

**MINUTES  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2007**

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.

**Executive Session – Collective Bargaining**

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations, no public announcements expected, with Board to reconvene in Open Session. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:02pm.  
The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:30pm.

**Request for consideration – 5K road race**

Stuart Kravitz was present to request the Town's permission to hold a 5K Road Race in honor of his son, Devin Kravitz, in association with the American Heart Association. He submitted information (on file) outlining course, timeframes, and related issues such as bathroom facilities, parking, etc.

Chief Hurley was present and had spoken with Mr. Kravitz, noting his support of the race. The Board commended his efforts, and suggested Mr. Kravitz contact local resident Mike Knox, who held these road races in the past and who might be able to lend a helping hand. Fire Chief/EMS Director Robert Wilson was present, and also supported this proposal.

Suggestions were made relative to re-routing the course, and utilizing the Senior Center as a hub.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to support road race, subject to conditions outlined by the Chief of Police. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

**Civil Service (add on)**

Chief Hurley asked BOS to execute Form 56 on Craig Guertin's entrance into military service.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve Chairman's signature on Form 56.  
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chief Hurley asked BOS to appoint Ronald Tarentino as permanent full-time police officer from Roster Certification #70265 dated June 6, 2007.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to appoint Ronald Tarentino as Permanent Full-time Police Officer, subject to all Civil Service and Town personnel procedures.  
Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

Chief Hurley asked BOS to approve and sign his request to waive training at this time for Officer Tarentino.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to authorize Chairman to sign Training Waiver forms for Ronald Tarentino, as requested. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

**Maureen Connery, Aide to Rep. Binienda (add on)**

Mr. Belanger welcomed Maureen Connery, Leicester resident and aide to Representative John Binienda. He noted that "Moe" was basically our acting State Rep, our lead contact over the years, or go-to person. The Board congratulated Maureen on her upcoming retirement, and thanked her for her years of service to the residents and administrative offices, presenting her with a citation on behalf of the community. Members gave personal thanks to Maureen, and wished her well.

Ms. Connery stated that she was very excited, she'll be able to spend time with her family, she has the best husband who supported her all these years, and now four grandchildren to spend time with. She loves the Town of Leicester, and felt it an honor to have served John Binienda.

### **Reserve Fund Transfer**

RFT request from Selectmen's Office in the amount of \$1500 to fund Street Light account, which will not make it through the end of the fiscal year. Although additional funds had been appropriated at the May STM, increasing costs and additional equipment have affected the bottom line. Mr. Antanavica noted that Planning Board requires installation of street lighting with development of new sub-divisions, a subject Mr. Reed wants to explore further.

MOTION: Mr. Zagorski moved to approve \$1500 RFT request as submitted.  
Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Correspondence**

Late. Memo from Police Sgt. Antanavica requesting to maintain Chief's old cruiser when fleet replacement arrives as a short-term solution to inadequate vehicle coverage that has resulted with increased activity within the Department. This 2003 unmarked cruiser could be used on undetected patrols, but would not be used as a front line vehicle. The Board discussed what would have been funds received from sale of vehicle. They agreed to keep it as an extra vehicle for now, that it would not increase the fleet permanently, asked for regular fleet reports, and did not want any major repairs made.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve request to keep 2003 Ford Crown as online vehicle, per discussion. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

1. Notice of retirement from Librarian Patricia Faron effective July 10, 2007 after 24 years of service. Mr. Reed noted that Ms. Faron has been an asset to the Town, has been very easy to work with, and will continue to serve on the Library Designer Selectmen Committee.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to send letter of congratulations, and thanks for year of service to the Town. Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

2. Memo from Fire Department declaring 1963 army surplus tanker as surplus equipment, requesting disposition. Mr. Antanavica noted that the truck is obsolete, and recommended outright sale.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to declare 1963 army tanker as surplus, and to dispose of obsolete equipment via public sale. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Rochdale Park – Project Proposal**

Joseph Rozik was present to offer his services to make improvements to Rochdale Park. He wanted to build dugouts, add electricity. His son, Brian Rozik, was recently killed in a tragic automobile accident, as was his friend and teammate Nathan Plaza. The boys loved baseball and spent a good many years playing at this field. He wanted to immortalize his son's spirit by improving park facilities in his honor. He would put a plan together, carry insurance coverage, and use his own construction equipment. The Board agreed that this was a remarkable undertaking, supported him 100%, and offered the Highway Foreman to be the lead contact that will oversee the project from the Town's perspective. The foreman would know the locations of utilities, etc. and would be an asset to the development of construction plans.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to accept donation of time, materials, labor and equipment to make improvements to Rochdale Park. Ms. Provencher seconded. UNANIMOUS

Mr. Belanger took the opportunity to note that water access to Rochdale Pond is not open to the public. Mr. Reed agreed with mill owner Raymond Shea when he called it an attractive nuisance. While the Town would like to create a swimming area for residents, certain provisions would need to be made. The Board directed the Town Adm. to work toward addressing these concerns, issues such as posting area with signage, liability, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to authorize Mr. Reed to work with Conservation and Highway Departments toward possible use of this facility for town residents. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

**R.E.G. – Renewal Energy Group**

Selectman Zagorski introduced Scott Broskey, an associate member of the Planning Board, who is interested in pursuing renewable energy for the Town. Mr. Broskey spoke of several area communities utilizing wind power to run heating systems, produce electricity, with little cost to the towns. He would like to pursue grant funds on behalf of the Town, and is asking permission to obtain a no-cost audit of the town buildings. Members agreed it was a worthwhile goal, and directed the Town Adm. to assist with application process and to work with Mr. Broskey in this regard.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve application for audit of public buildings.  
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

**Correspondence (continued)**

3. Notice from Personnel Board to local businesses thanking them for donations to the annual Employee Appreciation Day held a June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board agreed that it was a spectacular event, the response to requests for donations was overwhelming, and they congratulated the Personnel Board and staff person Judith Conroy. FILE

4. Letter from resident expressing concern over lack of response from Verizon to repair their equipment. Andrew Sluckis noted continual outages in the Bond Street section of town, and urged the BOS to do whatever possible to get Verizon to replace old copper telephone lines. The Board asked Mr. Reed to get in touch with our contact at Verizon and explain the problems we are experiencing; they were able to help the last time. FILE

5. Public Meeting notice for Kettle Brook Lofts, 1541 Main Street, Worcester. FILE

Late – Mr. Belanger noted a message in the form of a memo from Selectman Brennan, which he asked to be read here tonight. Items included:

Wal-Mart/WRTA – request from WRTA that the Town of Leicester contribute some \$9000 in additional assessments to fund added bus routes to the newly opened Wal-Mart facility. Mr. Reed stated that the Town followed up to these original assessments and asked Wal-Mart to pay the cost. Wal-Mart reps have offered a one-time contribution of \$5000. Mr. Reed noted that the Town could ask WRTA to limit service. Members did not feel that it would be Leicester residents using the service, but instead rider ship would come from Spencer and Worcester. Mr. Zagorski had mixed feelings; felt that the public and employees need access to store. The Board members did agree that there were many other areas where this type of money was needed within the Town. Mr. Reed suggested we take the \$5000 donation from Wal-Mart and keep in mind that we can cancel the added service down the road.

Rochdale Park (this was discussed earlier in the evening)

**Town Administrator's Report**

- Mr. Reed has signed a Dam Safety agreement with our consultant and hopes that costs will come in lower than expected once Greenville Dam engineering study is complete.
- Mr. Reed noted that Hillcrest Country Club sub-committees will meet next on June 25<sup>th</sup>. They are still looking to obtain overlay map which would greatly assist their efforts.
- Mr. Reed noted next Library Design meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Reed proposed summer hours at Town Hall facility, submitting list of extended hours Monday thru Thursday which would allow Fridays off. Issues such as payroll, notification to the public of office hours, impact to other town departments were discussed. The Selectmen agreed to a trial program for July and August.
- Mr. Reed request signature on form to comply with Section 125 Cafeteria Plan relative to health insurance options. The Board authorized the process to be completed as required.
- Mr. Reed is seeking police and fire injured-on-duty insurance policy quotes, and will report back on results.

**Open Space & Recreation Plan – BOS draft comments**

After review of initial comments by Board, one more item was added:

- o Moose Hill Reservoir – the Selectmen support the recommendation to include the importance of Moose Hill Reservoir within the Final OSRP

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to amend list of comments from June 4<sup>th</sup> to include Moose Hill comments. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Reappointments – FY'08**

With the list of annual appointments on the Agenda, the Board questioned whether one member of a board does indeed live in Town, and whether this is a residency requirement or not. They asked that the ZBA appointments be held at this time.

