

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JUNE 24, 2008**

Chairman Belanger called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Douglas Belanger, Dianna Provencher, Richard Antanavica and Stanley Zagorski. Also present was Town Administrator Robert Reed. Selectman Brennan was absent.

Eagle Scout Award

Eric LeBlanc, 1630 Main Street, was present (as was his mother) to receive an award for achieving the Eagle Rank from the Board Scouts of America. Mr. Belanger apologized for missing the ceremony, but wanted to recognize this significant achievement, noting that history speaks to many leaders of our country who have been Eagle Scouts. The Board presented Eric with a plaque and a certificate and thanked him for his service to the community. Eric thanked the Board for recognizing his honor.

Reappointments – the list dated 6/24/08 was amended as follows:

- Add "yes" for Richard Antanavica to Capital Improvement Committee, hold on others
- Hold on Development Review Committee at this time
- Add "yes" for all members listed under Government Study Committee
- Advisory Board is a 3-year term

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to make FY'09 reappointments per list (on file) dated 6/24/08, as amended. Ms. Provencher seconded.

Mr. Zagorski felt the need for a Development Review Committee is no longer, as the intent is to work with new retail or commercial ventures, of which there have been none since the Wal-Mart project. The Board agreed to hold on any appointments at this time. Mr. Zagorski felt that the Revenue Enhancement Committee has had a rough start, there are no funds available to do anything, and it seems to mirror the Economic Development Committee. Chris Goodney, Advisory Board rep, felt that there were quorum issues, but felt that it was a worthwhile goal. Mr. Belanger suggested they work together over the summer and reach out to other towns or municipal organizations and see if having learned individuals in to brainstorm might jump start the group. Mr. Zagorski noted they were 0-2 for meetings thus far, but they will try again. Mr. Belanger felt perhaps if there were a reason to attend, members may show up.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Leicester Housing Authority – Joint Appointment

LHA members Bob Small and Maureen Seaver were present, as was Director Dan Brosnihan; Richard Connor and Phyllis White were unable to attend. Mr. Brosnihan noted that former LHA member William Millett passed away recently. The vacancy allows for a joint appointment process with the Board of Selectmen. Candidate Richard Hammarstrom was present, noting he is a resident of the Leicester Housing and thanked all for their consideration. Mr. Brosnihan noted that Mr. Millett was also a resident of the Housing Authority, and they felt it good to have a member of the housing community on the board.

Mr. Small nominated Richard Hammarstrom for membership on the Leicester Housing Authority. Polled:

<u>LHA:</u>		<u>BOS:</u>	
Mr. Small:	AYE	Mr. Zagorski:	AYE
Ms. Seaver:	AYE	Mr. Anatanvica:	AYE
		Ms. Provencher:	AYE
		Mr. Belanger:	AYE

The Board thanked Mr. Hammarstrom for applying, and the members for joining us this evening. Mr. Belanger noted that Mr. Hammarstrom will need to be sworn in, to contact our office in that regard.

Police Dept – Special Police Officers

Mr. Reed noted that this is not the same as special municipal employees, but rather a position that the union contracts allow for. It is recommended by Chief Hurley that Local 168A dispatchers John Chase and Serenity Allen be appointed, as requested, as Special Police Officers. Chief Hurley notes that both have completed reserve academy and hold CPR and first aid certifications. Their appointment will provide the LPD with additional manpower to cover police detail work.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to appoint John Chase and Serenity Allen as Special Police Officers, effective immediately. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

COA Bus Driver – Mr. Reed noted request this date from Personnel Board to make some changes to the van driver positions. The Board asked that they be allowed time to review the matter first. PENDING

Parks & Recreation Committee – Application from Cynthia Garabedian and recommendation from Parks & Rec group to appoint Cindy to vacant seat.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Cynthia Garabedian to Parks & Recreation Committee, term to expire annually on June 30th. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Burncoat Park Planning Committee – Ms. Provencher noted recent application from Michele Cospier.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Michele Cospier to Burncoat Park Planning Committee, an ad-hoc group. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Council on Aging – Ms. Provencher noted application and recommendation for appointment.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Barbara Paszuk to Council on Aging, term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Correspondence

1. Memo from Fire Chief requesting 1983 Ford pumper engine be declared surplus and put up for disposal. Mr. Zagorski asked that an estimated value be obtained. Mr. Antanavica noted that it does have a new engine and the rear end and tank are in decent shape. He suggested selling it via eBay, which was recently done by the Town of Shrewsbury. Mr. Reed noted that we would certainly set a minimum bid.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to declare 1983 Ford pumper as surplus equipment, to be sold. Ms. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Town Administrator's Report

- Mr. Reed reported on EMS service affiliation, noting that we have been meeting with representatives of St. Vincent's Hospital along with other communities. There is concern with the fees being implemented, especially with municipal budgets already set. In the meantime, various means of accreditation are being looked at. A fact sheet was prepared to help us better understand the program, with a July 31st deadline for a letter of intent to be submitted. He felt there will be more meetings locally prior to our next meeting. He noted that representatives claim they will not be making money on this program. He will look to find out what the benefits to the Town will be.
- Mr. Reed reported that RFP for Hillcrest Country Club lease should be advertised next week. He is preparing what he hopes will be a straight forward document.
- Mr. Reed noted project update sheet with development highlighted on various projects. Mr. Zagorski asked that the Moose Hill Water project be added to the list. Mr. Antanavica reported that he has developed a survey for townspeople to respond via the website as to what they want to see done with Hillcrest Country Club; it seems many want to "invest in change". Mr. Belanger cautioned that these surveys may not be reflective of all residents. And, he added, we have been working on this RFP for long-term lease for several years in an attempt to make the golf course viable. But, Mr. Antanavica stated, if that does not work out satisfactorily, we need to look at other options. Mr. Reed felt that was a fair compromise; let's see what the RFP process brings forth. If there is to be a change in use, we may need to make a significant investment to do so. Mr. Antanavica asked that we at least consider ideas that are brought forth.

Advisory Board – Joint Appointment

Edward Cote nominated members Christopher Goodney, David Connolly and John Verick for reappointment.

<u>Advisory Board:</u>		<u>Board of Selectmen:</u>	
Greg Shambo:	AYE	Stanley Zagorski:	Aye
Edward Cote:	AYE	Richard Antanavica:	AYE
Russell Harris:	AYE	Dianna Provencher:	AYE
David Connolly:	AYE	Douglas Belanger:	AYE
Chris Goodney:	AYE		

Members were reappointed to a 3-year term. Chairman Belanger thanked the members for all they do on behalf of the Town.

Eller's on the Hill - Restaurant

The Board took some time to speak with owners of Eller on the Hill, who were here on their application for change of location on their liquor license. Jeff and Lucy Eller are planning a move to Union Plaza, a development of Bruce Vartanian, and will be purchasing a section of the facility. They look forward to the improved space inside and especially parking, the next step in their family establishment. They intend to keep the menu the same, perhaps add more specials. They hope to expand the hours of the restaurant but continue with the family atmosphere. There will be a lounge but it will not be open late. Mr. Belanger noted this is the former site of Cherry Valley Builders on Route 9.

Liquor License Hearing – Change of Location

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

Chairman Belanger read aloud the meeting notice, asking if abutters had been notified. Ms. LeChasseur stated yes, return receipts have been received along with original notification receipts.

In reviewing the application, Mr. Zagorski wondered if they would also want to change their name, since they won't be on a hill anymore at the proposed new location. The Board agreed to consider changing the name if allowed by ABCC at this time, as it was not advertised to do so.

Mr. Zagorski asked if the new facility would be some type of condo set-up. Mrs. Eller stated that there will be three units sub-divided, with there front location being a single-floor area with nothing overhead. He asked if fire protection would be included. She stated yes, as per Code enforcement regulations.

Mr. Antanavica noted that a fire alarm system is designed and regular inspections performed. He felt this a good move, improvements to the neighborhood, the parking lot and building. He enjoyed the restaurant and hoped it would be a positive move for the Ellers.

Ms. Provencher asked when the move is planned. The Ellers are aiming for October this year, but as soon as possible.

Mr. Belanger was concerned if the move was not made in time, was this license contingent on closing of the current facility. He felt the Board should include "subject to purchase and sale agreement" in the Motion. Mr. Antanavica noted that certain approvals will be needed for the builder. Ms. Provencher noted occupancy will be increased to accommodate 160 people.

Mr. Belanger asked what hours of operation are intended to be. The Ellers stated they will remain closed on Mondays, with Tuesday – Saturday open 6:00am to 11:00pm and Sunday 12:00noon to 11:00pm. To echo Mr. Brennan's usual suggestion, Mr. Belanger recommended longer hours be stated, not that they have to remain open that late, but to be within the limits of the law.

Mr. Zagorski asked if employees and owners will be server trained. They stated yes. He asked if they would have music available. They were not certain at this time.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve change in location for Eller's on the Hill, with name change included if allowed by ABCC; changes subject to Purchase & Sale Agreement.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

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

National Grid – Storm Procedures

Aleta Fazzone, Regional Executive, and Randy Wentworth, Divisions Operations Director, were present to speak to issues involving lack of communications during recent storm and loss of power. They apologized for the breakdown in communication within their internal system, as well as for outside users.

Chairman Belanger explained that it was not all about us coming first, but rather public safety concerns with downed powerlines. The Town was merely looking for a window when we might see crews out to make repairs. He noted that power outage calls began from the Leicester Police Dept. at 11:20pm on June 10th. Calls continued through most of the day on June 11th with many areas of Town experiencing outages. The special numbers on file for municipalities to use in this type of emergency were not working. Calls from a police department, which you would think would warrant urgent attention, went unanswered for many hours. It wasn't until the Town Administrator called our government account rep that any action was taken on behalf of Ngrid.

Mr. Wentworth noted that weather service reports called for storms to hit western Mass, so extra crews were sent to that area of the State, when the worst of it hit here in Central Mass. He was not making excuses, but wanted us to know that it became a mobilization issue at that point. They got behind for repairs before the outages even occurred and there was no catching up.

Ms. Fazzone stated that Ngrid relies on calls from users to be notified of outages, it helps them target areas of concern. Unfortunately, while Leicester officials were using the correct contact resources, internal personnel were not aware of the municipal emergency numbers and therefore did not provide the information needed nor process the calls in an expeditious manner. They continue to assess the situation as it played out and will be conducting an internal debriefing meeting. They will then be in touch and make a report to Leicester officials.

Mr. Reed stated he was presented with what was a frightening situation when personnel at Ngrid could not even call us back never mind give us any idea of the severity of the outages or when crews might be available to remedy the situation. He noted the annual invitations to storm preparedness meetings, which he felt were worthless; that was apparent when the planned process did not work. He assured the representatives that the Town's calling for assistance would not be frivolous; only in an emergency situation, when we would expect a return call.

Ms. Fazzone will provide Mr. Reed with her cell phone number for future reference, and noted that calling Scott Farrar, the Town's government account rep, would also be an option. They will provide the Town with a report following their debriefing meeting. The Board thanked them for attending.

Board Reports/Other Business

Ms. Provencher:

- Burncoat Park legislation is now in third stage of legislative process
- Friends of the Elders are working on update to their brochure, which she is assisting with
- Inquired as to process for upkeep of private roads, noting the Highway Dept. always provided grading services

Mr. Antanavica:

- Outdoor wood boiler hearing to be held at 7:00pm on July 31st in the Town Hall
- "Hearts for Heat" campaign should include meetings of local adversaries to work with those in need of oil, food, etc. He expects a growing number of residents to be choosing between food and heat, or prescriptions vs. tax payments. He suggested we hold a meeting in July to prepare for the problems that we

will see in the coming winter months. Mr. Reed felt the Town Hall should be used as a resource outlet, but not be involved in actual distribution of any funding. Ms. Provencher felt the C.E.R.T.S. team might be able to help. Mr. Zagorski felt the increased oil and gas prices will have a spiraling affect; we should invite local food pantries, civic groups, establish hotline, etc.

- Winter snow & ice maintenance bills to developers have not been paid.
MOTION: Mr. Zagorski moved to send letters from Selectmen requesting payment in full.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS
- Tap water with filters should be looked into vs. the current bottled water we pay for in Town buildings. He asked for quotes and savings analysis.
- Wished all a happy and safe Fourth of July

Mr. Zagorski:

- Inquired as to heating oil bid results. Mr. Reed reported that we await results from French River Collaboration due out in July, while we continue to utilize State bid thru September'08.
- Establish clearinghouse relative to goings on about town where residents could see what was in the loop with regard to building or planning projects, economic development, etc. He continues to receive inquiries when visiting the Senior Center or other civic groups
- Is there some type of retirement celebration in line for Supt. Mike Dubrule
- Summer's here...kids are out and about...be careful!

Mr. Belanger:

- Noted that our round tables seem to benefit the Town best; stern, frank discussions regarding issues at hand, as done tonight with National Grid
- Employment Contract with Supt. Thomas Wood. Mr. Reed noted only one change regarding Personal Days. Open and frank discussions were held between parties, and he recommends approval. The Board noted the performance of our Foreman, Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Inspector, and was certain he will continue to serve the Town well in this role as Superintendent.

MOTION: Mr. Zagorski moved to approve and execute, including Selectman Brennan, an employment agreement between the Town and Thomas Wood, as presented.
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 6/02/08 Regular Session minutes.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Signatures

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to execute \$340,000 BAN borrowing for Town Treasurer.
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to sign letters of appreciation to Town Hall Building Commission members. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant