

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2008**

Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Members present were Douglas Belanger, Thomas Brennan, Dianna Provencher and Stanley Zagorski. Also present was Town Administrator Robert Reed. Selectman Antanavica was on vacation.

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations, Land Acquisition

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and land acquisition. Ms. Provencher seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:02pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:50pm.

Bid Award – Sale of Town owned property

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to award bid for sale of 2000 Ford Crown Vic for high bid of \$1112 from Jersey One Auto of Jersey City NJ. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to award bid for sale of 2001 Ford Crown Vic for high bid of \$1283 from Police Cars Unlimited of Brooklyn NY. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Legal Budget

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve \$20,000 Reserve Fund transfer to #111 Legal Budget per request dated 1/31/08 to cover costs associated with unanticipated legal cases and civil service appeal. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Zagorski inquired as to whether costs can be recovered should the Town prevail. Mr. Reed stated yes.

Request for Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Frank MacKenzie-Lamb of Cherry Valley as alternate member of Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire 6/30/10. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Part-time Police Officers – Certification #280022

The Board approved execution by Chairman of Cert #280022 paperwork for submittal to Civil Service.

Request for Appointment – Personnel Board (added to Agenda)

Personnel Board Chairman Doug Menard was present along with applicant Michael Shivick of Leicester. Mr. Menard reported that the applicant had attended a meeting of the Personnel Board, and the PB feels he could contribute to the work of the Board. He recommended appointment to the Personnel Board.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Michael Shivick to the Personnel Board, term to expire 6/30/09. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Shivick thanked the Selectmen for the opportunity; he looked forward to serving the community in this capacity.

Correspondence

1. Letter of resignation from Ruth Kaminski, Bylaw Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to accept with regret, with letter of thanks for time served. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

2. Request for appointment to Cable Advisory Committee from Sharon Richford, Leicester.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Sharon Richford to Cable Advisory Committee, term to expire 6/30/10. Mr. Brennan seconded. UNANIMOUS

3. Letter from Sheriff Glodis promoting his Community Service Program. The Board asked that a letter of thanks be sent for the work the Sheriff does on behalf of the cities and towns, savings thousands of dollars with his rehabilitation projects. FILE

4. (deleted)

Public Hearing – Liquor License Transfer

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to open public hearing.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chairman Belanger read aloud public hearing notice with regard to transfer of all alcohol package store license at 875 Pleasant Street in Rochdale from Vipul Patel to She Crystal Inc, d/b/a Brookside Liquors, Shailesh Patel manager.

Atty. Joseph Devlin was present and spoke on behalf of his client, Shailesh Patel. Atty. Devlin noted financial arrangement to purchase business, Mr. Patel's past experience in liquor industry, and his strong desire to succeed. Mr. Patel currently works at the store and has invested much time, effort and expense in pursuit of this transfer.

Mr. Brennan noted this is a neighborhood store, where no police reports have been issued; they have been a good neighbor, and asked for the Board's support of the application.

Ms. Provencher asked what the hours of operation would be. Mr. Patel reported, through Atty. Devlin, that the store would be open from 9:00am to 10:00pm Monday through Saturday and 12:00noon on Sunday until 6:00pm.

Mr. Belanger explained that the Town would follow the letter of the law with this and any other liquor establishment. He cautioned Mr. Patel to have staff trained in serving techniques, as required by local regulations, and to be cautious in this regard.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve liquor license transfer application as submitted.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to close public hearing.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Correspondence (continued)

5. Action alert from Mass Municipal Association relative to Gov. Patrick's fiscal 2009 budget proposal. Chairman Belanger read the notice, with the Board once again asking the residents and department heads to contact our legislators to insure that Local Aid is secured at the rates indicated for cities and towns, that full lottery aid to communities be issued. Mr. Zagorski was disappointed that the Governor was basing his budget proposal on anticipated casino revenues; he couldn't imagine, if legislation approving casinos in the Commonwealth were passed, that one would ever be open within the 2009 fiscal year. FILE

6. Letter from Atty. General's office regarding Leicester portion of anti-trust litigation settlement over compact disc issue. Public libraries will all receive a portion of the settlement, with Leicester being entitled to \$300.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to Chairman to sign settlement distribution acceptance form.

Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Town Administrator's Report

- Mr. Reed distributed an information sheet (on file) he is using to focus on issues with regard to Hillcrest Country Club. He met recently with Selectmen Antanavica and Brennan to discuss available options; should the Town do a more in depth study of the facility as a golf course, would it be feasible to move the two holes on the west side of Pleasant Street? Noting that the federal grant monies received for the original purchase limits what the Town can do with the property. Discussions with Becker College are not progressing, so the option to lease facility to Becker is doubtful at this time. Other alternatives to use as Town recreational fields, while a good idea, was not supported by Parks & Rec Committee. It appears we will move forward again with RFP process. Mr. Brennan felt it was a good report; survey of property is finally in-house, allowing RFP package to be completed. He agreed that a new lease opportunity would be for the long-term. The other Board members agreed as well. Mr. Zagorski asked about the septic system issue, which must be upgraded, whether to renovate the clubhouse or lease as is with requirements to upgrade in lease, whether to sell the portion of the property we would be allowed to. He felt with the playing fields that Becker is proposing to build, along with the proposed fields at Burncoat Park, the Town should be in good shape with regard to recreational facilities. Ms. Provencher asked when this sub-group would meet with the two Hillcrest Sub-Committees; she felt the long-term committee should be involved in these decisions. Mr. Brennan agreed; now that we have the survey maps, the sub-committees should again meet; they should be making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for use of Hillcrest Country Club. Mr. Reed noted that the lease will speak to specifics such as financial issues, renovations, other particulars as we deem fit. Mr. Zagorski asked about timeframes and advertising for lease of HCC. Mr. Reed expected to contact consulting firms in the next few weeks, he hopes to have the RFP out in early Spring, with advertisement per procurement laws with additional solicitation done as well; he anticipates the process to be back on track, just a year later than originally planned.
- Mr. Reed reported that there may be grant funds available for conversion of heating system to energy efficient upgraded equipment, possibly in time for rehab of the third floor of the Town Hall.
- Mr. Reed reported that the Town of Spencer has applied on its own this year for housing rehab grant from DHCD. This is the application Leicester applied for the first year and did not earn enough points to be successful, then did a joint application last year with Spencer to improve our demographics category. Unfortunately, Leicester has been put into a category with unlike communities, where we don't stand a chance to be funded.
- Mr. Reed distributed draft list of town meeting warrant articles for consideration. Mr. Zagorski asked that a wind turbine bylaw be added. Ms. Provencher agreed the a bylaw would be needed according to our zoning enforcement officer.

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 12/10 Regular and Executive Session minutes, and 1/07/08 Executive Session minutes.
Mr. Zagorski seconded, as amended from first draft. UNANIMOUS

Board Reports/Other Business

Mr. Zagorski reported on progress of wind study, which will take another 2-4 weeks to complete. Mr. Brennan noted that a study done years ago at the Memorial School site may still be available.

Mr. Zagorski reported on recent presentation by Congressman Richard Neal, a history buff, at the Becker College May House facility, a historic building in Leicester which was once used by the under ground railroad to protect slaves. He noted the possibility of some \$1.2million in funds available from the federal government to bring restoration monies to rehab the site, along with an idea to bury utility lines in the area for beautification purposes.

Mr. Zagorski noted the new fire alarm registration system that has become effective; residents and business owners alike must register their system or pay a fine.

Ms. Provencher reported on regular Open Space & Recreation Committee meetings; draft OSRC Plan was submitted to the State for review, with only two minor changes made. She commended the work of the group, and, in particular, that of Town Planner Michelle Buck.

Ms. Provencher reported that, although we seem to get a different advisory depending on who you ask, it appears that we will not be required to file an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for proposed Burncoat Park active recreational fields. She met with Mr. Reed and Ms. Buck recently; they hope to be able to move forward now on request to legislature to release portion of land to active use.

Mr. Brennan asked that abutting towns be notified of his proposal to add Mass Turnpike entrance in Oxford/Leicester town line area on Route 56.

Mr. Brennan noted that tomorrow is Super Tuesday; get out and vote.

Mr. Belanger reported that the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Executive Board, on which he serves, has taken a hard stance and voted a budget they hope will ensure some stability, but will in the end affect rider ship. He warned that the current debt associated with the WRTA could result in the organization going the way of Worcester County Government; no longer regional.

Mr. Belanger noted a request to thank the Lions Club organization, in particular Phil Robo, for his assistance to the community. Phil continues to maintain the announcement billboard in the center of town, in all kinds of weather, not an easy job. The Board asked that a letter of thanks be sent.

Mr. Belanger noted that Selectman Antanavica was on vacation, and hoped he was enjoying his trip.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant