

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES MARCH 14, 2011
Un-APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman; Anna Eliot, Vice Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Clerk; Peter Cunningham; Joshua A. Degen

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Schulman called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda for the public.

SCOTT HARKER-RESIDENT

Mr. Harker prepared a written statement for the Board concerning Handicap Accessibility at Town Meeting. [Document #1-Harker Statement] Mr. Harker gave the Board a few suggestions to improve Handicap Accessibility at Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad recognized Mr. Harker's concerns and told the Board he would follow-up with the Board.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. The Park Commission met on Wednesday, March 9th at Legion Hall; there were over 75 people in the building which contributed to the first floor collapse. The building has been closed. Mr. Haddad stated that he would give the Board an update on the Legion Hall repairs once the Town hears back from our insurance company.
2. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town has been approached by Country Kids Daycare about the possibility of relocating their business from Rivercourt to the Tarbell School. The biggest stumbling block for this to happen is the septic system. In 1996, the system was inspected and it was determined that the only permitted use of the building would be Office Space/Administrative Use. It does not appear that the current system can handle a day care facility. No matter what happens in the future, if the Town wants to redevelop this property, the Town will need to address the septic system issue. Mr. Haddad requested permission to investigate the Tarbell School site regarding the septic issues the Regional Engineer Inspector brought to his attention. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Haddad if the interested party in the school wanted to lease or buy. Mr. Haddad indicated they were interested in a lease agreement. The board was in favor of the Town Manager proceeding with investigating the septic system at Tarbell School.

CENTRAL FIRE STATION-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS [Document #2-Committee Interest Forms All]

Mr. Haddad explained the process (alphabetical order) to the Board and asked if the Board wanted a member from the selectmen to serve on the committee. The Board decided not to have a member of the selectmen serve directly on the committee.

1. Don Black presented his personal and professional background and stated he would be available to serve on committee.
2. Michelle Collette presented her personal and professional background and stated he would be available to serve on committee.
3. Sue Daly presented her personal and professional background and stated he would be available to serve on committee.
4. Berta Erickson: Mr. Haddad read a statement into the record due to Ms. Erickson's inability to make the meeting. [Document #3-Erickson Statement]
5. Robert Hargraves presented his personal and professional background and stated that he would be available to serve on the committee.
6. Jeremy Januskiewicz presented his personal and professional background and stated that he would be available to serve on the committee.
7. Suzanne Loverin: Mr. Haddad read a statement into the record due to Ms. Loverin's inability to make the meeting. [Document #4-Loverin Statement]
8. Aleta Manugian: Mr. Haddad read a statement into the record due to Ms. Manugian's inability to make the meeting. [Document #5-Manugian Statement]

9. Robert Pine presented his personal and professional background and stated that he would be available to serve on the committee.
10. Lynwood Prest presented his personal and professional background and stated that he would be available to serve on the committee.
11. George Rider presented his personal and professional background and stated that he would be available to serve on the committee.
12. Connie Sartini presented her personal and professional background and stated he would be available to serve on committee.

The Board was pleased with the number of applications from residents. Mr. Schulman called for a ballot vote, which was created listing all the names of the applicants. While Mr. Haddad tallied the voted the selectmen continued to Liaison Reports.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen commented on the previous Sunday meeting between the Board and the Finance Committee to discuss the FY12 budget. Mr. Dillon was also at the Sunday meeting. Mr. Dillon stated that the Groton Women's Club made a patriotic quilt and Mr. Dillon presented the quilt to Frank Belisky. The Groton Women's Club has presented over 200 quilts over the past four years and continues to do a great job. Ms. Eliot attended the Park Commission meeting as well as the Finance Committee meeting. Ms. Eliot clarified that the purpose of the Parks Commission meeting was to discuss potential sites for playing fields.

CENTRAL FIRE STATION-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS Continued

Mr. Haddad announced the ballot tally: Donald Black, Michelle Collette, Suzanne Loverin, Jermy Januskiewicz, Susan Daly, Lynwood Prest, and Jay Rider [**Document #6-Ballot Tally**]

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint the following to the Central Fire Station Location Committee: Donald Black, Michelle Collette, Suzanne Loverin, Jeremy Januskiewicz, Susan Daly, Lynwood Prest, and Jay Rider; Term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

3. The Spring Town Meeting Warrant has been revised to reflect changes made by the Board at the last meeting, as well as the vote the Board took to remove the post Employment Benefit Trust Fund Article. Article 6 under the Capital Budget was revised to reflect the new number for the Forestry Truck of \$125k. Mr. Haddad stated that the Fire Department was taking an old ambulance and converting it to a Forestry Truck, which will save the Town money. Mr. Haddad noted that the Finance Committee is not supporting the \$50k bailer in the Capital Budget. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board hold off on this issue until the Public Hearing; scheduled for March 21st.

Mr. Schulman asked about the mower in the Capital Budget. Mr. Haddad replied that the Finance Committee suggested making it a separate motion. Mr. Dillon suggested investigating alternatives to a new mower. Mr. Degen suggested pulling the mower out of the Capital Budget and having it included in the Country Club budget. Mr. Dillon stated that the Country Club needed some time to get going. Mr. Schulman stated that the club needs capital investment and that the Town needs to take care of it.

Mr. Cunningham questioned the readiness of the Habitat Project under the CPC. Mr. Haddad stated that he would follow-up. Mr. Haddad reminded the Board that all the articles would be addressed at the March 21st Public Hearing.

4. Mr. Haddad referred to the letter regarding the shooting range in the packet [**Document #7-Lt from Palma**] then requested the Board disregard it. Chief Palma is recommending that the range be closed and was seeking an additional \$10k in his budget for training. Mr. Haddad supported the Chiefs recommendation. Mr. Cunningham disagreed with the recommendation and called for further study of the issue. Mr. Degen stated

that he would like to see alternatives before shutting the range down. Mr. Dillon thought more discussion was needed to better understand how our police are trained. Mr. Haddad suggested designating two selectmen to sit down with Chief Palma and himself to iron out the core concerns. Mr. Schulman and Mr. Cunningham would work with the Town Manager to resolve the issue.

5. Lawrence Academy has requested three liquor licenses and an auctioneer's license for the following dates and times.

Mr. Degen moved to approve the one-day all kinds of alcohol beverages license for a bi-annual scholarship fundraiser, Behind the Scenes, to be held in the Stone Athletic Center on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Alcohol will be served from 6pm to 11pm, to Trustees of the Lawrence Academy, Linda C. Deasy, Director of Finance and Business Operations. Contingent on TIPS Certification. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve a one-day all kinds of alcoholic beverages license for their annual reunion being held on Friday, May 13, 2011 from 6pm to 10:30pm. The license should be issued to the Trustees of the Lawrence Academy, Linda D. Deasy, Director of Finance and Business Operations. Contingent on TIPS Certification. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve a one-day beer and wine only beverages license for their annual reunion being held on Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 4pm to 11pm. The license should be issued to the Trustees of the Lawrence Academy, Linda C. Deasy, Director of Finance and Business Operations. Contingent on TIPS Certification. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Degen moved to approve a one-day auction license for a bi-annual fundraiser, Behind the Scenes to be held in the Stone Athletic Center on Saturday, April 30, 2011. The auction will be held from 6pm-11pm. The license should be issued to Personality Billy Costa on behalf of Trustees of the Lawrence Academy. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 OPERATING BUDGET-DISCUSSION

Mr. Haddad reviewed the FY12 budget and noted the updated changes. The IT budget increased due to the investment in Virtual Town Hall. Mr. Haddad withdrew the performance evaluation line from the budget and stated that he was working on a more formal proposal. Mr. Haddad recognized some concerns within the original performance proposal.

Mr. Haddad noted the change in the Town Clerk's salary line and that he was standing by \$66k verses the Finance Committee's recommendation of \$63k. Mr. Dillon was in favor of an incremental increase but not to give \$66k all at once. The rest of the Board agreed the \$63k was reasonable and that it would be looked at again next year.

Mr. Haddad noted that in the book line item it was down \$10k and that the Finance Committee wanted the Library to look to the Trust Funds for the additional money. Mr. Haddad needed to discuss this issue more with the Library Trustees and stated he would follow up.

The Veterans budget is up \$5k due to increased cases in Town. Mr. Haddad stated that with the updated budget the impact on the tax rate would be \$48 annually on the average tax bill. Mr. Cunningham asked if the School Budget was certified, Mr. Haddad replied that it was certified.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
George F. Dillon, Jr. Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: