

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

Vice Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Members present were Thomas Brennan, Dianna Provencher, Richard Antanavica and Stanley Zagorski. Also present was Town Administrator Robert Reed. Selectman Belanger was absent due to conflicting campaign work, but asked that the Town's business not be delayed.

**Correspondence**

1. Memo from Personnel Board recommending approval to reclassify Conservation Commission clerk position from Board Secretary to a Dept. Assistant I position.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve as recommended.  
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

2. Letter from Mass Accountant's Association regarding recent certification of Leicester's Town Accountant, Sandra Buxton. Mr. Reed noted that Ms. Buxton attended training sessions. He added that it is very unusual that anyone passes this certification test in the first round, which she herself achieved. The Board asked that a letter of congratulations be sent with a copy for Ms. Buxton's personnel file.

3. Invitation to Board and Administrator to join in the May 26<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies. Mr. Brennan noted this event to be one of the better local remembrances. FILE

4. Letter from Blue Cross/Blue Shield celebrating Public Service Recognition Week. FILE

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

Mr. Brennan asked that members forward schedules and any vacation plans to the office so we can work on our upcoming meeting schedule.

**Executive Session – Land Acquisition, Contraction Negotiations**

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition and contract negotiations, no public announcements expected, Board to reconvene in open session. Mr. Zagorski seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:11pm.  
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:58pm.

**Civil Service Appointments**

Chief Hurley was present to recommend appointment of five (5) permanent intermittent police officers, subject to Civil Service and TOL employment procedures. He commended his staff for their work and professionalism during background investigations. He noted this is the last Board meeting prior to expiration of the HRD Certification List, so he has submitted a draft document at this time. He asked to be allowed time to contact the appointees personally before names are made public.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to approve appointment of five permanent intermittent police officers, as listed on draft document. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

The Chief reported on recent award from Government Highway Safety Bureau of grant which will allow speed and seatbelt enforcement checks via extra patrols during the upcoming Columbus Day holiday.

Chief Hurley also reported on recent pre-construction conference with Mass Highway relative to upcoming Route 56 reconstruction project. He attended with Mr. Reed and Highway Foreman Wood. Specifics included a notice to proceed with 3000' of roadway to be improved, with one-lane to remain open at all times. The project is scheduled to begin next week and MHD hopes to complete by October 2008. Message boards will be utilized to assist traffic control officers.

Chief Hurley asked the Board to call for certification of existing departmental promotional eligibility list for one police sergeant.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to authorize Vice Chairman to execute Form 13, the civil service eligibility list for one permanent full-time sergeant. Mr. Antanavica seconded.  
UNANIMOUS

### **Summer Hours – Town Hall facility**

Mr. Reed recommended the Selectmen adjust Town Hall hours again this year to a summer schedule. Mr. Antanavica noted the survey results show the public seeking one late evening to allow for Town business to be done after regular work day. He will continue to seek feedback from the public as we move forward with this program. He felt energy costs can be realized with the offices closed on Fridays.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to adjust Town Hall office hours to Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM, and Tuesdays from 8:00AM to 7:00PM, to be closed on Fridays; schedule will begin June 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Public Hearing – Liquor License Transfer**

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

Atty. Joseph Devlin was present to represent his client, Jyoti Patel, in her application as manager for transfer of all alcohol package store license at 1060 Main Street. She and her husband look to purchase the Leroux property, run the store and live upstairs with their two young children. A relative promoted this area and they look to establish and run a good business here in Leicester.

Mr. Brennan, noting the application seeks to have the license pledged, wanted it on the record that the license can be used as collateral, however, it must be renewed annually and is not for sale; it is a privilege issued by the Town. Mr. Zagorski cautioned the applicants, Harshtej Inc d/b/a Leroux Liquors, that there is a college right up the street and to make certain that they and their staff are trained in serving of alcohol products. Ms. Provencher asked what hours of operation they were looking for.

Atty. Devlin stated the same hours, 8:00AM to 9:00PM seven days/week, with no liquor served on Sundays before 12:00noon.

Ms. LeChasseur noted that a floor plan of premises was yet to be submitted with the application. All other paperwork is in order.

MOTION: Mr. Zagorski moved to approve liquor license transfer as submitted, subject to receipt of floor plan and TIPS certification of training of employees. Ms. Provencher seconded.  
UNANIMOUS

### **Town Administrator's Report**

- Mr. Reed reported the Hillcrest Country Club RFP process is moving forward. He hopes to have it out on the street by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He was unable to get assistance from any professionals, but will keep it straightforward with serious evaluation criteria included. We have resolved the sewer connection issue, which will be a big improvement.
- Mr. Reed reported that Town Treasurer, Planner and others are looking into the possibility of a tax title land sale, proceeds which should go toward capital purchases. Mr. Brennan agreed that any proceeds should not be used on recurring debt. He asked that other boards be notified, a list of parcels be made available, and that the areas be viewed though a tour conducted by the Treasurer.
- Mr. Reed reported Local Aid numbers are looking better at this time, with new growth potential in overlay with proposed utility pole assessments.
- Mr. Reed noted FY'09 budget was set at town meeting. He is hearing of need for improvements, while he feels the process from our office has been efficient and organized. He is willing to listen to suggestions, but feels the Boards involved in the town meeting process need to make decisions early on and not leave so many articles open for discussion. He will be meeting with incoming School

Superintendent, Mr. Soojian, to work toward budget planning in hopes of having long-term goals for school and town. The Board agreed that the Town Administrator needs to be the one to set the town meeting calendar in place, with the Superintendent, and that the Advisory Board needs to start process earlier. Mr. Brennan felt the ATM was successful, but there seemed to be a lot of scurrying around at the last minute. He felt the communication needs to be better. He suggested a report on finances of the Town be made in print, that the ratios of vote required on each article be printed on the warrants, and that the Moderator should be able to move meeting along quicker. He felt a debriefing session would be helpful to all involved. Mr. Zagorski agreed, noting stipends for Planning Board members were added on town hall floor. Mr. Reed knew that might happen, but the Planning Board did not offer up any number or plan ahead of time. He agreed that instead these things should be discussed and planned for.

- Mr. Reed reported on annual walk through of Moose Hill Reservoir property by DEP officials, which he attended. Dam quality will be looked at along with original purchase documents, as some of the parcel could be State owned land.

### **Minutes**

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 1/14/08, 2/19/08 and 5/05/8 Regular Session minutes. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Signatures (Mr. Brennan left the room during this discussion.)**

Recommendation from Police Chief and Town Administrator for Leicester to join Reverse 911 Program, which will be operated and maintained by Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Zagorski asked if this would be used for land lines only. Mr. Reed believed so, but would confirm. Mr. Zagorski also inquired about the status of the current emergency system in Leicester. Mr. Reed will follow up on these items.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to authorize Town Administrator to execute Memorandum of Agreement for Worcester Regional Alerting System between the Town and Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Public Hearing – Common Victuallers License**

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

Georgios Vasilakeris, Gesaka Inc., was present on his application for Common Victuallers License at Bill's Pizza, 1141 Stafford St in Rochdale. He stated that he lives in Paxton. He felt this new strip mall would be a good location for his food establishment.

Mr. Zagorski asked what the hours of operation would be. Mr. Vasilakeris stated 11:00am-10:00pm seven days. Mr. Brennan cautioned him with regard to delivery service, this being a residential neighborhood. Ms. Provencher agreed; the four-corner intersection can be dangerous. She asked that all delivery personnel have proper insurance coverage.

Mr. Vasilakeris understood; he has been in the business eight years, his family for twenty years. He will assure that all drivers are insured. The Board wished him well in this new venture.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Common Victuallers License at 1141 Main Street. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

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

### **Board Reports/Other Business**

Mr. Zagorski:

- Becker has broke ground on new turf field at Leicester campus, with completion estimated for this Fall. High School games could soon be played there. They are also working toward a wellness center and continue to work toward refurbishing the May House.
- Wind Study has been completed, but report does not recommend any of the sites, with issues such as safety setbacks, size of towers needed, not enough wind volume, not cost effective, FAA

concerns, protected open space and rare species of fauna present. He commended the work of Leicester resident Scott Broskey, who has been an invaluable resource in this endeavor. Now, Scott is on to pursue solar power grant opportunities.

Mr. Antanavica:

- Noted grant opportunities for “green” energy issues, he asked that the information be placed on the Town’s website. Mr. Zagorski reported that there are significant tax benefits to “going green”. Mr. Reed will look into these grant options with Phase 3 remodeling of Town Hall third floor area.
- Donation of fencing to the Town from a Worcester construction project at the YMCA on Shore Drive resulted in praise of the Leicester Highway workers who were sent to remove the fencing. This product will be utilized at local parks and the like, and was a rare find. He asked that a letter of thanks be sent to the officials at YMCA, and a letter acknowledging the fine work of the Highway staffers be sent to the Supt.
- To follow up on charge from the Board, he recommends the Town change the election date to follow the town meeting. He felt it would have many advantages. The Board agreed, and asked that a memo in this regard be sent to the Bylaw Committee which would meet the 90-day notice requirement.
- With the recent closing of Duffy’s mill outlet store, he is hearing that the Millbrook Company (owners) facility on Route 56 will be next, moving to Connecticut once a facility is built on land owned there. He felt we should take proactive measures to promote re-use of these vacated buildings.

Ms. Provencher:

- Thanked all for attending Annual Town Meeting, and for reauthorizing the Town to remove acreage from passive to active recreation at the Burncoat Park facility. This will allow us to move on to the next phase in the legislative process.

Mr. Brennan:

- Worcester Telegram article this date states that access road to Worcester Airport will be revisited. Mr. Reed noted that he is the Board’s appointee to this current “mobility study” group. They are only at the evaluation state at this time, and while they are focusing on access, it is geared more toward total Worcester access. He did feel perhaps that the consultant will look into specifics, however.
- Build the new Fenway Park at Worcester Airport
- Memorial Day ceremonies will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>, parade beginning at 10:30am from Memorial School, ending at the Town Common, where festivities will be held. Cherry Valley American Legion will hold open house and flag burning ceremonies.
- Apologized to all for not having an American Flag displayed at town meeting.

Mr. Belanger:

- Noted various liaison assignments for board members, asking for feedback on any changes they may be looking for.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,  
Administrative Assistant