

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2008**

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

Executive Session – Land Acquisition, Contract Negotiations

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition issues and collective bargaining. Ms. Provencher seconded.
The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:01pm.
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:28pm.

Next Meeting – The Board discussed the possible need to meet again before March 3rd, and agreed to post a meeting for February 25th. (For the record...this meeting was cancelled in the end.)

Leave of Absence – Highway Clerk

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to authorize leave without pay for Liz Cleary, Highway Dept. clerk, for 12-16 weeks as requested. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Annual Town Meeting Requests

Zoning Bylaw amendments – the Selectmen's Office having received petitions from residents, Chairman Belanger asked that two articles be added to the draft Warrant; one to address Margaret Rondeau's request to rezone 1041 Main Street and one to include Schold & Roberts' request to rezone 1323, 1355 and 1439 Main Street properties.

Wind Turbine Zoning Bylaw – Mr. Zagorski noted that this is not high on the Planning Board's agenda, but he wants this article added to the draft Warrant. Ms. Provencher agreed; besides our current work with Mass Collaborative on possible town sites for wind collection, there has been an interest from the residents for private sites as well. Both felt now was the time to bring it forward to accommodate this type of technology; if no bylaw is in place, the equipment cannot be installed. Mr. Reed reported that the Planning Board has too much on its plate right now to deal with this. Mr. Belanger felt it frustrating from this level, but they don't have to reinvent the wheel; we have provided information on other towns' bylaws. Mr. Reed noted that they are not against this type of bylaw, it just needs to be reviewed properly and this spring does not allow enough time for thorough consideration. Mr. Antanavica asked that a spot be held on the Warrant for this bylaw and he will speak with the Planning Board about this. The Board asked the TA to send examples we have from other towns with a memo stating the Selectmen are still interested in seeing this at the May 5th town meeting, and asked that whatever action is necessary to provide for such a plan is given by the Planning Board.

Burncoat Park consulting fees – Ms. Provencher felt that funds may be needed for Burncoat Park consulting services and asked that an article be added.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to close Town Meeting Warrants, with the addition of the articles discussed earlier to be added to either the Annual or the Special, to be determined by the Town Administrator. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

1122 Main Street – Mr. Belanger noted this article will authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and acquire properties for the proposed new fire station facility. Mr. Antanavica noted that the Fire/EMS Study Group has reviewed and narrowed down possible sites, including vacant land across from Castle Restaurant, Hillcrest land on west side of Pleasant Street, Town owned land on Paxton Street, an area on Route 9 West strip along with rehabbing the current Water Street facility. The locations that best suit the

fire regulation response time is this 1122 Main Street area and the parcel across from the Castle. Ms. Provencher noted that this sub-committee has worked continually with consultant to review proposed sites. Mr. Antanavica reported that this project and the 1122 Main Street site have the support of the Fire & EMS staff as well as that of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. TA noted that our focus can now move to town meeting action.

Correspondence

1. Two letters of resignation from Council on Aging, effective immediately.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to accept resignations from Helen Hadley and Lucille Bow with regret, with letter of thanks sent for time served. Mr. Antanavica seconded.
UNANIMOUS

Ms. Provencher noted that volunteers are needed, with applications available online or in the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Zagorski has attended COA meetings and remarked on the important work of this board, especially with our aging population with over 18% of our citizens over 60 years of age.

2. Notice of public hearing at 7:00pm on March 4th with Planning Board on Rondeau rezoning request for 1041 Main Street, and the other petitioned request from Schold/Roberts to begin at 7:30pm on March 18th, both articles being on town meeting warrant through petition by residents; other Zoning Bylaw changes will be heard on the 18th as well. FILE

3. Memo from Planning Board regarding receipt of "Leicester Reconnaissance Report", the final report of the grant-funded project to evaluate several Leicester heritage landscapes. FILE

4. Letter from Greenville Baptist Church acknowledging the work of our Inspector of Buildings, Jeff Taylor, and staff with their assistance during recent expansion project. The Board thanked Mr. Taylor, who they felt was one in a million. FILE

5. Letter from Mass Technology Collaborative notifying the Town that our application has been approved and they will be conducting a desk-top analysis followed by a complete onsite survey of selected properties. The information will determine whether the sites are of sufficient size and windiness to warrant a detailed site survey. Mr. Zagorski noted this is the next phase in considering public wind turbine siting. FILE

6. Memo from Charter Communications regarding 2009 digital transition and approaching deadline. FILE

Public Hearing – Application for Liquor License

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

Chairman Belanger read aloud the hearing notice on an application to change corporate name from Uncle Sam's Pizza Inc. to S.W. Barrett's Inc., and to change doing-business-as from Uncle Sam's Pizza to Northeast Pizza. He noted that no other changes are proposed, the same owners will continue to run the establishment.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve liquor license application as presented.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

