

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015 AT 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER/OPENING

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Chair Thomas E. Buckley, III, Vice-Chair Dianna Provencher, 2nd Vice-Chair Matthew Dennison, Selectman Douglas Belanger, Selectwoman Sandra Wilson and Town Administrator Kevin Mizikar were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public provided comment.

SCHEDULED

1a. 6:30pm – State Legislative Delegation

Mr. Mizikar discussed the importance of State aid as it represents 45% of the Town's annual revenue. Mr. Mizikar thanked Senator Moore for opposing the Governor's proposed mid-year budget cuts. Mr. Mizikar noted that the Town's priorities include energy upgrades, the school facilities study, water resources, building a new fire station and capitalizing on the airport expansion. Mr. Mizikar asked for support from the legislative delegation in achieving these priorities. Senator Moore noted that the key is to get projects into the bond bill. Mr. Buckley thanked Senator Moore for helping obtain funding for the Rawson Street bridge project.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Wilson to direct the Town Administrator to work with the legislative delegation and City Manager to honor the service of the late John Binienda. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wilson discussed the work of the Fire Station Building Committee and asked the delegation help with grants and State funds. The goal is to request authorization from Town Meeting in May to purchase property and then to build the Fire Station by the end of 2016. Senator Moore noted that he and Rep Binienda helped secure \$50,000 for a feasibility study for the new fire station and asked that the final cost of the project be forwarded to his office once determined. Senator Moore noted that the State is facing a one billion dollar deficit due in part to a \$140 million decrease in income tax revenue.

Mr. Mizikar expressed concern with the stability of the GIC and the State's level of supplemental funding as the GIC is suffering from a lack of revenue from insurance premiums. Mr. Belanger noted once a Town is locked in to the GIC the cost of the premiums can't be controlled. Mr. Dennison noted that the schools do not have the technology or infrastructure for State mandated online testing and school repairs are needed including ADA compliance. Ms. Provencher asked if anyone has looked into the National Grid rate increase and if it is related to the increase in solar panels on residential properties. State Rep-Elect Kate Campanale noted that New England is very dependent on natural gas and there is a shortage in supply stemming from the lack of a pipeline in the region. Senator Moore noted that National Grid has not increased their prices in 10 years. Mr. Buckley stated that National Grid has increased their fees as well and it is frustrating they are allowed to do so. State Rep-Elect Kate Campanale spoke to the landfill transfer to a solar farm and provided a DEP contact to the Town Administrator.

1b. 7:00pm - Motor Vehicle Repair License Transfer – Worcester County Welding Corp.

Mr. Buckley presented a request to have the Motor Vehicle Repair License for Worcester County Welding Corp. transferred to new owner Robert Johnson.

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve the transfer the Motor Vehicle Repair License for Worcester County Welding Corp. to new owner Robert Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Provencher noted the Paxton Founders Day taking place on February 8th, 2015 from 1-3pm at the First Congregational Church in Paxton.

NEW BUSINESS

3a. Appointment – Gregory Kemp – Constable

A motion was made by Mr. Dennison and seconded by Ms. Provencher to appoint Gregory Kemp to the position of Constable for the Town of Leicester. The motion carried unanimously.

3b. Appointment – Genevieve Grenier –Senior Center Newsletter Clerk/Typist

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Ms. Wilson to appoint Genevieve Grenier to the position of Newsletter Clerk/Typist for the Senior Center. Under discussion, Ms. Wilson noted that Ms. Grenier has been a huge asset to the Senior Center, helping Rachelle update computers and programs and is happy to see her being offered a formal position. The motion carried unanimously.

3c. Collection Box Certificates of Compliance

Kerry Cyganiewicz with Planet Aid presented a request for a Certificate of Compliance and asked for a one week extension to obtain approval from the final property owner who has not been available. Mr. Buckley noted his appreciation for Mr. Cyganiewicz's attendance at the past two meeting. Mr. Belanger agreed and noted the Town has no issues with Planet Aid's collection boxes. Mr. Mizikar stated that the Town's only option for addressing the 6 non-compliant collection boxes is to remove them at the Town's expense and try and recoup removal and storage fees from the individual companies. Mr. Mizikar noted the purpose of the bylaw is to ensure collection boxes and surrounding areas are kept clean and recommended sending a second letter to the non-compliant operators and property owners stating the boxes are subject to removal and storage by the Town at the operator's expense. Mr. Belanger asked about fines. Mr. Buckley noted the bylaw does not allow for late fees or fines. Mr. Mizikar discussed amending the bylaw to shift more of the responsibility to the property owner. Mr. Mizikar noted that a police tow could be used for non-compliant boxes using the same mechanism in place for abandoned cars. Mr. Cyganiewicz noted that some bins are \$1,000 or more so it would be in the best interest the companies to retrieve removed boxes. Mr. Buckley asked if the box could be auctioned off. Mr. Cyganiewicz noted that the Town of Framingham requires all collection boxes to be labelled with a contact address and phone number.

A motion was made by Ms. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Provencher to approve certificates of compliance for the three collection boxes located at 800 Main Street, 1655 Main Street and 875 Pleasant Street, respectively. The motion carried unanimously.

3d. CMRPC Freight Rail Study Letter of Support

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to sign a letter of support for the CMRPC Freight Rail Study. The motion carried unanimously.

