

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 6, 2003
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
“APPROVED”**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Dann Chamberlin, Clerk Thomas D. Hartnett, Member Peter S. Cunningham, Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen, and Administrative Secretary Maria Casey.

Mr. Chamberlin stated that in response to a request from the press, the following were the highlights of 2002.

- Gibbet and Angus Hill
- Rivercourt
- Deaconess acquisition,
- Official Opening of the Rail Trail
- Summer Concerts at the Smith Social Pavilion
- Acquisition of 390 acres at the 4 corners by Audubon; another conservation group coming into town
- High School is progressing on schedule and on budget
- Groton’s Annual 1st Nights – successful community event.

APPLICATION FOR LIVERY LICENSE, Sheila McGeoghean

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) met with Sheila McGeoghean and reviewed all of the pertinent documents to consider the application of a Livery License. Ms. McGeoghean stated that there is a big demand for transporting the elderly not only to the hospital but also the supermarket. She is available “mostly” mother hours. The BOS reviewed the application that included Application for Home Occupation Permit/Zoning, a Business Certificate, Insurance Coverage, Registry of Motor Vehicle Driving Record, and CORI Check. All of the appropriate paperwork checked out. *Mr. Cunningham moved to approve a Private Livery License for Sheila McGeoghean, 8 Labbe Road, for transporting passengers, packages and letters for hire, license to expire December 31, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Jared Wayne, Avenue of Flags, West Groton

The BOS met with Jared Wayne. Jared has raised \$1,290 in addition to \$1,000 from the BOS for a total of \$2,290. He made a presentation to the Board of the flag project and all of the materials that will used to finish the project. Plaques in memoriam of loved ones will be mounted on the flagpole. In total, he will be placing 55 flags along West Main Street in West Groton. In answer to Mr. Hartnett’s question, the Boy Scouts will be responsible for maintaining, storing and placing the flags on the appropriate holidays. Mr. Wayne, Jared’s Dad, inquired if there was a location for storage. It was recommended to seek permission from the Fire Chief for storage in West Groton Fire Station or to check with the Council On Aging for the Senior Center or perhaps Mr. Bayard Underwood for storage on the Squannacook Sportmen’s Property. The BOS was very impressed with Jared Wayne and this very worthwhile project.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS) PROPOSAL w/ TOWNSEND

In attendance for this portion was John Walsh, Groton EMS Director; Roy Shepherd, Townsend EMS Director; and Jean Taubert and David Hargraves, Townsend ALS Paramedics. Mr. Walsh informed the Board that the state is now mandating that any ALS vehicle must be manned by 2 Paramedics and this mandate is unfunded by the state. Paramedic David Hargraves made a presentation and it is attached.

Mr. Shepherd elaborated a little further that Townsend is looking to grow. As stated in the presentation in order for Paramedics to maintain their diagnostic and technical skills, they need to use their training. A regional approach will serve this purpose; however, in increasing towns there is the need to acquire a new vehicle and with the state mandate of two paramedics per vehicle, need for more money not only the vehicle but also the staffing. A fully equipped new vehicle is \$120,000. One of the monitors they will be purchasing is approximately \$24,000. He likened it to building a consortium within a controlled system and stated that Townsend ALS has a proven, valued service.

Mr. Chamberlin stated that the BOS was in support conceptually of this regional approach; however informed Mr. Shepherd that due to state, as well as town constraints, Groton’s question would be where we find the money to fund this needed service?

Ms. Kitchen stated that she spoke her counterparts in both Townsend and Pepperell and that there will be a lot more narrowing down of the costs to determine an exact cost. Ms. Kitchen stated that there is still a little homework that needs to be done at the administrative level and then they would make the presentation to the BOS.

Mr. Chamberlin agreed with Mr. Shepherd that you can’t let infrastructure deteriorate.

Mr. Hartnett felt it's a great program and that the Town of Groton should pay. He felt it was an admirable gesture to continue the service but upon review Groton will arrive at "some number."

Mr. Cunningham agreed with his Board members but stated that the "devil is in the details." He inquired if we knew if Essence, the new owners of Deaconess, would be providing ALS similar to Emerson in Concord and Health Alliance in Leominster and what that cost would be to Groton. He asked Mr. Shepherd why Townsend wasn't collecting the insurance? He felt that the insurers should pay for the state mandated services?

Jeff Wilson, Chair of the Finance Committee questioned how Townsend ALS could operate on a deficit per call basis. And why that figure isn't the same for all towns? Ms. Taubert answered that the collection rates vary per town. Mr. Wilson also stated that this type of service speaks to a user fee.

Mr. Cunningham added that Groton needs to get the information from Essence if they will be providing ALS and also wants the Board to draft legislation to remedy inequities at the state level where they are establishing unfunded mandates. He stated that this was unacceptable.

In summary, there is going to be a roundtable of a core group with the participating Towns (Groton, Townsend, Pepperell and Lunenburg) Finance Committee representation, Ambulance Directors and Town Administrators.

LIBRARY – SUNDAY HOURS PROPOSAL

The Board was in consensus of the Proposal for Sunday Hours Pilot Project for the Groton Public Library and it is attached.

POLICE OFFICER APPOINTMENT – Jeffrey Frates Fox

Chief Mulhern was in attendance for this appointment. He stated that Mr. Fox is a graduate of the Municipal Police Academy; is certified as an instructor for firearms, shotguns, and rifles; is trained in martial arts and defense tactics and received a very high rating from the interview panel. *Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Jeffrey Frates Fox as Police Officer for the term to expire June 30, 2003 with a one-year probationary period contingent upon successful completion of a psychological examination and a physical examination.*

POLICE OFFICER PROMOTIONS - Sergeant James Cullen and Eric Watkins

Chief Mulhern stated that his recommendation for the promotion of Sergeant is James Cullen. Officer Cullen will be an outstanding supervisor for the department; joined the Groton Police Department (GPD) in 1999; is a graduate of the New Hampshire Police Recruit Academy and also graduated from the Reserve Academy given by NERPI; has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex Community College; has proudly represented the department at numerous functions including the Massachusetts Memorial Foundation; was a Madd Officer of the Year; and has received many letters of thanks and appreciation form other police agencies as well as citizens. *I move to approve the promotion of Officer James Cullen as Sergeant effective January 6, 2003 at 8:35 P.M. for the term to expire June 30, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

Chief Mulhern also introduced Eric Watkins, his other recommendation for the promotion of Sergeant. Officer Watkins joined the GPD in 1999 after having been a patrolman with Harvard for fifteen months. He is a graduate of Gardner Police Academy. He also worked with GPD as an Auxiliary (volunteer hours to community) and a Reserve Officer. He has completed numerous training seminars and workshops included Reid Interview and Interrogation and Mass. Police Detective Clinic. He has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Wachusett Community College and is presently working toward a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice.

Chief Mulhern stated that this would finalize his complement of "a core background of supervisors on the street," which includes senior officer Sergeant Glezcer. *Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the promotion of Officer Eric Watkins as Sergeant effective January 6, 2003 at 8:45 P.M. for the term to expire June 30, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.*

Weed Management Committee Appointment

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Joshua Degen as Planning Board Representative and Robert Lewis as Planning Board Representative Alternate to the Lost Lake/Knops Pond Weed Management advisory Committee term to expire June 30, 2003.

Earth Removal Advisory Committee Appointment

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint Scott Wilson as Planning Board Representative and Evan Owen as Member at Large to the Earth Removal Advisory Committee for the term to expire June 30, 2003. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Middlesex Country Retirement (MDXCR) Legislation.

Mr. Hartnett stated that he was opposed to this legislation. He stated that there was a lot of verbiage included and that this came about as a result of the huge assessment each Town recently learned of. He stated that it is worth looking into some of their management issues; however MDXCR is subject to an audit just like Towns are. He recommends that we have town counsel review this legislation. Mr. Hartnett stated that MDXCR oversees approximately 70 communities. He inquired how many other towns are

in support of this.

Ms. Kitchen stated that this legislation has already been filed and that the House has their own legal counsel and can make any necessary amendments to this legislation. Ms. Kitchen also stated that Jim Fahey of MDXCR said that MDXCR would be supportive of any legislation providing better employer balance to the Board.

Mr. Chamberlin stated that this summary accomplishes some much-needed changes.

Mr. Cunningham stated that he was in favor of improved communication beforehand. Groton was taken by surprise by the assessment. A better level of representation would improve and fine tune communication.

Mr. Hartnett felt that this legislation intends to get rid of the current board and then disband and that's another reason he is not in support of this. *Mr. Cunningham moved to support the proposed legislation entitled: "An Act relating to the management of the Middlesex Regional Retirement System." Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Two in favor (Chamberlin, Cunningham) with one opposed (Hartnett).*

One-Day Liquor License – Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce @ Groton School.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve a One-Day All Alcohol License for Christine Bergeron of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce at Groton School on March 11, 2003 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Review/Approve Minutes of December 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2002.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2002. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Chamberlin had some amendments to the minutes of December 9, 2002 and they were so noted. Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2002 as amended. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2002. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2002. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Review/Approve and Not Release Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2002.

Mr. Hartnett recused himself, as he was not a member of the BOS for these minutes. *Mr. Cunningham moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2002. Seconded by Mr. Chamberlin. Two in favor (Chamberlin, Cunningham) with one abstention (Hartnett).*

Administrative Officer

Representative Hargraves informed us that Bill #5364 (3 vs. 5 member BOS) was signed by the Governor and we need to set the date for special election next week.

A reminder of the New Rail Trail Meeting on Thursday, January 09, 2003, at 2 PM. Mr. Chamberlin will be attending.

Friday and Saturday is Mass Municipal Association Annual Trade and Meeting Show.

Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney will be in contact with the BOS next week regarding the status of snow and ice account. Mr. Cunningham mention and the BOS agreed that they commend Tom Delaney and his whole staff for the roads, which are in "top shape." The BOS want to thank all the workers. They are appreciated.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Hartnett. Unanimous vote.

Approved: _____
Thomas D. Hartnett

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Casey,
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved: January 6, 2003

Attachments - ALS Presentation by Townsend
- Proposal for Sunday Hours Pilot Project