

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2008**

Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Members present were Douglas Belanger, Thomas Brennan, Dianna Provencher, Richard Antanavica and Stanley Zagorski.

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to go into Executive Session for purpose of contract negotiations, with an announcement in open session likely. Mr. Brennan seconded.
The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:02pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:25pm.

Contract Negotiations

Local 168 – Police Contract

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to authorize the Town Administrator to formalize Contract Agreement with Police Officers Local 168, with minor corrections to text, to prepare for Execution by Selectmen. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Bid Award – Sale of Town owned property

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to award bid for sale of 2005 Ford Crown Vic police cruiser to A and Silver Auto Sales of South Boston in the amount of \$5,568.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Closing Date

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to open Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants for 5/5/08 ATM.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to set closing date of February 19, 2008 for Annual Town Meeting Warrants. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Proposed General Bylaws – Review & Discussion

Mr. Antanavica asked that a proposal be added to consider sidewalk maintenance by business or property owners with fine system attached. Mr. Brennan asked that hydrant maintenance be added. Mr. Zagorski asked that wind turbines be addressed, through zoning if need be.

The Town Administrator asked that the Selectmen review for consideration proposals to date, to include those mentioned this evening.

Correspondence

1. Memo from Highway Dept regarding Snow & Ice Account updates. FILE
2. Letter from resident thanking the Highway Department for snow removal. FILE
3. Letter from resident thanking the Highway Department for recent tree work. FILE

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 12/3/07 Regular & Executive Session minutes.
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Board Reports/Other Business

Mr. Brennan read aloud a letter addressed to Rep. Binienda regarding the business development potential with build out of a Route 56/MassPike on/off ramp. Chairman Belanger stated that they met this day with Worcester Regional Transit Authority and Central Mass Regional Planning Commission personnel to view Leicester and hear of Mr. Brennan's proposal. Mr. Brennan invited other Board members to sign on, and asked that Senator Augustus and the Governor also receive a copy of the letter.

Public Hearing Continuance – Class II License Application, 515 Main Street

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to reconvene public hearing.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chairman Belanger noted that the Board had been concerned with the layout of the lot and now a water restriction issue has been raised. Cherry Valley Water District Supt. Mike Knox has reported that new regulations could potentially prohibit outside use, add to that this change in use at this location.

Harry Lindner, 525 Main Street, expressed concern with the already low water pressure at his house. He also was concerned with what is a very dangerous corner which is often used as a traffic turn around area. He wondered about the traffic island and whose property it was. Ms. Provencher stated that the island is State property. She asked what water issue is there, and what change of use is about. Mr. Reed noted that a comprehensive review of new regulations has not been completed, but at first look there has been concerns raised with regard to water use.

Pasquale Turano, applicant, stated that he and the florist proprietor have worked together to monitor visitor parking to help each other out.

Mr. Antanavica reported that both Fire Inspection and Building Inspection services are all set with the outdoor layout as noted on the map. He felt the parking availability in back of the building would relieve any congestion out front.

Mr. Zagorski stated that he was satisfied with the layout issue raised at the last hearing. Now, he asked, the water issue needs to be resolved.

Ms. Provencher asked how many cars he is seeking for license to sell. Mr. Turano state 10-12 would be okay. Mr. Antanavica noted that Ms. Provencher had proposed eight vehicles out front with no more than twenty in total. Mr. Zagorski agreed, if that met public safety guidelines, but check on water use issue first.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to continue hearing to 6:00pm on January 14, 2008.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Street Light Issue – amend policy

Mr. Reed reported that he and Town Planner Michelle Buck met with NationalGrid representatives relative to options available to the Town relating to street lighting. Average cost being \$250/year per light, some towns are just saying no more. He has asked the Planning Board to get creative and had provided some examples. He is not suggesting current lighting be turned off, but why add more. He noted that the developers are required by the Planning Board to install light infrastructure first. He felt that any new developments should not be required to install street lighting. We are dealing with budget constraints, and he would prefer employees' wage schedules be maintained vs. lighting of more developments.

With regard to status report on streetlights dated January 2008, the Town Planner had outlined projects under construction; those with street lights already installed, those not yet installed, and projects under consideration at this time. Total for those projects listed is an estimated \$8000/year for light costs. Mr. Antanavica noted also that Oak Ridge Estates is missing from the list, six more lights.

