

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2007
APPROVED**

Present: Peter S. Cunningham, Chair; George F. Dillon, Jr., Vice Chair; Mihran Keoseian, Member; Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer and Kathy Newell, Office Assistant.

Absent: John L. Saball, Clerk and Joshua Degen, Member

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

Chief Bosselait RE: Public Hearing Fire Department Ambulance Rates

Chief Bosselait was unable to attend due to a fire call.

Mr. Dillon moved to open the hearing at 7:04 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

- [X] 1. Hearing Opened at 7:04 P.M.
- [X] 2. Read Legal Notice
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- [X] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.
Mr. Cunningham stated that the proposed rates were in keeping with the Medicare fee schedule and were comparable with surrounding communities.
- [X] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

Mr. Dillon moved to close the hearing at 7:08 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

- [X] 5. Hearing Closed at 7:08 p.m.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the fee increase for the Fire Department Ambulance Rates as follows:

	<i>Current Rate</i>	<i>Proposed Rate</i>
<i>BLS Base Rate</i>	\$475.00	\$530.00
<i>ALS Base Rate</i>	\$820.00	\$910.00
<i>Oxygen</i>	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00

Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Alfred Peter Armstrong RE: One-Day Liquor License, February 9, 2007, @ First Parish Church

Mr. Armstrong and Ms. Taylor were present for this portion of the meeting. Mr. Armstrong indicated that he and Ms. Taylor were getting married and wanted the license for the reception.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for Alfred Peter Armstrong at the First Parish Church, One Powderhouse Road on Friday, February 9, 2007, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. contingent upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Elizabeth Currier, Personnel Manager RE: Reclassifications – Conservation Administrator & Environmental Compliance Analyst

Ms. Currier, Mr. Craig Auman, Mr. Peter Morrison and Ms. Michelle Collette were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Ritter stated that an opinion had been received which concurred with Ms. Currier's recommendation to not go forward with recommending the new positions at this time.

Mr. Dillon moved not to recommend the reclassification of Environmental Compliance Analyst and Conservation Administrator positions at this time. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Mr. Auman stated that there was a new job description and title that should be implemented. Mr. Auman stated that it was unfair to wait until the contract is opened in 2009.

Mr. Cunningham stated that the duties performed by the employee and the current salary are comparable to surrounding communities. Mr. Auman stated that he was not talking about pay, but the job description. Mr. Cunningham stated that there are certain protocols which need to be followed when you have a contract and it would not be prudent for the Board to open the contract for the job description change.

Mr. Auman stated that there are two positions and suggested that the Board talk to the union about opening the contract for just those two positions. Mr. Cunningham reiterated the protocols need to be followed.

- **Council on Aging Appointment – James Kane**

Mr. Kane stated that he had retired and would like to get involved in the community.

Mr. Dillon moved to appoint James Kane to the Council on Aging for the vacant unexpired three-year term, term to expire June 30, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

Contract Approval for Historic Documents Preservation Project

This agenda item was postponed until a later date.

- **Designate Town Clerk Census Liaison to the Commonwealth**

Mr. Dillon moved to designate the Town Clerk as local Census Liaison. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Keoseian).

- **Revise Groton Community Center Committee Charge**

Mr. Dillon moved to amend the Committee Charge for the Groton Community Center to add an additional representative from Lawrence Academy for a total membership of 10. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Cost of Living Increase – Elected Positions, Officials

Mr. Dillon stated that he had no problems with the first motion, but he could not support the second motion for a COLA for the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors, Moderator and Tree Warden.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve a 2.75% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY08 for the Highway Surveyor and Town Clerk. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Mr. Dillon stated that in the past the COLA had not been applied to the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors or Moderator and it was a symbolic gesture to not increase the stipend. Mr. Dillon noted that there are tough fiscal constraints facing the Town and department heads are being asked to “tighten the belt”.

Mr. Keoseian offered an opposing opinion that the minimal increase would be a symbolic show of appreciation for the work done by the elected officials.

Mr. Keoseian moved to approve a 2.75% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FY08 for the Elected Officials including Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors, Tree Warden and Moderator. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. 1 in favor (Keoseian), 2 opposed (Cunningham and Dillon), 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Designate Chairman Authority to Approve Interim Administrative Officer’s Payroll

Mr. Dillon moved to designate the Chairman to approve the Interim Administrative Officer’s Bi-Weekly Payroll. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

- **Library Endowment Events, Inc. RE: One –day Charity and Wine Pouring License, March 10, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Groton School**

Mr. Dillon moved to approve a Charity Wine Pouring License for the Groton Public Library Endowment Events, Inc. for a wine tasting event to be held in the dining hall at Groton School on Saturday, March 10, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. contingent upon approval from the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission and receipt of certificate of insurance. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

- **Review/Approve Minutes of January 16, 2007**

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the regular session minutes of January 16, 2007. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. 3 in favor, 2 absent (Saball and Degen).

Report of the Interim Administrative Officer

Mr. Ritter reviewed his activities of the week.

Selectmen Liaison Reports

Mr. Cunningham stated that the Blue Ribbon Town Government Committee had been having good discussions with the Town Accountant, Board of Assessors, and the Treasurer/Tax Collector. They would meet at a later date with the Town Clerk.

Mr. Dillon stated that on Wednesday evening there would be a neighborhood meeting with the Station Avenue Redevelopment Planning Committee. And the meeting that had taken place on January 24, 2007 was being replayed on access cable.

Mr. Keoseian stated that he had been meeting with different member of the school to get a better understanding of the projected budget "wish list".

Mr. Keoseian stated that the budget meetings with the Finance Committee and Department heads on the previous Saturday had been very productive and he was impressed with the session format.

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Keoseian. Unanimous vote.

Approved: _____

Peter S. Cunningham, Chair

Kathleen Newell

_____ respectfully submitted,

Office Assistant

Date Approved: *February 12, 2007*