

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 30, 2014
APPROVED**

Present: Josh A. Degen, Chair; Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; John G. Petropoulos, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said he was pleased to announce that Steele McCurdy had accepted the position as Groton's next Fire Chief and would start on August 18th. He said that with Chief Bosselait's last day being on June 30th, he had asked him to consider staying on under a contractual arrangement with the Board from July 1, 2014 to August 18, 2014. He requested that the Board vote to make the appointment. His hourly rate would be \$52 and he would not accrue benefits.

Mr. Cunningham moved to enter into a contract with Chief Bosselait from July 1 to August 18, 2014. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that a lot of things had been moved into the new fire station and he hoped to have permanent occupancy in the next week.

2. Mr. Haddad said that the following was a list of additional appoints he had made and respectfully requested that the Board vote to ratify the appointments.

Ellen Baxendale – Commission on Accessibility – One Year Term
Kathy Newell – Emergency Management Committee – One Year Term
James Luening – Weed Harvester Committee – One Year Term
Michelle Collette – Energy Committee – One Year Term
Kevin Kelly – Energy Committee – One Year Term
Takashi Tada – Energy Committee – One Year Term
Melisa Doig – Minuteman Nashoba Health Group – One Year Term
Michael Hartnett – Minuteman Nashoba Health Group Alternate – One Year Term
Town of Chelmsford Police Department – Special Police Officers – One Year Term
Khristine Field – Dispatch Trainee – One Year Term
Wendy Good – Trails Committee – One Year Term
Scott Stathis – Trails Committee – One Year Term
Olin Lathrop – Trails Committee – One Year Term
David Burnham – Trails Committee – One Year Term
David Pitkin – Trails Committee – One Year Term
Luke Heinser – Emergency Management Agency – One Year Term
Craig Gremmell - Greenway Committee – One Year Term

Mr. Cunningham moved to affirm the appointments of the Town Manager. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Mr. Haddad said that the following was a list of additional appointments to be made by the Board. He respectfully requested that the Board consider making these appointments.

Green Communities Act Research Committee – One Year Term
Michelle Collette Kevin Kelly
Bruce Easom Leo Laverdure
Gary Hogland James Patierno

Pipeline Working Group – One Year Term
Peter Cunningham – Selectmen Rep.
Jack Petropoulos – Selectmen Rep.
Kevin Kelly – Light Department Rep.
John Llodra – Citizen at Large
GDRSD Committee Rep.

Mr. Cunningham moved to affirm the appointments as listed to include John Giger as the GDRSD Committee Rep. on the Pipeline Working Group. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-2 with Mr. Petropoulos and Mr. Cunningham abstaining.

Mr. Haddad said that he would give up his seat to become an advisor so that the Conservation Commission could appoint a member to serve on the Working Group.

Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board consider making the appointment of Joshua Degen to the Sargisson Beach Committee – One Year Term.

Mr. Schulman moved to appoint Joshua Degen to the Sargisson Beach Committee. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 in favor with Mr. Degen abstaining.

Mr. Haddad said that there was one seat on the Board of Registrars due to expire on June 30th. The Democratic and Republican Town Committees submitted their nominations for consideration. Mr. Schulman said that it looked like they had to pick one person from the 4 nominations given. Mr. Degen said that it was his recollection that they said the last time they would choose the other way this time.

Mr. Cunningham moved to name Jennifer Mieth to the Board of Registrars adding that he would like to acknowledge Susan Slade's appointment over the years. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion adding that Susan Slade had done a great job and it should be policy that the alternate the seat. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mr. Haddad said that Art Prest had submitted a letter of interest for an open seat on the Finance Committee and they had reached out to Mark Bacon to see if he was still interested. He would have more information for them at their next meeting.
5. Mr. Haddad said that the Chamberlin Mill subdivision had requested a certificate of exemption to remove 5100 cubic yards of earth material. The Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee had determined this was a proper request. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board approve the exemption with standard conditions.
Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the certificate of exemption for Mr. Kiley with standard conditions. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to request permission from the Board to take a temporary leave of absence for a vacation from July 4, 2014 through July 14, 2014. He said that as in the past, we would be appointing Michael Bouchard as Acting Town Manager during his absence.
Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the vacation request of the Town Manager from July 4, 2014 through July 14, 2014. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MEDIA POLICY

Mr. Art Campbell said that he had spoken with each of the Board members. He said that he was there to discuss how Mr. Haddad doesn't answer emails or phone calls made by himself and/or the Groton Line. Mr. Campbell said that if

he called the Fire Department, he would expect them to come to his house no matter what happened in the past. He said that he expected all employees of town to treat residents the same way. He said that ethics said that people are supposed to behave well and act professional adding that there was a situation here that warranted action. Mr. Campbell also cited the Town Charter where it stated the Town Manager was responsible for communicating with residents. He stated that he too was a resident. Mr. Degen said that any individual selectmen can say no comment. Ms. Eliot said that duties are spelled out in the Charter and didn't say that the Town Manager had to respond to media individually. Mr. Cunningham said that they needed to have a policy as info needed to get out there. Mr. Petropoulos agreed adding that he wasn't sure why one resident got one response and another one received another response. Mr. Schulman said that he didn't think the fire department analogy was a good one. He said that they hired the Town Manager to do the Town's business. He said that more than just the excessive requests from the press could slow down town's business. Mr. Degen said that he was asked many times for his opinion and the Town Manager's opinion which he could not give. He said that he respected the Town Manager's right not to comment but could however create issues. He said that he had spoken to the Town Clerk who was willing to serve as a Communications Officer. Mr. Degen said that they as Mr. Haddad's employer could say he has to or come up with a policy to deal with this adding that a Communications Officer might be a good way of doing this. Mr. Petropoulos said that the idea of a Communications Officer was like adding a fifth wheel and not fixing the problem. Mr. Cunningham said that they could not deny there were interpersonal issues but thought that something like a Communication Officer might be a first step.

Ms. Eliot moved to ask Mr. Degen and Mr. Bouchard to draft proposed communications protocol.

Mr. Russ Harris of the Groton Herald said that he had never had a problem with Mr. Haddad but had made a real effort to make his requests short and concise. He said that he appreciated the direct response and Mr. Haddad had always been very open and accessible. Ms. Hiroko Sato of the Lowell Sun said that she was not part of the concern expressed. She asked why they were not discussing if the accusation was real. Mr. Degen said that Mr. Haddad had personal reasons why he would not comment to the Groton Line or Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Cunningham seconded Ms. Eliot's motion. The motion carried unanimously.

FITNESS CENTER USE POLICY

Mr. Haddad said that several town employees have inquired as to whether or not they could use the fitness room at the new fire station. He said that he had drafted a policy that allowed town hall employees limited use of the fitness room from 12-2pm Monday through Friday during their lunch hour. They would have no access to locker rooms or showers. He said that this had caused some of the fire department member's cause for concern. Mr. Petropoulos asked if this was reviewed with the Building Committee adding that the area in questions was not supposed to be available due to security. Mr. Haddad said that it came up after the fact adding that this was his decision. Mr. Haddad said that he had spoken to some members of the department that day. Ms. Eliot said that it was a very secure part of the building and maybe could have been built in another part of the building. Ms. Eliot suggested it wait a year and see what use and the amount of use it gets. Mr. Schulman agreed that it should be kept exclusive for use by the fire department for a year and allow the new Chief to make a determination. Mr. Cunningham agreed that they should wait until the new Chief was on board. Mr. Degen said that he was surprised with this when he saw it on the agenda adding he thought it was a nice idea. He said that there was a lot of bugs that needed to be worked out but limited use in the future might be nice. Betsy Reeves and Heather Emslie both expressed their concerns against why town hall employees should not be allowed use of the fitness room. Mr. Cunningham suggested that they task the new Chief with this and whether or not it could be made available to town hall employees on a limited basis. Mr. Degen said they would remove use and limit it to the fire department until a point in the future.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of June 20, 2014. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn to the Performing Arts Center for Special Town Meeting at 6:45pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully *submitted*,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 7/28/14