

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES MAY 16, 2011  
APPROVED**

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

**Absent (arrived 7:55pm):** 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.*

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Haddad announced that the Town successfully concluded negotiations with the EIU, Highway, Transfer Station and Water Department Employees Union on a new contract for Fiscal Year 2012. [Document #1-SEIU Contract] The union has ratified the agreement and Mr. Haddad requested the Boards approval. Mr. Dillon asked if there were any other changes and was advised by the Town Manager that these were not of the terms of the contract: Zero percent COLA, one year contract and some housekeeping of language.

*Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the SEIU Union contract for Highway and Water Employees effective July 1, 2011.*

*Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.*

2. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointments for Groton's Pool and Golf Center. The positions are for the pool and are primarily life guards. Names with Asterisks next to them are new employees, while the remaining is returning from last year.

*Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager appointment to the following employees to the Groton Pool & Golf Center:*

<i>*Jennifer Dimino</i>	<i>Heather Bonnett</i>	<i>*Bennett Marstan</i>	<i>Nicholas Hommel</i>
<i>*Sara Francisco</i>	<i>Kaya Philips</i>	<i>*Delany Covenno</i>	
<i>*Leanne Mueller</i>	<i>James Gresock</i>	<i>*Francesca Covenno</i>	
<i>Elise Gosselin</i>	<i>Dan Kosteva</i>	<i>*Grace Gosselin</i>	
<i>Leah Doucette</i>	<i>Bill Pappas</i>	<i>*Jon Cahoon</i>	
<i>Charlotte Francisco</i>	<i>Katie Kosteva</i>	<i>Dominique Larkin</i>	
<i>Emma Sheridan</i>	<i>Amanda Riposa</i>	<i>Barbara Cheeks</i>	
<i>Molly Gormley</i>	<i>Brian Regan</i>	<i>Megan Addy</i>	
<i>Patrick Kiley</i>	<i>Lily Hoch</i>	<i>Josh Acaba</i>	
<i>Liz Smetana</i>	<i>Lynn Mueller</i>	<i>Peter Page</i>	
<i>Christa Bodeman</i>	<i>*Renee Bonnet</i>	<i>Lance Grieman</i>	

*Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.*

3. Mr. Haddad noted that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 30, 2011. Enclosed in this report are various documents concerning the parade, including the route, where to park the exercise at the mound schedule and the order of march. [Document #2-SEIU Contract]

**ATTORNEY RAY LYONS-EASEMENT APPROVAL**

Mr. Lyons requested that the Board grant a trail easement for Sand Hill Road. Mr. Lyons stated that the Planning Board has approved it. Ms. Collette noted that the trail was an asset to the property and the Town.

*Ms. Eliot moved to approve and accept the trail easement for Juanita Rollins for Sand Hill Road as indicated on the Planning Board endorsement plan. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #3-Trail Easement]*

**MINUTES**

*Ms. Eliot moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 11, 2011. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried 1 abstention. [Document #3-Draft 4-11-11 Minutes]*

### **SELETMEN LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Cunningham asked that the Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee be disbanded. Mr. Dillon complemented Mr. Cunningham and his committee for their very significant work regarding the Squannacook River Rail Trail.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to disband the Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.*

Mr. Dillon noted that he had attended the fire relocation committee meetings along with Ms. Eliot and Mr. Schulman. Ms. Eliot attended the Lost Lake Sewer Committee meeting to seek possible ways to sewer Lost Lake.

### **PUBLIC HEARING-SITE REVIEW FOR FUTURE CENTER FIRE STATION**

*Mr. Dillon moved to open the public hearing. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Hearing opened.*

Mr. Schulman read the Public Hearing notice into the record. Don Black Chairman of the Center Fire Station Relocation Committee addressed the Board. Mr. Black commented that each site would be brought up one by one; which are Prescott School; Station Ave and Sacred Heart Church site.

