

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
APRIL 3, 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.

The meeting opened with congratulations on Selectman Zagorski's re-election to office. Mr. Zagorski thanked the Board for their support during his past tenure and the townspeople for re-electing him. Although last year was marred with an extended hospital stay due to medical issues, he felt like the Board accomplished much during his chairmanship. He named the first Route 9 development committee, central issues regarding the Town & School's fiscal policies that needed to be addressed, along with related budget expertise and School negotiation meetings being an active issue, Dianna's work on the Burncoat Park active recreation issue, economic development process, and the development of long-term fiscal plan being some of the major tasks taken on. He looked forward to a new year with all the Board has to accomplish.

Reorganization

Mr. Antanavica nominated Douglas Belanger as Chairman. Ms. Provencher seconded. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Belanger was named Chairman.

Mr. Belanger nominated Thomas Brennan as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Antanavica seconded. Ms. Provencher wondered about the vice chairman's position, noting that it has usually been done on a rotating basis, and she is next in line for the slot. Mr. Brennan felt that, as the most senior member, he should be given the chance for nomination with his experience. Mr. Zagorski felt that Ms. Provencher had every right to bring this question up, although he does not believe that the rotating appointment is a rule. Mr. Belanger agreed that there is a history of the positions falling into a rotating schedule. However, he has discussed this matter privately, and considering the track record over the past year with his illnesses, he feels that Mr. Brennan's years of experience would serve the Board better in the vice chairman's position at this time.

Mr. Antanavica nominated Dianna Provencher as Vice-Chairman, which did not draw a second. Mr. Brennan was named Vice Chairman.

Mr. Brennan nominated Dianna Provencher as 2nd Vice Chairman. Mr. Antanavica seconded. No other nominations were offered. Ms. Provencher was named 2nd Vice Chair.

The Board reorganized with the lineup as follows: Douglas Belanger, Thomas Brennan, Dianna Provencher, Richard Antanavica, Stanley Zagorski.

Requests for Appointment

Cable Advisory Committee – Application from Michael Wilson.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Michael Wilson as member of Cable Advisory Committee, term to expire 6/30/09. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Belanger noted there are still two vacancies; he asked Town Counsel, but has been advised that he cannot serve as a member, he is merely the Selectmen's liaison to the Committee.

Inspector of Animals – Nomination forms for reappointment of Patricia Dykas-Gonet and Kenneth Graslie.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Patricia Dykas-Gonet as Inspector of Animals, term to expire 4/30/08. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Kenneth Graslie as Inspector of Animals, term to expire 4/30/08. Mr. Antanavica seconded. 4-0, Ms. Provencher abstained.

Police Department

(A) Re-employment list for Permanent Full-time Police Officer, no one responded by signing that they would be willing to accept position in Leicester from some 50 lay-offs of area police officers.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved for Chairman to sign Cert #70265 re-employment list. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

(B) Request from retired Leicester police officer Donald Lennerton to be reinstated as part-time officer; Mr. Lennerton's request meets the Civil Service requirements.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to allow appointment of Donald Lennerton as part-time police officer, subject to all Town and Civil Service personnel procedures. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Late – Request for appointment of Bryan Porcaro as Part-time Dispatcher.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Bryan Porcaro as Part-time Dispatcher, subject to Town personnel procedures. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Two (2) one-day liquor license requests

Becker College request for one-day permit for Friday April 27, 2007 from 2-6pm to be held at Leicester Campus. The Board noted that the application had been received in a timely manner.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to approve one-day Beer & Wine License as requested, subject to recommendation and approval of Police Chief. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Christ Church request for one-day permit for Saturday May 5, 2007 from 6-9pm to be held in Parish Hall.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve one-day Beer & Wine License as requested, subject to recommendation and approval of Police Chief. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Annual Town Meeting – BOS recommendations. Mr. Reed noted numbering could still change.