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

Part-time Dispatchers

Request from Chief Hurley to appoint four part-time dispatchers to the Police Department staff, namely Margaux Reinoso, Linda Zalauskas, Tracy Pilch and Katherine Gonzalez.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint each individual as noted, subject to all Town personnel policies and procedures. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Highway clerk

Mr. Reed recommended appointment of Maureen Henderson to 10/19 hours per week, temporary position, to assist at Highway Department during medical leave of part-time clerk Liz Cleary. This person will also assist the Parks & Recreation Committee by clerking meetings and administering recreational activities.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Maureen Henderson as temporary, part-time clerk at Grade 5, Step 1, to work 10 hours per week, not to exceed 19 hours per week. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Town Administrator's Report

- Mr. Reed reported on recent meeting of School officials with Mass School Building Authority where initial approval of Leicester's Primary School roof project was received. Discussions locally now focus on how to proceed with regard to financing of project, with deadline for any debt exclusion ballot question due by March 3rd. We should hear on final MSBA project awards by end of March. Mr. Belanger suggested the fire station project also be considered for debt exclusion. Mr. Zagorski felt the rates may be attractive at this time; perhaps borrowing would be our best alternative. Mr. Antanavica spoke of the need to maintain town buildings; the Capital Planning group has asked that previously slotted projects be resubmitted for consideration. Mr. Reed hoped that the bid process of this roofing project would be complete prior to town elections.

Pole Hearing – Verizon & Mass Electric

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

Scott Burns, Verizon rep, noted request for three jointly owned poles on westerly side of Conway Drive to accommodate new residential construction. No questions from Selectmen or abutters were forthcoming.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher seconded. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Zagorski asked utility reps what can be done about the number of signs tacked to poles, which are promoting private business and are posted all over town. The reps will look into this, as the poles are private property and license is required to post upon them.

Town Administrators report (continued)

- Mr. Reed reported on recent meeting with Town Counsel to discuss upcoming town meeting issues, pending Burncoat Park matter, and other legal business.
- Mr. Reed submitted project status report as requested. Mr. Belanger asked for this on a regular basis.
- Mr. Reed noted various reports are coming out regarding State Budget and Local Aid numbers. Mr. Zagorski asked if we would be having a joint committee meeting with Schools on budget proposals. Mr. Reed noted that last scheduled meeting was postponed until February 25th.
- Mr. Reed reported that Snow & Ice deficit spending has reached \$100,000. Mr. Zagorski noted that we were awarded additional funding from the State last year for these expenses. Mr. Belanger felt we could ask, but it is nothing more than a shell game in the end.

Board Reports/Other Business

Mr. Antanavica asked that we check with Parks & Recreation as to scheduling of auditorium use; there continues to be basketball going on in the gym while meetings are being held. We need to make it clear that activities end by 6pm when meetings are beginning.

Mr. Antanavica reported that Capital Planning is reviewing all pending projects, with some \$40,000 left in completed School projects while there are several dormant projects which were funded with the work never done. The CIPC meets next on March 11th at which time discussions on these open School projects will be held. They are looking at changing the procedures, with yearly review of pending projects with department heads. He feels that any dormant funds should be recycled and returned to the General Fund or re-appropriated toward urgent needs. He asked for an update on equipment repairs, we need to be more frugal, perhaps purchase used equipment vs. new. As with home, we may have to do projects piecemeal; he sees no maintenance programs in place. Mr. Zagorski asked that we find out if any tax title land sale is possible to raise revenue. Mr. Antanavica noted yet another unfunded mandate in the State's demands that voting machines be updated, equipment that is in excellent condition in our town.

Ms. Provencher reported on Burncoat Park; a letter will be written by Town Counsel to be sent to the Legislature seeking approval from passive to active recreation. Chairman Belanger commended her for moving this forward.

Ms. Provencher noted the final Open Space & Recreation Plan is now available on cd with a few book versions available at certain Town buildings.

Mr. Belanger asked the Selectmen to be prepared to meet on February 25th at 5:30pm should the need be there to vote any necessary issues involving the Mass School Building Assistance project.

Mr. Belanger announced that he will indeed be running for State Senate; his frustration with State mandates has forced the issue. He appreciates the support and faith he has received from many.

Ms. Provencher reported that Master Plan surveys are available, asking residents to complete the form. Mr. Antanavica noted that it is available online.

Mr. Belanger, as Chairman, appointed Mark Armington to replace Carl Wicklund on the Town Office Study Committee, and William Wright to replace Deb Friedman on the Economic Development Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to support appointments as indicated.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 1/07/08 Regular Session minutes.
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 2/4/08 Executive Session minutes.
Mr. Zagorski seconded. 4-0, Mr. Antanavica abstained.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant