

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES JUNE 29, 2009  
APPROVED**

**Present:** Peter Cunningham, Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Vice Chairman; Anna Eliot, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen; Stuart Schulman

**Also Present:** Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

*Mr. Cunningham called meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public. Mr. Cunningham read a prepared statement regarding the recent resignation of a Groton Police Department.*

**TOWN MANAGER REPORTS**

1. Mr. Haddad reported that he is appointing the Interim DPW Director effective June 29, 2009. The Board made comments in regard to the appointment.  
*Mr. Degen moved to ratify the Town Manager appointment as the Interim DPW Director effective June 29, 2009. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion.*
2. Mr. Haddad explained the recent cuts in the BOH office and how he planned to pick up the slack in that office. Mr. Degen recognized the employees that were laid off and thanked them for their years of service.
3. Mr. Haddad reported that he contacted counsel in regards to the ZBA quorum issue. Mr. Haddad explained the explanation he received from counsel. Mr. Haddad stated that he would continue to work with the ZBA on best practices.
4. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to serve on the Bylaw Review Committee.  
*Mr. Schulman moved to appoint Mark W. Haddad to the bylaw Review Committee for a one year term to expire June 30, 2010. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
5. *Mr. Haddad asked the Board to approve the updated Electronic Usage Policy.*  
*Mr. Schulman moved to adopt the updated Electronic Usage Policy. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
6. Mr. Haddad reported that Town counsel was seeking anew hourly rate. The Board asked Mr. Haddad to go back and inform counsel that the Board wanted the same rate of \$165.

**PUBLIC HEARING, VERIZON CABLE CONTRACT**

*M. Dillon moved to open the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Hearing opened.*

Mr. Cunningham read the legal notice and queried the audience. Mr. Haddad gave an overview on negotiations. Mr. Haddad noted the help given by the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Russell asked what parts of Town would not get FIOS. Jim McGrail of Verizon stated that 73% of the Town is ready for hook up while the rest of the Town needs work done to be able to get Verizon. Mr. Cunningham asked about the public access channels. Mr. Haddad stated that three channels would be provided, but they will be different channels.

*Mr. Dillon moved to close the Public hearing at 8:50pm. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Hearing closed.*

*Mr. Cunningham moved: That we find that Verizon has the legal and financial capability to operate a cable system in Town and has the management experience and technical expertise required to operate a cable system in Town. Additionally, that entering into the proposed license with Verizon will benefit the current and future cable subscribers and the Community as a whole. Therefore we hereby grant Verizon a license to operate a cable system in Town in the Town presented here tonight. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**BOSTON POST CANE**

Mr. Bouchard stated that he has been collecting information regarding the Boston Post Cane. Mr. Bouchard has reviewed criteria for the cane and sought input from senior in Town. Mr. Bouchard discussed possible replicas of the cane to be given out. The Board discussed the criteria for the cane. Mr. Rosland of the Historical Society

suggested the real cane be housed at the Historical Society. Mr. Haddad stated that Mr. Bouchard could finalize the policy and come back to the selectmen for adoption.

**ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS**

*Ms. Eliot moved to approve the Board of Selectmen Annual Re-Appointments as listed on the memo from the Town Manager dated June 25, 2009. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

*Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager Annual Re-appointments as listed on the memo from the Town Manager dated June 25, 2009. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

*Ms. Eliot moved to approved the appointment of Janet Vartanian Sheffield to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one year term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried.*

**ZBA Appointments**

*Mr. Schulman moved to appoint Jay Prager (conditional on a check on the actual expiration date of Mr. Prager) and Mark Mulligan as full members for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2012. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-yes,2 oppose Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Degen)*

*Ms. Eliot moved to appoint Megan Mahoney, Chase Duffy and Harris McWade-Gerber as alternate members for a one-year term that expires June 30, 2010. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-yes, 1 abstention)*

The ZBA asked to defer the vacancy vote until the committee had a chance to review the interest forms submitted.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Eliot stated that she and Mr. Dillon and Mr. Cunningham attended the recent Army Community Covenant on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Gibbet Hill and that the Town Manager should work with the Veterans Service officer in Groton. Mr. Degen commented on the Worlds Largest Peace Book and that the Groton's Farmers Market was now open.

*Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session and not to return to open session, for the purpose of discussing strategy going into litigation at 9:00pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call: Dillon-yes; Degen-yes; Eliot-yes; Schulman-yes; Cunningham-yes.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anna Eliot, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted,  
Patrice Garvin  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 10-5-09