

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2007**

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

**Executive Session – MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B(3)**

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to go into Executive Session to discuss sale of Town owned property, no announcements expected in open session. Mr. Antanavica seconded.

|                       |              |               |                 |               |     |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----|
| The Board was polled: | Mr. Brennan: | AYE           | Mr. Antanavica: | AYE           |     |
| Ms. Provencher:       | AYE          | Mr. Belanger: | AYE             | Mr. Zagorski: | AYE |

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:03pm.  
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:45pm.

**Reconvene Public Hearing – Wal-Mart Motor Vehicle Repair License**

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to reconvene the public hearing from February 20, 2006. Mr. Antanavica seconded. 4-0, Ms. Provencher left the room during discussion.

Chairman Zagorski reviewed additional paperwork submitted by Wal-Mart representatives to complete application for MV Repair License under Wal-Mart's Tire/Lube Express program. The Board was satisfied that all documentation had been completed. Mr. Belanger has spoken to local competitors, who would not protest the license application.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to approve Motor Vehicle Repair License at 1620 Main Street. Mr. Brennan seconded. 3-1-0, Mr. Belanger opposed and Ms. Provencher absent.

Mr. Antanavica noted restrictions on License discussed on February 20<sup>th</sup> include hours of operation 7AM to 8PM, no more than 15 motor registered motor vehicles on property at any one time, with copies of hazmat storage manifest submitted to local Fire Dept. on monthly basis.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to close public hearing. Mr. Antanavica seconded. 4-0, Ms. Provencher absent.

(Ms. Provencher returned to the Selectmen's meeting at this time.)

**1037 Main Street – Sale of Town owned property**

Mr. Reed reported that the Town had received two bids for sale of 1037 Main Street property, former police station. He recommended award to Comprehensive Physical Therapy at the price of \$150,000; bid included specifications for construction to begin in April with bank note certifying loan for work. While the other party submitted a well-intentioned bid, their construction plan was not solid, and the price was half that amount.

MOTION: Mr. Belanger moved to award bid for sale of 1037 Main Street to Comprehensive Physical Therapy at \$150,000 as submitted. Mr. Antanavica seconded.

Mr. Belanger thanked all involved to get this project out to bid. Mr. Antanavica noted the importance to the Town for the successful bidder to proceed immediately with construction plans, the timeline being noted as a critical aspect of the bid specifications.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**Hillcrest Country Club – update from sub-committees**

Mr. Brennan reported that the members had met with a consultant who has worked on many other projects with regard to preparing Requests for Proposal document, which will allow the Town to be put out to bid for both golf course and clubhouse lease and/or sale. While the committee members tried to accomplish this task on their own, it is too much of an undertaking. TA recommended hiring Barbara Hanley, Golf & Land Economics, of Westport MA for the not to exceed figure of \$5000 per her recent proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to hire Barbara Hanley to complete RFP for management of Hillcrest Country Club. Ms. Provencher seconded.

The Board raised questions about the not-to-exceed figure of \$5000 for the consulting agreement, wondering whether additional costs laid out were included within that price or would they be extra.

MOTION and SECONDED AMENDED to authorize Town Administrator Robert Reed to execute Agreement for a not-to-exceed amount of \$5000; any further costs must be pre-approved by TA.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

**ATM – draft list of article requests for consideration**

The Selectmen reviewed list and designated which department to invite into special meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> for discussion of their town meeting article requests. Other departments will meet with the Board on the 19<sup>th</sup>, while the School Budget will be discussed in sub-committee on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Correspondence**

1. Memo from School Dept. requesting a number of copy machines be declared surplus equipment. TA asked that this be held at this time until he has more information from Facilities Manager. PENDING
2. Meeting notice for March 8<sup>th</sup> Open Space & Recreation Plan forum to be held in Town Hall at 7pm. Ms. Provencher noted that the OSR Committee has been meeting regularly, not it is time to hear input from the public. She urged residents to attend and send in their surveys. FILE
3. Request for appointment of 2007 Health Insurance Advisory Committee members. TA noted that statute allows for representation of member employee groups. Bid process has been completed, and the HIAC will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> to hear health insurance proposals. Mr. Belanger suggested using named individual “or representative” as employee rep may change. Mr. Zagorski asked who calls for this meeting and who names the representatives. TA stated that he organizes the meetings and the Selectmen appoint the representatives who make a recommendation to the BOS; the Board of Selectmen has the authority to choose the health insurance plans.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to appoint per list, or group's representative, to serve on Health Insurance Advisory Committee for 2007. Ms. Provencher seconded. 4-0 (Mr. Belanger happened to be out of the room at this time)

4. Letter from resident commending the heroic actions of Police Officer Dyson during a recent incident while off duty in the Town of Auburn. Mr. Antanavica noted Officer Dyson's previous experience on the Fire Dept, while Mr. Zagorski noted recent MADD award the Officer received. The Board was pleased to have such dedicated and knowledgeable staff in our public safety departments. FILE
5. Meeting notice from CMMPO, a division of CMRPC, which Ms. Provencher will attend. FILE

Late – Snow & Ice Account update. FILE

Late – Breaking News from WRTA naming Stephen O'Neil as Administrator. Mr. Brennan noted Selectmen Belanger's involvement on this selection committee, and his continued involvement in maintaining bus schedule coverage for Leicester, where he has represented the TOL well. FILE

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

Mr. Reed reported that the Health Insurance Advisory Committee will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> to consider proposals from vendors, which will be presented by Group Benefits Strategies, our consultant.

Mr. Reed presented first draft of town meeting articles requests, which were due in by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Board will invite those requesting articles into a special meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Reed reported on estimated budget figures, with preliminary estimates from the State being released last week. Local Aid increase for Leicester is estimated at \$130,000. He warned that the budget picture looks more bleak this year, yet the School has come in with article requests for a 2½% Proposition Override to fund their budget, a separate article to purchase \$73,000 worth of textbooks, along with a 12.9% budget increase. Mr. Reed cannot recommend an override, which was requested without any plan in place; he did not feel it even merited discussion.

The Board discussed what he has presented, amounting to a \$2.5 million budget deficit for 2008. Members of the budget sub-committee, which involves Selectmen Brennan and Zagorski, two School Committee members, Supt. Dubrulle and Business Manager Rosa Todd, along with three Advisory Committee members, will meet again on March 15<sup>th</sup> to review School budget request. Mr. Brennan asked that the School Committee and Supt. be invited to the Selectmen's meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> for discussion of their town meeting article requests.

Mr. Belanger reminded the budget sub-committee members that they have no authority to agree to any type of budget or town meeting deals, so to speak. The group is made up of representatives from their respective boards, and must come back to report on progress of the sub-committee; only the Selectmen have authority to take any votes or make agreements with regard to funding. He urged all to depend on our Town Administrator to set budget figures and keep us informed of budget projections, noting that it is Mr. Reed's job to work out the Town's budgets and related projections. He also noted that the original charge of this working group was to build bridges to be better prepared for town meeting. Mr. Zagorski agreed 100%.

Mr. Antanavica was concerned with the lack of a spending plan from the School Department, which all other departments produce in a timely manner. Mr. Brennan noted that Mr. Reed has been asking for this information since he started. Unfortunately, the School Department has discretionary transfer authority between various budgets within the School Dept., unlike the rest of the general government departments who must live within their means.

Mr. Brennan felt that the School Department tends to present an inflated budget, then cut it and claim they are heroes, while blaming the Board of Selectmen for effecting children's education curriculum.

Mr. Reed noted that an override must also be approved as a ballot question on a Town Election ballot. This was not presented to the Town Clerk, and was not presented as an Override in a timely manner to the Selectmen. He recommends that we remove the article request from consideration.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to not include any override article on the town meeting warrant, and further moved to report this to the Chairman of the School Committee in writing. Mr. Belanger seconded.

After further discussion,

MOTION AMENDED to include that a 2½ Proposition Override would not be placed the Town Election ballot either, with notification to School Committee. SECONDED AMENDED UNANIMOUS

**Board Reports/Other Business**

Mr. Zagorski expressed concern with regard to the lack of response from utility companies during the recent ice storm. It was agreed to hold debriefing meetings after any type of weather or disaster related events, so that we can all improve on procedures and communications. Ms. Provencher was concerned with lost revenues for businesses as a result of utility outages. Mr. Antanavica will look into a generator audit of the Town's equipment, wondering what happened with town facilities.

Mr. Antanavica asked that both the public and the Selectmen attend the upcoming Planning Board hearings on the four zoning articles, which will educate us all prior to town meeting.

Mr. Antanavica noted that two of the three police vehicles belong on the Capital Plan. He will have the CIPC's recommendation for the March 19<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Brennan asked for a plan for utilization of proceeds from sale of old police station.

Mr. Brennan noted upcoming Jimmy Brennan scholarship fund event to be held March 10<sup>th</sup> at Leicester Country Club.

Ms. Provencher will attend CMRPC quarterly meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, with regular monthly meeting to be held March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Provencher thanked our emergency responders and public safety departments for taking care of the mess from the recent ice storm.

Mr. Belanger also promoted upcoming Zoning Bylaw hearings, suggesting that LCAC broadcast info.

Mr. Zagorski reported on recent meeting with himself, the TA, and Becker College representatives, who will be building a new dormitory through Town planning process, are still considering synthetic field replacement, with a stadium facility in the future, as well as what they are calling a wellness center. He noted that they have invited the Town to be involved and to utilize the facilities when complete.

Mr. Zagorski reported on recent event with parents and coaches, thanking all for involvement in Parks & Recreation's basketball program. An award was presented to Bob Pingeton for his many years of refereeing of these games.

Mr. Zagorski noted that Wal-Mart is due to open on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and welcomed the retail store to Leicester.

**Minutes**

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve November 6, 2006 Regular & Executive Session minutes.  
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,  
Administrative Assistant