accurate assessment. Mr. Ducharme reported he had met with Mr. Brandt earlier this evening and Mr. Brandt has also met with Town Administrator Bullock as well. The Assessors' office is also aware of the situation. Ms. Peterson will follow up with Mr. Brandt on what is required.

Seaboard SOLAR Informational Discussion

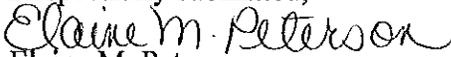
Dave Thomas came in to present information regarding Seaboard Solar. Mr. Thomas reported there are a number of different programs in the state. Seaboard Solar designs, builds and finances turnkey solar energy systems at no cost to their clients. Clients would not have to come up with any financing and Seaboard would sell power to them. Mr. Thomas stated however, there is another way for the town to benefit that is more simplified. There is a municipal incentive tariff program that allows Seaboard to place solar systems on land in the National Grid system and sell power to the grid. Seaboard would sell power and earn credits and sells them to the town via certificates at rate of 7% saving. The town would then apply the "certificates" to its electric bill. This program has a 100 megawatt cap. 20 megawatts of that program have been spoken for. Mr. Thomas anticipates the program will be filled in the next ten or twelve months. He stated he was familiar with our legal counsel and could send them details if the Town shows interest. The agreement requires the Town sign up for the program for twenty five years which is the life of the solar power system. There is an escape clause for the Town to exit the program with a twelve month notice to Seaboard Solar. This provides Seaboard an opportunity to find another town to fill the vacant slot. Mr. Thomas reported he was installing solar systems in Westminster and Gardner. Seaboard would sell one dollar certificates to Hubbardston for ninety-three cents to apply towards the Town's National Grid electric bills. He is researching whether this has to go out for Requests for Proposals. Mr. Stauder stated he would like to ask guidance from Kopelman & Paige, PC.

The Board requested legal counsel contact Mr. Thomas regarding the municipal tariff program details. Mr. Thomas cautioned that time is of the essence. The Board thanked Mr. Thomas for coming in this evening. Mr. Thomas thanked the Board for their time and exited the meeting.

Mr. Newcomb asked to discuss the dead animal problem in Town and disposal of them. Ms. Peterson will review the ACO agreement with Templeton and report back.

Motion: M. Stauder 2nd: E. Newcomb
To adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm
Vote: All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,


Elaine M. Peterson
Town Secretary

Approved: October 24, 2011