Shawn Castelle, 9 Hammond Street, stated that he has a hearing before the Planning Board on Jan 15th and did not want another delay due to this issue. He asked for some decision to be made so that they can take direction on this.

Mr. Antanavica noted that there are other ways for street lighting to be provided; developments can form an association where a revolving fund can be used to pay for monthly lighting costs, with perhaps seed money being given by developer. He himself has paid for a street light for many years, a small price to pay he felt.

Mr. Zagorski felt we should draw a line and provide for street lights on the developments that have already completed installations, add Oak Ridge Estates, and cut out any additional lighting in the future.

MOTION: Mr. Zagorski moved to approve list with addition of Oak Ridge Estates.
Ms. Provencher seconded.

Discussion - Mr. Brennan felt we should exclude the two construction projects not yet started; Baris Farm Estates and Pondview Estates.

MOTION and SECOND amended. Vote: UNANIMOUS

Board Reports/Other Business

Ms. Provencher reported that she continues to work on Burncoat Park management plan; met recently with Parks & Rec Chairman Mike Wilson.

Ms. Provencher inquired as to whether the Town could provide WRTA bus pass sales for the convenience of the public. Mr. Belanger will look into this as a member of WRTA executive board.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to direct Town Administrator to follow up on this possibility.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Ms. Provencher cautioned residents who tend to use portable generators; they are meant to be used outside and never inside a cellar or near the house. This equipment emits carbon monoxide fumes, which kill. Also, 2006 law requires that all homes be installed with carbon monoxide detectors.

Mr. Antanavica noted that the Capital Planning Committee will be meeting on January 9th, with requests for capital planning items due by January 19th. He asked for those interested to apply, as they are in need of two at-large members. The group meets regularly the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30pm.

Mr. Antanavica noted that Fire, Police and EMS personnel were all out working over New Years Eve, a very professional group of public safety personnel.

Mr. Antanavica urged all to make our legislators accountable; if they are not doing the work of the people and the communities, we must make a change in the next election. He asked that residents sign the petition being circulated with regard to Lottery Aid distribution being held to original standards. Ms. Provencher asked if taxpayers outside of Leicester could sign petition. Mr. Belanger stated yes, noting that the petitions would be circulated for another week before they are retrieved and processed.

Mr. Zagorski reported that his Revenue Enhancement Committee will meet next at 7:00pm on January 14th. The group will be preparing a survey for input from residents or business people. He urged others to get involved, their help was needed; it's disturbing to hear complaints from those that don't show up and be counted.

Mr. Zagorski reported that the wind turbine sites continued to be reviewed for potential energy source. It appears that the High School area may be the best option, which could service three schools and the senior center, but therein lies an issue relative to FAA standards relating to height with the proximity to Worcester Airport. The Memorial School site is still a possibility, where we could have excess energy to sell back to the grid system. He asked that the Town Administrator follow up on zoning issues for both private and public wind turbines.

Mr. Zagorski reported on upcoming program being sponsored at Becker College by Congressman Richard Neal relative to historical sites of the underground railroad. He stated that Federal funds may become available to Leicester to make improvements to the May House, used during that era, and to possibly bury the utility lines for aesthetic improvements to the area. The program will be held with Becker officials on January 25th.

Mr. Zagorski noted that the Mass Municipal Association's annual meeting is held this weekend in Boston; he will be attending. Mr. Reed stated he will be there as well, a beneficial meeting for selectmen. Ms. Provencher and Mr. Antanavica will be attending as well.

Mr. Belanger noted updated vacancy list with members needed on many local boards and committees. He urged residents to get involved, there is much work to be done.

Mr. Belanger looked at future goals for 2008, including Moose Hill Reservoir use, improvements to and RFP for lease of Hillcrest Country Club or other recreation uses at this property, and possible change in structure of government with regard to Town Hall Building Commission.

Mr. Belanger asked that the Town Administrator maintain list of ongoing projects that the Board and Mr. Reed are involved in. Mr. Reed asked Board members to give him a list of the projects they are working on for tracking purposes.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Reed reported that MMA Consulting will be reviewing 3 Washburn Square parking lot area as potential site for fire station.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant