

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOVEMBER 1, 2005  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
“APPROVED”**

**Present:** George F. Dillon, Jr., Chair; John L. Saball, Vice Chair; Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; Mihran Keoseian, Member; Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen; and Kathleen Newell, Office Assistant

The meeting opened at 7:01P.M.

**Public Hearing RE: Intersection Modification of Higley Street at Farmers Row**

The public hearing was held and the proceedings enclosed herein.

**Board of Selectmen Policy – Chapter 40B Comprehensive Permit**

Mr. Dillon stated that the Board had requested comments from other departments. Ms. Kitchen stated that GELD had suggested that the application be sent to all departments. Mr. Dillon suggested that West Groton Water District be included in the distribution. Mr. Dillon stated that the application had been reviewed and the permit application for the 40B appears to be the same as the normal permitting process. Mr. Dillon referenced Dunstable’s 40B application is a specific application for comprehensive permit. Mr. Dillon stated that even with the policy the Board has a very short period of time to respond.

*Mr. Saball moved to adopt the Policies for Consideration of Proposals under G.L. c 40B, §§20-23 (05-04). Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

**Chief Joseph Bosselait RE: Overview of Advanced Life Support**

Chief Bosselait reviewed an Overview of ALS (enclosed herein) and asked if the Board had any questions. Chief Bosselait stated that Groton was very fortunate to have four (4) ALS units providing service. Mr. Saball questioned the stipend to Townsend and asked if it was contractual. Ms. Kitchen stated that the initial agreement had been \$5000 and the second year \$20,000 had been proposed, but Townsend had not responded so we have remained at \$5,000. Chief Bosselait stated that he had met with the new Fire Chief and ALS and they will hold the current agreement as it stands. Mr. Saball asked if there was any advantage to having a contract with Townsend if we have similar quality and response from other sources and asked if we need to pay a stipend to Townsend. Chief Bosselait stated that Ms. Kitchen had been instrumental in negotiating the contract. Ms. Kitchen stated that we are still operating off a contract from two years ago and at that time there were no other ALS services available. Chief Bosselait stated that the number of calls by Townsend was obvious and the benefit of having a contract was that the core towns serviced are prioritized. Mr. Saball stated that to pay one provider a stipend and not the others did not make sense. Chief Bosselait stated that he needed to better understand MedStar’s numbers. Mr. Dillon suggested that he review the numbers and follow up with the Board, before budget time. Mr. Dillon commented that Townsend had been a good provider for a long time and we want to save money where we can, but also keeping in mind reliable service.

**William Shute RE: National Incident Management System (NIMS)**

Mr. William Shute; Chief of Police Robert Mulhern and Fire Chief Joseph Bosselait were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Shute reviewed a handout entitled Emergency Preparation Status (enclosed herein). Mr. Dillon asked Mr. Shute what his personal assessment of how the program is moving along. Mr. Shute stated slowly considering the magnitude of what needs to be done. Mr. Shute stated he needed to work on individual tasks such as memos of understanding for evacuation and food, noting that it had been a long time since these had been updated.

Mr. Keoseian stated that the goals were aggressive and commended Mr. Shute for his attention to overseeing the goals and objectives. Mr. Keoseian asked if there were a means to communicate this vast information to the public. Chief Mulhern stated that we are a part of the North East Regional Advisory Committee which updates daily and one of the

suggestions had been a public relations campaign called Security in Knowledge and the information would be available at the Library, Town Hall and Public Safety Complex.

Chief Bosselait stated that the NIMS was not new to the departments as they have been operating under an incident command structure for years and NIMS has brought it to national attention, but internally it is not new. Mr. Saball thanked Mr. Shute for his effort to date and taking the time to put the presentation together.

**Earth Removal Exemption – Lawrence Academy, Lowell Road**

Earth Removal Inspector Michelle Collette and Mr. Robert Black were present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Collette stated that the Earth Removal Advisory Committee had voted unanimously to recommend the Board approve the exemption. Ms. Collette stated that the material would be removed from the Lawrence Academy site and be stockpiled at Mr. Black's facility. Mr. Black stated that approximately 100-200 cubic yards would be returned to the site upon completion of the tennis courts.