3e. Designation of Special Municipal Employee Position – Emergency Management Director

Mr. Mizikar noted that under State law, an individual can hold and be compensated for two positions within a municipality if one or both positions is designated by the Board as a Special Municipal Employee position. The designation remains with the position itself, not the individual appointed to the position. Due to the nature of the Emergency Management Director position and skill sets comparable to other positions in the Town such as Fire or EMS, Mr. Mizikar recommended designated the position of Emergency Management Director as a Special Municipal Employee position. Ms. Wilson asked if Mr. Mizikar researched the requirements of this designation. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative, noting he reviewed the existing list and all Fire and EMT positions are designated as Special Municipal Employee positions. Mr. Belanger stated he believed the Board always intended to have the Emergency Management Director position be designated as a Special Municipal Employee position.

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Belanger to designate the position of Emergency Management Director as a Special Municipal Employee position in accordance with MGL 268A. Under discussion, Mr. Belanger asked if this could be undone should the Board so choose. Mr. Mizikar responded in the affirmative. The motion carried unanimously.

3f. Appointment – Christopher Montiverdi – Emergency Management Director

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and seconded by Mr. Dennison to appoint Christopher Montiverdi to the Special Municipal Employee position of Emergency Management Director in accordance with the exemption afforded under MGL 268A, Section 20. Under discussion, Mr. Montiverdi stated he welcomed to the opportunity to help the Town in another role and felt he could be of assistance given his background in emergency management for the City of Worcester. The motion carried with 4 ayes and 1 abstention (Ms. Wilson).

3g. Appointment – Brian Sklut and Curtis Sampson – Emergency Police Officers

Mr. Buckley noted that Officers Sklut and Sampson were appointed as emergency police officers for a 60 day period and as this appointment is coming to a close, the officers must again be appointed to the position.

A motion was made by Ms. Provencher and Mr. Dennison to appoint Brian Sklut and Curtis Sampson to the position of emergency police officers for 60 days. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION/OLD BUSINESS

4a. EcoATM

EcoATM, a California based company, has an agreement with Walmart to put a kiosk which pays cash for used electronic equipment in their Leicester store. The kiosk requires a license be inserted in the machine and provides documentation of all transactions. Chief Hurley reached out to a few communities and their experience has been positive. Mr. Mizikar stated the business would fall under the parameters of the junk dealer license. Mr. Mizikar noted that the company will not be able to come before the Board to request as license as it is based in California with limited staff. Mr. Mizikar noted EcoATM has a police database which includes serials numbers and the machine will not accept stolen goods. Should someone try to sell stolen goods, the kiosk will retain a photo and information for the individual. Ms. Wilson noted the kiosk could provide a way to return stolen goods to residents. Mr. Belanger expressed concern regarding the cost and time to investigate incidents and does not see an upside for the small \$40 licensing fee. Mr. Mizikar noted EcoATM would be submitting a license application to the Board at their next meeting.

4b. 2015 License Renewals

Mr. Mizikar noted that 6 businesses have not renewed their annual licenses for 2015 with the Selectmen's office despite two notices sent out. These businesses are currently operating without a license. Mr. Belanger mentioned that Greenwood Auto is out of business, recommended calling Becker to inform them that their food supplier is not licensed and recommended having a constable deliver a letter to the 6 businesses. Mr.

Belanger also recommended instituting a late fee and Mr. Mizikar noted this would require a bylaw amendment and Town Meeting approval.

4c. Surplus Supplies and Equipment Disposal Policy

Mr. Buckley asked that this item be put back on the agenda. Mr. Dennison noted that the Town has ample space to store items and recommended holding a silent auction once a year and taking items that do not sell to the recycling center. Mr. Buckley noted the intent of this policy is to not burden the Board with disposal requests under \$5,000. Mr. Mizikar recommended keeping the policy as approved and seeing how it works over the next 90 days. Ms. Wilson asked that three typographical errors be corrected.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Mizikar presented highlights from his Town Administrator report including:

- Personal Property tax bills have been mailed out. The amount owed is correct but the printing company made a typo in the rate.
- The Town has signed a contract with DI Jacobs to undertake a classification and compensation plan. A kickoff meeting will be held with all non-union Town employees on Tuesday the 13th, 2015 at 5:30pm.
- Departments have submitted their FY'16 Operating Budget and 7 enhanced served request were received.
- MassDOT will hold a public hearing on January 29th, 2015 at 7pm in the Town Hall Selectmen's Conference Room regarding TIP funding for improvements to Paxton Street.
- An updated snow and ice brochure is available on the website.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REPORTS

Ms. Wilson noted the Fire Station Building Committee has toured four fire stations and is looking at requirements for a modest fire station to meet current and near term needs. Ms. Wilson also mentioned the new State laws requiring headlights to be on when using windshield wipers being used and allowing automatic holds at gas pumps.

Mr. Belanger appreciated the Town Administrator preparing and providing his report prior to the meeting as it makes for a more productive meeting. Mr. Belanger noted the Town has a solid foundation regardless of the State's economic situation and that the Fire Station should be the Town's number one priority moving forward

Mr. Dennison reminded residents to be vigilant about locking their cars and homes as numerous break-ins have occurred, the majority of which were the result of cars and homes being unlocked.

Ms. Provencher agreed with Mr. Belanger that the new Fire Station should be the Town's number one priority.

Mr. Buckley felt the Town should focus on water resources, the new Fire Station, library and school renovations and highway improvements.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher to accept the minutes of December 15, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Belanger and seconded by Ms. Provencher at 8:16pm. The motion carried unanimously.