

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN-REGULAR SESSION MINUTES-7/2/01  
"MINUTES APPROVED"**

**Present:** Chairman Peter S. Cunningham, Clerk Dann Chamberlin, Member Thomas P. McCuin, Jr., Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Administrative Secretary Doris T. Wheeler.

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

**BONDS**

Town Treasurer Tom Hartnett was present. Mr. Hartnett requested that the Board sign the bonds, acting on the direction of the Town Meeting vote for conservation land.

At 7:00 PM Mr. Chamberlin moved that the sale of the \$3,925,000 General Obligation Bonds dated July 15, 2001 maturing July 15, 2002 through 2019 be awarded as follows: \$3,925,000 at 4.5317% to A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

**EARTH REMOVAL - Bowman - Lot 14**

Earth Removal Inspector Michelle Collette and Bob Hanninen were present, representing the Earth Removal Advisory Committee (ERAC). A few years ago Mr. Patierno was in asking to remove material in this area. Further removal of material was denied at that time. The current owner is now looking to do some grade changes for landscaping. The ERAC did a site walk of the proposed exemption from the Earth Removal Bylaw from the Bowmans, located at 96 Overlook Drive. The application and plans did not contain sufficient information on the proposed project to make an informed determination. The Committee recommended that the Board postpone consideration of this request until the applicant provides the information required in the Earth Removal Regulations.

Mr. Chamberlin moved that this matter be postponed until July 30, 2001 at 7:30 PM. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

**VETERANS AGENT APPOINTMENT**

Present were Commander Curt Lovelace, Frank Belitsky and Ed Kopec, representing the American Legion, as well as applicant Bill Miller. The American Legion recommended appointment of Bill Miller to fill the vacancy as Veterans' Agent. Mr. Miller is a local veteran and well qualified.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of William Miller as the Veterans Agent, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

**CHAPTER 61F PROPERTY - Darling, 530 & 535 Old Dunstable Road**

James and Mary Darling were present for the discussion. The various departments in Town were notified prior to the meeting. The Planning Board did not have an opportunity to meet since the present application was submitted. (The Planning Administrator was on vacation when it was distributed.) The Planning Board will meet on July 12. The Board of Selectmen postponed their decision on its right of first refusal until its meeting on July 16, at 8:15 PM.

**ROAD OPENING PERMIT - Keyspan Energy - Skyfields Drive**

No one was present for the discussion, so it was not discussed.

**MUNICIPAL SPACE NEEDS COMMITTEE (MSNC)**

MSNC members Tom Hartnett, Michelle Collette and Brooks Lyman were present to discuss the results of their site walk with Building Commissioner Mike Tusino, regarding the house located at 179 Main Street, to be considered for municipal office space. Mr. Tusino submitted a report of his findings, which included the following:

- This property is in the RB Zone; therefore a special permit from the ZBA would be required.

- This would be a change of use; therefore site plan review approval from the Planning Board would be required.
- Neither the 1<sup>st</sup> floor or 2<sup>nd</sup> are handicap accessible; therefore ramps and an elevator would be required.
- The bathrooms do not meet current plumbing codes and are not handicap accessible.
- The hallways are not wide enough to accommodate egress requirements as well as handicap accessible egress.
- The loading for floors is higher for business than for residential use. The existing floor structure may not meet the Building Code.
- A fire alarm system would need to be installed.
- If the footage of the building is over 7500 s.f., a new sprinkler system would need to be installed.

For these reasons and the others brought up about the Historic Preservation Restriction on the property, the MSNC recommended not pursuing this purchase. Ms. Collette recommended that the Board make sure the restriction is on record at the Registry of Deeds.

Mr. Brooks thought that if the Town wanted to do something here, it could; though it might not be practical.

Mr. McCuin and Mr. Chamberlin said it was worth a second look, but it's just not a good idea for the Town to purchase it for municipal space needs. The cost would be prohibitive. It's time to walk away from this one. Mr. Cunningham agreed the purchase of the building was not sensible. He recommended checking to see if it was possible to purchase a portion of the back land to add to the Town owned land for expansion of the Center Fire Station. The MSNC will inform the owner of the property that the Town is not interested in purchasing the building and ask about purchasing a portion of the property.

## **AGRICULTURAL PARADE**

This discussion was postponed due to an emergency with one of the horses at Helene's Stables.