*Mr. Saball moved to approve a Certificate of Exemption to the Earth Removal By-Law, Chapter 134, Section 10, for Lawrence Academy for the removal of up to 1000 cubic yards of loam located at Lawrence Academy on Lowell Road, to include the following conditions:*

- 1. No operating on site before 8:00 AM or after 4:00 PM.*
- 2. Material taken off site limited to 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.*
- 3. The roadway must be cleaned at the end of the workday.*
- 4. No operating on weekends or holidays.*
- 5. Applicant shall notify the Earth Removal Inspector prior to commencement of activity.*
- 6. Slope of stockpiles not to exceed 2:1*
- 7. Appropriate dust control measures to be undertaken.*

*Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

**Chief Robert Mulhern RE: Officer Appointment – Dale Rose and Filling Vacancy – Office Assistant/Clerk Position**

Chief Mulhern, Mr. Dale Rose, Ms. Joan Rose and Sgt. James Cullen were present for this portion of the meeting.

Chief Mulhern reviewed Mr. Rose's qualifications stating that he was a full time officer in Ashby, 911 qualified, a black belt and had crisis intervention training. Chief Mulhern stated that Mr. Rose would be a positive addition to the department and asked that Mr. Rose be started at Step 3 due to his experience. Mr. Saball thanked the Chief and commended Mr. Rose for his dedication to continuing education efforts and stated that his experience would be beneficial to the Town. The Board welcomed Mr. Rose.

*Mr. Saball moved to appoint Dale Rose to the position of Patrol Officer at Step 3, effective November 2, 2005, with a one-year probationary period and contingent upon receipt of written examination results. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

Chief Mulhern stated he was seeking to fill the vacant 20-hour per week Office Clerk position in his department. Chief Mulhern detailed the duties performed. Mr. Dillon stated that he would support the position at 19 hours and he would hope that the Board be consistent in applying the 19 hours as other positions within the Town are reviewed. Chief Mulhern stated the request was for 20 hours but would defer to the Board. Mr. Keoseian stated he would support 19 hours to be reexamined after the next round of negotiations. Mr. Dillon stated that he had had discussions with Chief Mulhern and expressed that it was important to be consistent with all departments.

*Mr. Saball moved to authorize the Chief of Police to fill the vacancy of Office Assistant/Clerk for 19-hours per week. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Verizon License**

Ms. Kitchen stated that the execution of the license would be postponed for two weeks as there were issues with this site as well as issues at another site with Verizon.

**Appointment – Trails Committee – Edward Bretschneider**

*Mr. Saball moved to appoint Edward Bretschneider to the Trails Committee for the one-year term, term to expire June 30,*

2006. *Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

**Minutes**

*Mr. Saball moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 26, 2005, as amended. Seconded by Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

*Mr. Saball moved to approve the Emergency Session Minutes of October 20, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Kitchen stated that there was not meeting scheduled for next week and the next meeting would be on November 14, 2005.

**SELECTMEN LIAISON UPDATE**

Mr. Keoseian stated that he had attended a very productive meeting with the new school superintendent and business manager. Mr. Keoseian stated that he felt we will have a good partnership with the new superintendent.

Mr. Nordblom stated that he had been to several meetings regarding Groton Residential Gardens and a resolution should be forthcoming within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Mr. Dillon stated that the first meeting with the newly formed SEIU 888 will be held on November 15, 2005; he had attended a court of honor for Daniel Starr who was retiring; he had attended a Town Government Study Committee; and met with Woodard and Curran regarding the final report for sewer alternatives for the Lost Lake and West Groton areas.

*Mr. Saball moved to go into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B for the purpose of considering discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual, also to comply with the provision of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (generally privacy) and will not reconvene in Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Roll Call Vote: Dillon – yes; Saball – yes; Nordblom – yes; Cunningham – yes; Keoseian - yes*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

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respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Newell  
Office Assistant

Attachments (3): Higley Street Public Hearing Checklist  
Overview of ALS  
Emergency Preparedness Status

Date Approved: November 14, 2005