#### *Prescott School Site, Main Street*

1. Allison Edenburg resident on Main Street and an abutter to the Sacred Heart site asked how the sites were rated. Mr. Black replied that there was a twenty point list and discussed each briefly (i.e. zoning, access to Main Street, response time, wetland issues, town owned, in Historic District, Training Tower, Mixed Use, Site Improvements Costs, lot size, building size)
2. Marsha Sennott did not object to the Station Ave site or the Prescott site because they are most cost effective. Mr. Schulman commented on the need for a light on Main Street to accommodate a new fire station. Mr. Black stated that no matter which site was chosen a safety light should be installed. A question was asked to what happens to the fire station currently on Station Ave. Mr. Black noted that this site would blend into the overlay district and would be most likely sold.
3. An unnamed abutter asked what was the basis was for a large fire station. Mr. Black replied that the building would house administrative offices and apparatus bays. The abutter asked why not use the Prescott School site. Mr. Black noted that only half of the Prescott School site would be needed and that the rest of the Prescott School site can be mix use.
4. Brooks Lyman stated that as founder of the Prescott School idea, he felt this was the best site for a new fire station. Mr. Dillon questioned the role of the HDC would play if Prescott was chosen.
5. Alberta Erickson cautioned the Board that if Prescott School was chosen that the gym should be kept because it was hard to replace a gym.
6. Karen Corey, an abutter asked if the land behind Prescott was buildable. Mr. Black stated that due diligence on the site would need to be done.

Mr. Cunningham asked Val Prest, Committee member if there were any other concerns with the Prescott School site. Mr. Prest stated that the site had issues such as soil conditions, cost of utilities reaching the rear of the site, using it as a mixed use site, handicap access, security and safety issues if a shared building and the additional costs if Prescott was chosen.

#### *Sacred Heart Site, 279 Main Street*

Mr. Black noted that this site was doable and was limited on the number of parking spaces. Mr. Black stated that the site was .92 acres and that issues with zoning could occur. Mr. Black stated that there would be an impact on the neighborhood and reiterated that only 22 parking spots would be available not 30. Mr. Black stated that the site fit the topography and utilities were there. Mr. Black stated that there was no change in response time and no wetland issues. Mr. Black noted that this site is not Town owned and the demolition cost was in question.

A question was asked what could be put on the Sacred Heart site. Mr. Black stated that the church is zoned RA and would need to be rezoned if a business were to go in. Mr. Schulman pointed out the realistically nothing else could be put there except a 40B. Mr. Black stated that the committee was looking ahead 50 years and that the overriding issue with this site is the cost. Mr. Prest stated that the Church site and the Station Ave site had less site issues and that the Sacred Heart site was a flattened site, making that a better site.

A resident accused the Board of using scare tactics regarding putting a 40B on the site. Mr. Schulman clarified his statement noting all three sites need to be rezoned but with a 40B many Town Zoning Laws can be that is overridden. Mr. Black briefly explained why response time was important and why the station needed to be in the center of Town. Sue Daly member of the committee and fulltime fire fighter/EMT explained how the staffing has changed and will be changing moving forward. Suzanne Loverin, committee member asked about green space for this site. Mr. Black replied that this still needed to be reviewed. An unnamed resident mentioned the impact on the neighborhood and the potential cost to destroy the church. Ms. Corey asked if Thomas More College was taking the church. Mr. Haddad responded that this was still in discussions but that Thomas More College had previously stated that they were extremely interested in moving the church to their new campus site for use as a chapel.

*Station Ave. Site (GELD), Station Ave*

Mr. Black indicated that this score sheet has not been completed due to Conservation Questions? Mr. Lyman stated that access could be gained through Broadmeadow and combining the GELD and the Fire Department could be a good idea. Mr. Black indicated that due to time constraints sharing resources with GELD may not be able to share in costs.

1. Stanley Jackson suggested sharing costs between the Town and GELD. Mr. Haddad cautioned residents that the Town needs to follow strict Procurement laws. A resident noted that it was not just about money and that the Sacred Heart church site was the wrong place for a fire station. Mr. Prest stated that with the GELD site it could be a very tight fit and suggested a conceptual plan be drawn for the fire station on this site. Kevin Kelly, GELD Manager stated that at this time the conservation issues are unknown. Mr. Cunningham mentioned the impact of the Station Ave development if this site is chosen for a new fire station.

Mr. Degen arrived at 7:55pm

Michelle Collette, a committee member and Town Planner stated that placing a fire station on Station Ave was not consistent with the vision of Station Ave. Ms. Corey stated that the Station Ave vision is no more. Joe Bosselait, Fire Chief encouraged all residents to come to the meetings and reminded the audience that the issue was travel time coming to and from the station. Mr. Schulman suggested that the public hearing be postponed until the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to continue the public hearing until June 6, 2011 at 7:30pm. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Degen moved to adjourn and enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL c. 30A sec 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares at 9:30pm. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Roll call: Degen- yes; Cunningham-yes; Dillon-yes; Schulman-yes, Elliot-yes.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
George F. Dillon, Jr. Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted,  
Patrice Garvin  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 6-27-11