### **CENTURY 21 - MacGregor Property - 19 Station Avenue**

The realtor for the MacGregor property informed the Selectmen's office that the property at 19 Station Avenue is still on the market, and the price has been lowered to \$149,000. The Selectmen previously looked at this property when it was offered at \$240,000+. The property abuts the GELD property and public parking. The MSNC just found out about this today, so has not had the opportunity to look into it. Ms. Collette personally thought the Town should consider purchase of this property. Mr. Lyman, as a member of the Housing Authority, said that there are needs for handicap accessible housing, but this would not be sensible for that, in his opinion. It would cost too much to bring it into compliance. Mr. McCuin said he would have to see where the money would come from before taking a position on this. The Board decided to take a site walk jointly with the Municipal Space Needs Committee and the Housing Authority on July 5 at 7 PM.

## **APPOINTMENT RENEWALS**

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. as **Animal Control Officer**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Lona M. Bassett, Isabel C. Beal, Michael E. Roberts, Leslie T. Smith and Barbara M. Whitehill to the **Archives Committee**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Dorothy N. Davis, John P. Ellenberger and Russell H. Harris to the **Cable TV Advisory Committee**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

The Commission on the Handicap recommended not reappointing Dr. James Hamilton as a member of the Commission, due to lack of attendance at meetings. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Chamberlin noted that the Board witnessed Dr. Hamilton using the Commission as a vehicle to advance issues he had that were outside the 4 corners of the jurisdiction of the Commission. Mr. McCuin had heard similar stories and agreed that was reason not to reappoint him. The Commission recommended

appointing Ernest Cate to take Mr. Hamilton's place.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Richard Gendron and Margaret M. McPartlan to the **Commission on the Handicap**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Ernest Cate as a member of the **Commission on the Handicap**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of John R. Hewitt, Jeffrey P. Lex and Darlene A. Touchette as **Communications Officers**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of April Melvin as **Communications Supervisor**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Jean E. Kitchen, Carlton H. Paul, Edward A. Perkins and Ann Walsh to the **Computer Committee**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Ralph S. Baker, Arthur F. Blackman, Michelle Collette and Mark S. Deuger to the **Conductorlab Committee**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Bruce W. Clements and Peter A. Morrison to the **Conservation Commission**, terms to expire June 30, 2004. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Lona M. Bassett, Carol H. Chalmers, Melanie J. Clark, Margaret F. Connolly, Jean D. Cunningham, Anne C. Elliott, Louise E. Gaskins, Elinor G. Gavazzi, William A. Gavazzi, Gwenyth B. Gilson, Joan A. Guimond, Rebecca A. Hallock, Margot B. Hammer, Ellen T. Hargraves, Lorene N. Holston, Susan A. Hughes, Joan R. Hutchinson, Cynthia A. Lockwood, Brooks T. Lyman, Christopher H. Mills, Robert W. Owen, Susan J. Peyton, Willamena P. Rosenberger, Susan J. Searles, Jean A. Secovich, Celia E. Silinonte, Janet H. Thompson, Marilyn T. Trecartin, Karen F. Tuomi, Ann F. Walsh, Madeline R. Walsh, Margaret A. Wheatley, Edna B. White, Dorothy H. Zale and Lucille R. Zwicker as **Election Workers**, all terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Robert DeVincentis as **Electrical Inspector Assistant**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Stacey Billings Chilcoat, Christina G. Briggs, Barbara S. Lamont, Neal J. Menschel, Bradford Paul, Marion R. Stoddart and Nancy R. Turkle, to the **Greenway Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Theresa M. Ragot to the **Housing Partnership**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Edward J. McNierney, Owen S. Shuman and James R. Western, to the **Library Building Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Donelle Ruwe to the **Local Cultural Council**, term to expire June 30, 2004. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of R. Thomas Delaney, Jr. as **Moth Superintendent**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Richard P. Chilcoat, Michelle Collette, Robert L. Collins, Thomas D. Hartnett, Brooks T. Lyman and James R. Western to the **Municipal Space Needs Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Isabel C. Beal, Paul Matisse, Madeline R. Walsh and Barbara M. Whitehill, to the **Old Burying Ground Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Dolores I. Alberghini to the **Personnel Board**, term to expire June 30, 2004. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of David Curran, Robert Daly, John R. Hewitt, Mark Miller and Kenneth J. Pero as **Auxiliary Police**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Eileen M. Beaton, Beverly A. Jeddrey, M. Priscilla Lamy, April Melvin, Kathy E. Morin, Deborah Richardson, Kimberly S. Silvestri and Darlene A. Touchette as **Police Matrons**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Jack E. Balonis, James A. Cullen, III, Richard C. Elie, Derrick J. Gemos, Jeffrey Gigliotti, John Rooney and Eric M. Watkins as **Police Officers**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Michael D. Brady, Bruce E. Dubey Joan M. Huber, Christine Long and Nancy R. Turkle to the **Recycling Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Dale C. Jenkins, Jr. and Keith J. Keady as **Reserve Police Officers**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Eileen M. Beaton, Kathleen G. Mageau, Donna L. Manley, William F. Shute, Kimberly S. Silvestri and Harold V. Strachan, Jr. as **School Crossing Guards**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Joseph F. Bassett, Jr., Janine Doucette, Paul D. Griffin, Karl D. Johnson and Peter C. Myette to the **Sign Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of John E. Holston as a **Traffic Supervisor**, term to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Bruce W. Clements, Bruce H. Easom, Paul G. Funch, Wendy A. Good, Stephen A. Legge, Edward J. McNierney, Bradford Paul and Stephen D. Prendergast to the **Trails Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Carl D. Canner, Carol L. Canner, Thomas D. Hartnett and Susan Y. Yeager to the **W. Groton Pond and Park Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. McCuin moved the appointment of Russell F. Mallard, Stephen H. Painter, Carole A. Watson and Robert K. Watson to the **Weed Harvester Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved the appointment of Michelle Collette, John Estabrook, Lynne A. Kavanagh, Owen S. Shuman, Dorothy Vanhoogen and Virginia C. Wood to the **Wharton Fountain Committee**, terms to expire June 30, 2002. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Trails Committee - Membership Change**

There are currently 9 individuals willing to serve on the Trails Committee. The Committee requested the membership be changed from 11 to 9.

Mr. Chamberlin moved to reduce the membership of the Trails Committee from 11 to 9. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Request to Use Legion Common**

Mr. Chamberlin moved to authorize the Groton Woman's Club the use of Legion Common on July 15, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM for its Ice Cream Social. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Special Municipal Employee Status - Personnel Board**

Mr. McCuin moved the designation of "Special Municipal Employee" status for the Personnel Board. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Uncollectible Accounts**

One account is pre-1994 ambulance balances in the amount of \$17,000+, which represents 13% of the total billed. Mr. McCuin stated that if Medicare determines that the ambulance ride was not necessary, Medicare will not pay for it, and the patient cannot legally be asked to pay, unless the person has a secondary insurance. The second uncollectible receivable was for veteran's benefits due from the Commonwealth of Mass. The State is supposed to reimburse 75% of allowed benefits that the Town pays to veterans. This amount represents old claims.

Mr. Chamberlin moved that, on the recommendation of the Town Accountant, the Town write off as uncollectible ambulance charges, the amount of \$17,000.12. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Chamberlin moved that, on the recommendation of the Town Accountant, the Town write off as uncollectible veteran's benefits, the amount of \$423.98. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Chamberlin moved approval of the regular session minutes of June 18, 2001, as amended. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

### **Growth Management Advisory Committee**

Mr. Chamberlin moved to recommend that the Moderator appoint Thomas McCuin as the Selectmen's representative on the Growth Management Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

### **Conservation Fees Bill**

The House has passed the Conservation Fees Bill, now it has to go to the Senate.

### **Squannacook Sportsman's Club**

The Squannacook Sportsman's Club is interested in selling the Sportsman's Club to the Town for \$1, providing the Town put the money the Club has into a perpetual trust fund to continue its practice of giving out scholarships. Ms. Kitchen has talked to the Administrator of the Trust Funds, who said the Trust Funds Commission could help set up the trust for the scholarship money as well as administer it. Title 5 is an issue. The BOH will look at that. This property abuts the Senior Center and the Town has an easement on that property to access the Senior Center.

### **Removal of a Town bound.**

Someone has removed a Town bound at the end of Culver Road which delineates the Ayer/Groton bound because it was in the way of road construction. The Town will have a surveyor survey the property to make sure the bounds gets put back where it belongs.

### **House Bill**

The House Bill regarding the sewer easement with DEM and the rail trail has not been acted on yet. McCuin offered to would go to Boston to check on the status and try to move it along.

### **4 Corners Intersection**

The Worcester office of Mass Highway did not like the plan to take the restaurant. HTSD is trying to set up another meeting with the people from Mass Highway in Worcester and Boston, HTSD, Tom Delaney and the Selectmen regarding the 4 Corners Intersection. Rep. Hargraves will also be invited.

### **Retired Police Chief Rider**

Ms. Kitchen said she contacted Town Counsel regarding whether or not the Board would be setting a precedent if it wrote a letter to PERAC regarding retired Police Chief Rider's use of a police vehicle for personal reasons, since he was "on call". Town Counsel did not think it would set any precedent, unless the Board allowed other employees to use a Town vehicle for personal use. The Selectmen agreed to send the letter.

### **Agreement w/ GELD**

The 2 attorneys have not talked yet.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:00 PM Mr. Chamberlin moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded and voted unanimously.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dann Chamberlin, Clerk  
July 16, 2001

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doris T. Wheeler  
Administrative Secretary