

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2007**

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

Correspondence

1. Request for reappointment to Central Mass. Resource Recovery Commission.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Ruth Kaminski and Carl Wicklund as TOL rep to Central Mass Resource Recovery group, term to expire 6/30/08. Ms. Provencher seconded.
UNANIMOUS

2. Letter from Massasoit Art Guild notifying the Town of a grant award from Leicester Cultural Council, which will be used to purchase a piece from the October 2007 Art Show, to be donated to the Town of Leicester and hung in the new police station facility.

MOTION: Ms. Provencher moved to accept donation of gift of artwork from grant award.
Mr. Brennan seconded. UNANIMOUS

3. Copy of resignation letter to Town Clerk from Alice Cusolito, School Committee member, effective immediately and dated August 6, 2007. Mr. Belanger noted that the Board had been notified of another resignation from David Stanick dated July 13, 2007. With that first resignation, the School Committee requested under MGL Chapter 41, Section 11 that a joint meeting be convened with the Board of Selectmen to fill such vacancy by roll call vote. Mr. Belanger will now wait to see if the School Committee will seek the same procedure with regard to joint appointment for the second vacancy, and if so, schedule the meeting on the same evening. Being that they don't have a meeting scheduled at this point until the regularly scheduled meeting of August 27th, at which time the School Committee can vote to send the same type of notification letter regarding the most recent vacancy, and the 1st Monday in September is a holiday, with certain notification timelines must be met, the soonest he foresees the joint appointment meeting being scheduled is September 10th. He reported that he'd tried to get the meeting scheduled sooner, but it hasn't worked out with the School Committee. TA noted that Counsel has advised that waiting until September 10th is sufficient, even with the dates involving the first resignation, as we are following the intent of the law. Mr. Antanavica noted that, if the Selectmen are not notified within 30days of this 2nd resignation, we would be authorized by law to move to appoint on September 10th without the School Committee's involvement. Mr. Zagorski asked that the School Committee be reminded of the urgency we face here, as school will be back in session at the end of the month.

Late – Memo from Town Planner requesting Selectmen's appointment to Master Plan Update Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to appoint Selectman Provencher to serve.
Mr. Antanavica seconded. UNANIMOUS

School Bus Transportation

Mr. Belanger expressed concern over recent changes to School bus transportation procedures, which could result in more youngsters walking to school. After requesting the new procedure from the School Department several weeks ago, we are just now receiving the information. The Board agreed that concerns over the lack of sidewalks, inclement weather, darkness, the number of cars on the road, and youngsters walking by themselves are serious issues. Mr. Belanger will schedule a meeting with public safety officials, invite the School Department to attend; however, the meeting will be held nonetheless.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Reed distributed budget worksheets dated 8/13/07 to discuss FY'09 issues. He asked for the Selectmen to review the information, to be discussed further at our next meeting.

Mr. Reed reported on meeting with Worcester DPW staff along with Highway Foreman Tom Wood relative to the City's request for reservoir road improvements. He suggested that the Highway Department make general improvements, but the City then maintain the roads from here on; we are not allowed to use these local roads, yet the City must have access over them. He recommended that a formal agreement in this regard be put in place to assist later on when this issue comes up again. The Board supported such a plan.

Mr. Reed reported on grant opportunity available through his local managers group, and asked that the Board consider adoption of a "buy recycled" policy that will enhance our chances of grant award. The Board will review sample policy for future consideration.

Board Reports/Other Business

Mr. Belanger noted that Selectman Provencher was doing research on how communities approach reappointments. Ms. Provencher stated that it was reported to her that some communities have an automatic replacement procedure in place, but results haven't shown that. She will continue her efforts.

Mr. Zagorski wondered if Parks & Recreation shouldn't be included in Master Plan update group.

Mr. Zagorski noted that he is awaiting reports on wind energy study findings.

Mr. Antanavica reported that new pickup truck has been received, purchased through the Capital funds, to be used by the Highway Department in exchange for their 2003 Ford F350 being refurbished for the Fire Department.

Ms. Provencher noted that a group will be revisiting the Burncoat Pond management plan, to meet later this week.

Mr. Brennan noted recent assistance given by local resident Bill Griffin to Art Paquette with regard to LCAC upgrades. The Board noted Mr. Griffin's continued involvement with infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Brennan reported that his sub-group will begin FY'09 budget process soon.

Mr. Belanger noted the list of vacancies on committees, and asked people to get involved with local government, which can be a very rewarding experience.

Mr. Belanger noted the annual Walk-to-Cure Cancer to be held from UMassMemorial Campus in Worcester on September 23rd. He noted the progress that's been made through this research facility, and urged all to donate to a great cause.

Mr. Antanavica noted that our summer schedule of Town Hall facility will be ending at the end of the month, and suggested it be extended through October at least, while a survey of residents is conducted on how the hours worked out. He felt we could save costs relative to energy usage over the winter if it were to be implemented permanently. Mr. Brennan was not opposed, but felt that Department Heads should man offices during regular hours to deal with emergencies that may arise. Mr. Belanger noted that functions continue inside the Town Hall, and didn't see where we would save any money when building is still open for other activities. Ms. Provencher felt the offices should be open earlier each day to accommodate the public. She asked that the employees be involved in the survey to give their input as well.

Executive Session – Collective Bargaining, Litigation

MOTION: Mr. Brennan moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining and litigation, no public announcements expected, the Board to adjourn with loss of quorum. Ms. Provencher seconded. The Board was polled: ALL AYES

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:22pm.

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

The Board adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan LeChasseur,
Administrative Assistant