

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES FEBRUARY 4, 2013
APPROVED**

Present: Stuart M. Schulman, Chairman; John G. Petropoulos; Anna Eliot; Joshua A. Degen
Absent: Peter S. Cunningham, Vice Chairman;
Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad reported that the Treasurer/Collector has resigned effective January 28, 2013. The search has begun for a new Treasurer/Collector. In the interim, Valerie Jenkins has been asked to assist the Town through the transition by returning to her former role as Interim Finance Director. Ms. Jenkins primary responsibility will be to assist the Town on the Fire Station Bond Issue, help oversee the Treasurer's Office and assist with the search. Mr. Haddad expected Ms. Jenkins appointment to last no more than two months. Mr. Haddad added that he has appointed Joan Tallent as Interim Treasurer/Tax Collector. Ms. Tallent will serve in the capacity until a permanent Treasurer is appointed. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify both appointments.

Mr. Degen moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Valerie Jenkins as the Interim Director of Finance. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Degen moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Joan Tallent as the Interim Town Treasurer/Tax Collector. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Haddad stated that the Zoning Enforcement Officer Mike Kinney has been out on leave. There needed to be some review for the many zoning issues that come before the Town. Mr. Haddad has appointed Michelle Collette as Interim Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Petropoulos ratified the Town Manager's appointment of Michelle Collette as the Interim Zoning Enforcement Officer. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Mr. Haddad stated now that the Special Town Meeting has voted to fund the construction of the new Center Fire Station the Board needed to finalize the Deed for the purchase of the Farmer's Row parcel. [Document 1-Copy of Deed] Mr. Haddad noted the closing was set for February 14, 2013. Mr. Haddad needed two votes from the Board:

A vote to accept the deed

Grant the sewer easement along the back of the property.

Ms. Eliot moved to accept the deed for the Lawrence Homestead Trust for property on Farmers Row for the new Center Fire Station. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

The Board asked for a moment to review the sewer easement documents before taking a formal vote.

3. Mr. Haddad stated that the Town was ready to close on the sale of the Tarbell School with Country Kids on February 11, 2013, as long as they do not opt out of the purchase by February 8th. The Town has been working closely with Country kids and hopes to have all their concerns addressed by Town Counsel, the Board of Health and our Land Use Departments by that date. [Document 2-Tarbell Documents] Town Counsel is recommending that the Board designate a member who is readily available to sign

other documents that the buyer may want. Mr. Haddad recommended that the chairman be authorized to sign. Mr. Petropoulos asked what would be amended at the last minute. Mr. Haddad assured Mr. Petropoulos that the changes would be last minutes changes and would be minor in nature.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the sale of property located on 73 Pepperell Road, Tarbell School. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Continued- Mr. Degen asked if the paperwork on the Center Fire Station land had any wording that would prevent a 40B. Mr. Orcutt referred Mr. Degen to the second paragraph. Mr. Degen disagreed that the wording would stop a 40B. Mr. Degen stated that the easement in the back gives them three lots and Mr. Degen was concerned with the Lawrence Homestead Trusts' 11th hour concerns with easement. Mr. Haddad tried to alleviate Mr. Degen's concerns and stated that three family lots were approved by the sewer anything more capacity would not be available. Mr. Degen was comfortable moving forward.

Mr. Degen moved to accept the sewer easement on Farmers Row for the Center Fire Station. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Mr. Haddad stated that after working with Town Counsel the RFP has been finalized for the sale and disposition of Squannacook Hall. The due date for responses is March 28th and it has been advertised in the Central Registrar as required by MGL. Mr. Petropoulos had suggested utilizing local realtors to advertise the RFP in the MLS. Mr. Haddad discussed this with Mr. Gosselin. Mr. Gosselin stated that there was a way to advertise this in the MLS but it would require listing a price on the property. This is in conflict with the RFP process in which we are not just seeking a sale price, but a proposal that is in character with the West Groton neighborhood. Price is not the only fact and Mr. Haddad believed it would limit a response. Mr. Gosselin recommended emailing copies of the RFP to various real estate agents in the area and makes them aware of this RFP.
5. The First Parish Church of Groton is requesting a one day liquor license for "The Great American Songbook-Times 2".