Article 14 – Chapter 90 funding

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve article for receipt of Chapter 90 funding. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Article 15 – Elected Officials Pay – Mr. Belanger noted that TA will budget for Town Clerk's salary increase. This article sets the rate of pay only.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to level fund elected officials pay, except for the Town Clerk, who is the one regular full-time employee. Mr. Brennan seconded. UNANIMOUS

Article 18 – Reserve Fund – set at \$50,000 past few years which the Advisory Board is responsible for.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve article for Reserve Fund at \$50,000. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Article 24 – Memorial School windows/doors – Mr. Antanavica explained that an article needs to go to town meeting to reappropriate funds from different articles to complete the window and door replacement project at the Memorial School. There will be no new funding sought at this time; the article will address language issues to incorporate windows and doors to complete the work. The Board supported the concept, but was asked to wait until Mr. Wicklund had an estimated cost for completion. PENDING

Article 20 – Capital Plan - Mr. Antanavica reported that the CIPC has not yet done the required ranking of requests for Capital purchases, but should have the ranking done for our 4/17 meeting. The group did recommend the two police vehicles be replaced, the \$50,000 cost of which is incorporated into the TA's budgeting plan; other requests for capital improvements under consideration come to an additional \$245,000.

Articles 25 and 26 – Hillside Road and Ingram Road – TA reported that Town Counsel recommends these articles not be considered at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to remove articles for road conversion for Hillside and Ingram Roads. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Articles 27 and 28 – Trace Place and Sherri Lane – The Board agreed to hold on these two articles, which have been presented for road conversion by the Planning Board. PENDING

Article 32 – Abandonment Bylaw – TA noted that this was proposed in order to remove members who are not showing up for meetings and not responding to any attempts to contact them in regards to membership, resulting in quorum problems. Town Counsel still needs to review language.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve abandonment bylaw subject to review by Town Counsel. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Articles 33-36 – Zoning Bylaws – TA noted that the Planning Board hearings are being held tonight starting at 8:00pm. PENDING

Other article requests – Mr. Zagorski noted that the School Dept. had submitted request to fund some \$76,000 for purchase of textbooks. The Board agreed that it would set a dangerous precedent if this were to be funded via article instead within the School budget. TA noted that he did not include this request in draft Warrant.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to not include article for purchase of textbooks in the Warrant. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Application for Licenses – Coinstar Entertainment Services Inc.

Andy Morin, representing Coinstar, was present to request entertainment license for six games, to be held at the Wal-Mart facility for the family fun room. Asked what hours would be and if area would be gated, Mr. Morin stated the area is open within Wal-Mart store facility and would be available during store hours. With regard to staffing, Mr. Morin stated that no one would be working on site, any issues would be brought to the Wal-Mart customer service rep. With regard to safety, he reported that all games are inspected and must meet State requirements. Board members asked about loitering, security, etc. Mr. Morin stated that these issues have never been a problem in other stores.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve entertainment license per application for six games. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Correspondence

1. Request from licensee Joseph Bahmad to change name of Used Car License from Cherry Valley Getty to Bahamas Dealer.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve change in name of license, as requested. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

2. Notice of resignation from Government Study Committee from Dennis Hennessy. As Chairman of the GSC, Mr. Belanger noted the unique and valuable experience that Mr. Hennessy brought to the group.

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

Mr. Belanger felt this was a good time to recommend the membership be decreased from nine to seven members. He noted that two additional membership spots were added when interest was shown. Mr. Antanavica felt the seven current members could handle the pending tasks, and felt it would be difficult for someone to learn all that they've accomplished to this point.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to reduce membership on Government Study Committee to seven members. Mr. Brennan seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Brennan noted that he will have this group on his live LCAC television show April 11th. He asked citizens to get involved, call in with any questions they may have.

3. Notice of obsolete equipment at the Public Library.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to approve removal of obsolete equipment. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

4. Memo from Board of Assessors notifying all that the official address for Wal-Mart store has been changed to 20 Soojians Drive. Ms. Provencher noted that signage to that affect has been ordered. FILE

5. Invitation from Leicester Little League to march in annual parade, to be held April 28th. FILE

6. Notice of workshop relative to energy savings performance contracting. TA to attend. PENDING
7. Notice from MMA regarding House Ways & Means Budget due out April 11th. Mr. Belanger suggested we all call in support on increased budget lines for communities. FILE

Budget Discussion

Mr. Belanger recognized members of the Advisory Board, who were present to discuss budget issues at hand. He noted that there will be no "Proposition 2½ Override" article on the Warrant. He reminded all that there needs to be a fair and equitable distribution of the pie; the Town Administrator has made his recommendation that there be a flat 4% increase to both General Government and School budgets and each segment of the municipality be made to live within that number. The Advisory Board agreed.

With regard to general government, non-union, non-contractual employees, Mr. Cote, Advisory Board, asked if any increases to the Personnel Compensation Plan are included in this 4% limit. Mr. Reed noted that the Comp Plan does not have to be approved by town meeting, only the Classification Plan, which is included for typographical error corrections only. He stated that any increase in the comp plan would have to be included within each departmental budget, and he would have to include any retroactive wages within the special town meeting. TA noted that any and all budgetary issues would have to be included in the 4% budget increase for each department.

Mr. Zagorski proposed to form a working group that would seek to adopt a long range plan for the Town, to go out between three to ten years, to include financial and budgetary parameters. He felt it should be similar to the way our Capital Plan works. He will move toward formation of such a group.

Article 19 – Operating Budget

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to set operating budget at \$25,304,669. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

(At a later time during the meeting, Advisory Board Chairman David Connolly came into the meeting to report that the Advisory Board has also voted recommendation for operating budget at \$25,304,669.)

Town Administrator's Report

- Mr. Reed reported on bus turn around issue at new Wal-Mart facility. He has spoken with project engineers and Town Planner to correct the situation and rework the bus turn around area to accommodate WRTA buses as required. Ms. Provencher and Mr. Zagorski brought up the water drainage issues that continue to disturb property at Leicester Country Club. There was disagreement as to what was the cause and what the remedy and who's responsibility it would be. Apparently our Town Counsel has determined it to be a dispute among neighbors which does not involve the Town.
- Mr. Reed reported on meeting April 2nd of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee. He is recommending we go with MIA's proposal for health insurance, which would require all employees on one plan, that being Blue Cross/Blue Shield, with a minimum of two year sign-up term. He has had no complaints from employee representatives, who feel this is a good program. He agreed that general government employees should have a representative on the HIAC speaking on their behalf.
- Mr. Reed reported on bid results for sale of 1037 Main Street. All bids have been thoroughly reviewed.
MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to award bid to Comprehensive Physical Therapy Group, for the high bid of \$150,000. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

Board Reports/Other Business

- Chairman Belanger asked members to review liaison and sub-committee assignments to see what they are interested in serving on. He felt we should continue to back off of the liaison involvement; the Town Administrator needs to work directly with various departments.

- Mr. Zagorski noted a letter to him dated 3/13/07 from Educational Association of Leicester President Janet Richardson requesting that discussions relating to specific clubs or organizations within school system take place in executive session. Mr. Reed noted that Town Counsel has advised that the referenced discussions would not be legitimate for executive session; he will respond accordingly.
- Mr. Zagorski asked what is happening with Greenville Dam assessment issue, when will we be in compliance with order. Mr. Reed reported that he had funds designated within Highway Budget to hire consultant to assess condition; he hopes to have project underway after town meeting.
- Mr. Zagorski noted a letter he was to send to the auditing firm from the Board of Selectmen, which he recommended be co-signed by the Town Accountant. He felt he could sign the letter now, and then we will have the auditors in to our next available meeting after town meeting to discuss this past year's review.
- Mr. Antanavica reported that the Capital Improvement Planning Committee is considering changing the regulations and forms that are in place to revamp the current process. It was noted that this could involve a General Bylaw amendment, timely notification to Bylaw Committee needs to be made.
- Mr. Antanavica reported that he is working with School facilities manager Carl Wicklund and Superintendent Michael Dubrule to review conditions of school facilities in preparation for Mass. School Building Authority's upcoming grant program.
- Ms. Provencher reported on recent and upcoming CMRPC meetings she attends.
- Ms. Provencher thanked local musician Terry Brennan for his performance at the Senior Center's Red Hats celebration.
- Mr. Brennan asked that the crosswalk in front of St. Joseph's Church; the signage has been knocked over and we need to get Mass Highway Dept. to make the repair.
- Mr. Brennan noted that the Town Administrator's goals and objectives for the upcoming year are due, with contract negotiations due by June 30th.
- Mr. Belanger noted that the Town needs volunteers to serve on the boards and committees. He asked those that attend the town meeting to get more involved.

Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Reed reported that the Planning Board voted tonight against all four road conversion articles that were originally requested for the Warrant. Their zoning articles are still under review at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to remove all four road conversion requests from ATM Warrant. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to approve Zoning articles subject to Planning Board and Town Counsel recommendations. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to close the special and annual town meeting Warrants. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to approve 3/05/07 Executive Session and 3/19/07 Regular & Executive Session minutes. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to adjourn. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur, Administrative Assistant