MOTION: Mr. Antanavica moved to reappoint per list, accept for ZBA members, which will be held pending clarification of member status. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Minutes**

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to approve 3/19/07, 4/17/07, 4/20/07 and 5/7/07 Regular Session minutes, along with 4/17/07 and 6/04/07 Executive Session minutes. Mr. Zagorski seconded. UNANIMOUS

### **Town Administrator's Evaluation (add on)**

Mr. Belanger read aloud a memorandum from T.A. Reed dated 6/17/07 listing goals and objectives. In an effort to improve this process, he met individually with Board members and will attempt here this evening to be reflective of their input regarding yearly evaluation of Mr. Reed as Town Administrator.

On a whole, the Board feels that progress has been made collectively between parties, and Mr. Reed has been given a passing grade. In particular, Mr. Belanger noted the following:

- The Board saw improvement in Mr. Reed's communications
- With regard to organization of his office, they did see some progress, but there needs to be more improvement.
- With regard to budget timeliness, Mr. Reed hit the ball out of the park on this one.

Mr. Belanger asked for comments from the Board.

Mr. Zagorski noted Mr. Reed's efforts and positive results in his attempts to move the Town together in a fiscally responsible manner. He felt this is a tough assignment for a leader, it can be frustrating, but he sees that Mr. Reed's efforts have increased communications and helped the Town. He applauded Mr. Reed's efforts. He does feel, however, that more can be done regarding fiscal controls, a critical issue. He acknowledged that through Mr. Reed's efforts the importance of this has been moved to the forefront.

Mr. Antanavica noted, although the Selectmen are appointed as liaisons to various boards and departments, he feels that the department heads should communicate directly with Mr. Reed. He sees that things run more smoothly with direct contact.

Ms. Provencher agreed with Mr. Antanavica with regard to liaison assignments; she felt the Board members should be available for input, but the communication need to be with the Town Administrator. With regarding to reports, she asked that Mr. Reed return to his periodic updates to the Board. She appreciated the reports that he used to distribute.

Mr. Reed appreciated the Board's comments. With regard to the fiscal budgeting, he felt the approval of a 4% budget increase for both School and General Government for FY'08 was due in part to the Selectmen and the Advisory Board getting behind the idea and supporting him in his recommendation. He saw more confidence in his financial planning. He also thanked the department heads, who work on a team approach to benefit the Town through their efforts; he hoped he did not lose any of these knowledgeable individuals. He thanked staff persons as well for their commitment to the Town.

In a follow up, Mr. Belanger felt that the Town has made progress under the direction of Mr. Reed. He thanked Mr. Reed for his work on behalf of the community.

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

Mr. Zagorski reported on short-term plans for Becker College, including construction of new dormitory, planning stage of turf-field creation, rehabilitation of so-called May House property, and conceptual design of wellness facility. He noted that Becker welcomes the Town to be involved in planning stages and hopes citizens will benefit from improvements. He felt that Becker College is a great resource and has much growth potential. After a preliminary meeting was held with Town officials, there will now be a meeting open to the public at 6:30pm on June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Leicester Senior Center.

Mr. Antanavica reported that repairs are being made to aerial scope truck through a Reserve Fund Transfer from the Fire Dept.

Ms. Provencher reported that she will meet with the Town Administrator, the Town Planner, and Chairman Belanger along with Rep. Binienda in an attempt to move the Burncoat Park project forward.

Ms. Provencher provided original report from CMRPC on annual meeting and awards; copies can be made if requested.

Ms. Provencher asked why the School Dept. will be charging transportation costs for school bussing. Mr. Belanger, noting that the School Dept. accepted the 4% budget increase, explained that the School has authority to work autonomously within budget appropriation. They can implement whatever changes within the bottom line appropriated for School operations, the Selectmen have no authority over their decisions, and it is the School's decision to make whatever changes they feel necessary. Ms. Provencher felt that the public needed to hear this. Mr. Zagorski, noting that he has been in attendance during School Committee meetings, reported that this has been a painstaking process. Mr. Reed again asked that future plans be put in place to aid all parties with regard to budgeting and long-term financial planning, something he has been looking for from School officials for some time.

Mr. Belanger reported on meeting he attended today with legislative representatives on the subject of Municipal Partnership Act. Leicester has already endorsed the concept, pleading for no further unfunded mandates adopted by the State.

With regard to upcoming schedule, Mr. Belanger will coordinate with Mr. Reed as far as the need to meet, as we attempt to lighten the meeting schedule in the summer months.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,  
Administrative Assistant