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the one day wine and beer license to The First Parish Church on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 7pm-10pm. The event will take place at the Shanklin Music Hall, 130 Sandy Pond Road, in the name of Sarah Iacobucci. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

TOWN CLERK MICHAEL BOUCHARD-ANNUAL ELECTION DATE-POLLING LOCATIONS

Town Meeting & Election

[Document 3-Memo from Town Clerk dated February 1, 2013] Mr. Bouchard stated that there are two additional elections this year to fill the vacated Senate seat: 1. April 30th Special Primary 2. Special Election. The state has allowed for towns to merge elections if they are within thirty days. Therefore the Town can move its annual local election from May 21st to April 30th. This move would save the Town \$2,500 and also reduce voter fatigue. This move would make the town election period shorter. Mr. Haddad spoke to the Town Moderator and Town Counsel to discuss Town meeting dates. Mr. Haddad proposed a Town Meeting date of April 20th or April 22nd. The only problem with the April 20th date is that it is at the end of School vacation week. The School Committee has no problem with an April 20th Town Meeting date. The School Committee is in the process of setting their budget schedule. Mr. Petropoulos stated that his main concern was having Town Meeting at the end of the vacation week. The Board discussed alternative dates. The Board waited to decide on a Town meeting date until it could determine if the Pac was available.

Ms. Eliot moved to move the Annual Town Election from May 21, 2013 to April 30, 2013 to coincide with the Special Primary authorized by state statute. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion carried, Mr. Degen abstained.

Polling Location

Mr. Bouchard stated that Precinct 2 & 3 location needed to be moved. The polling station needed to be moved because of the concern that it is currently in a school that is in session. Mr. Bouchard noted three possible polling stations.

1. Groton Country Club; Mr. Bouchard stated that work needed to be done to this site regarding accessibility. It has adequate parking.
2. Prescott Gymnasium; This building has adequate parking but traffic could become congested in the front. Mr. Bouchard also noted that this would not be a permanent solution.
3. Town Hall; Mr. Bouchard felt this was the cleanest long term solution. Mr. Haddad stated that traffic issues on Station Ave could be minimized.

Board Discussion

Mr. Degen supported the idea for Town hall but with apprehension. Mr. Degen fully supported getting the polling stations out of the schools. Mr. Petropoulos asked if work had to be done at the Country Club. Mr. Haddad replied that work will need to be done at the Country Club to improve accessibility. The Board was in unison that Town Hall may not be the best choice. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Bouchard to ask the schools if the Prescott Gym would be accessible for use. Mr. Bouchard stated that he would contact the school and report back to the Board at their next meeting.

ATTORNEY ROBERT COLLINS-LAYOUT OF COW POND ROAD

Mr. Collins explained the reason he was before the Board and how spike strips were placed on Cow Pond affecting home owners. The spike strips are leaving home owners with no frontage and trouble selling and refinancing. Mr. Collins needs a vote from the Board of Selectmen to incorporate the land as part of the right away so everyone can have frontage. Mr. Degen asked to see the deed. Mr. Petropoulos asked if counsel has looked at this. Mr. Collins stated that counsel has looked at it. Mr. Haddad stated that counsel has reviewed it and would bring the issue back to the next meeting.

APPROVE FILING OF NOTICE OF INTENT FOR BADDACOOK POND WEED HARVESTING

[Document 4-NOI Harvest Baddacook] Mr. Strickland wanted to harvest earlier than usual because by the time autumn comes the weeds are dead and the harvesting serves no purpose. The Board would need to approve the application to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Orcutt, speaking as Water Superintendent stated that concern over the Baddacook Well and the private homes weeding could impact. Mr. Strickland stated that there was only one dump site so the well would not be affected. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Strickland to work with the Water Commissioners to alleviate concerns.

Ms. Eliot moved to submit an NOI for the harvesting of Baddacook Pond, contingent on working with the Water Department. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen commented on the recent Nashoba Breakfast where the NVTHS budget is presented. Mr. Petropoulos suggested helping Town Meeting representatives with the jargon used at Town Meeting.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to approve the Joint meeting minutes with the Building Committee on December 21, 2012, as amended. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion carried. [Document 5-Draft Minutes 12-21-12]

Mr. Degen moved to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes on January 4, 2013. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion carried. [Document 5-Draft Minutes 1-4-13]

The regular scheduled meeting minutes of January 7, 2013 was tabled.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes on January 14, 2013. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. Motion carried, Mr. Degen abstained. [Document 5-Draft Minutes 1-4-13]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Degen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Approved:  _____
John G. Petropoulos, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 2-25-13