

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES MARCH 1, 2010
APPROVED**

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

School Committee Members Present: Peter Carson; Roberta Erickson; Allison Manugian

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

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad distributed the proposed changes to the Prescott School Redevelopment Committee Charge as requested by the Board.

Mr. Dillon moved to adopt the Prescott School Redevelopment Committee Charge. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

2. Mr. Haddad reported that concerns have been raised from the SEIU Union Highway Water Transfer Station regarding work being performed by employees out of class. Agreement has been reached with the union to fill the position of Foreman at the Transfer Station. The position has been advertised and Mr. Haddad has appointed Keith Burchette to the position effective February 1, 2010. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointment.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Keith Burchette as Foreman at the Transfer Station, effective February 1, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Mr. Haddad asked to defer the Warrant discussion for Town meeting until later in the meeting.

4. Mr. Haddad reported that the bidder conference and site walk was held for Tarbell on February 25, 2010. Mr. Haddad stated that one developer attended and was very encouraged by his interest in the project. Bids are due March 25th.

MODERATOR, COMMITTEE TO APPOINT NASHOBA TECH REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Cunningham recognized a quorum of the Selectmen and three Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee members present to appoint the representative from Groton for the Nashoba Tech High School Committee. Mr. Cunningham noted the letter from Kevin McKenzie expressing interest in being reappointed. Mr. McKenzie hoped to be able to continue on the committee. Mr. Carson asked if there was information that went out to the town about the reappointment. Mr. McKenzie stated that his appointment, as well as a vacant alternate position was posted on the web page. Mr. Dillon thanked Mr. McKenzie for his efforts and work on the committee. Ms. Collette wanted to thank Nashoba Tech for their work on the Kiosk for James Brook Stormwater Management. Ms. Collette noted a significant cost savings for the Town thanks to Nashoba Tech.

Ms. Eliot moved to nominate Kevin McKenzie representing Groton to the Nashoba Valley technical District Committee effective April 1, 2010, expiring March 31, 2013. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn the nominating committee at 7:16pm. Meeting adjourned.

REVIEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST

Carolyn Fischer, Affordable Housing Coordinator provided the Board with a brief overview of the 2008 Town Meeting vote for an Affordable Housing Trust. Ms. Fischer discussed a possible 5 to 7 member committee that should have some background in real-estate. Mr. Haddad reiterated that the composition of the trust was up to the Town. The Board discussed the composition of a five member trust versus a seven member trust. Mr. Schulman asked if there would be a conflict of interest if a member was a realtor. Mr. Degen assumed any conflict of interest that came up that a member would have to recuse himself. Mr. Dillon asked if the trust could incur debt on behalf of the Town. Ms. Fischer said that she would get back to the Board regarding that specific question. Ms. Eliot asked if Town Counsel has had a chance to review the document. Ms. Fischer stated that counsel has not reviewed the document. Mr. Dillon suggested not giving the document to counsel until some more questions were answered. Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Haddad and Ms. Fischer to bring the Affordable Housing Trust document back to the Board after more analysis.

REVIEW WARRANTS FOR TOWN MEETING

Mr. Haddad reviewed the positions up for election and noted that the Constable and Tree Warden were still listed because the legislation, changing the charter has not been passed by the legislature. Mr. Haddad also mentioned that space was being held for a possible override question. Mr. Haddad noted that a final decision to place an override on the Warrant would be made at the March 29th Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Haddad reviewed which elected boards had open positions, and which positions were being contested.

Mr. Haddad reviewed the articles in the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Haddad noted that Article 4 was a recommendation to provide the same COLA increase for non union employees as union employees, which is 2%. Article 5, the Operating Budget, will have contingent motions due to the possibility of an override. There was also discussion as to Dunstable's minimum contribution to the schools, and how that amount affects Groton.

Mr. Haddad reviewed the standard articles, in particular the CPC articles. Mr. Haddad indicated that CPC would be using 26k for administrative expenses. Mr. Easom, CPC Member stated that the state may reimburse the Town at level or possibly more than FY10. Mr. Haddad stated that the CPC is holding their public hearings on March 2nd at 7:30pm, and that all the projects listed are from town agencies. Mr. Degen asked if the CPC was working on any policies regarding grants to private organizations. Ms. Perkins, CPC Members stated that no policies have been drafted.

Mr. Haddad stated that the charter changes in the warrant were to clean up the language from Highway Surveyor to the DPW Director. Article 14 needs the same language cleaned up but needs to be submitted by the Planning Board. Mr. Haddad stated that Article 15 was a place holder for the flood plain and that the final maps have not been provided to the Town. Once those maps are received the correct language will be placed in the article.

Mr. Haddad explained that Article 16 was a housekeeping article and that Article 17 dealt with the Parking Fee violations the Town needs to update.

Mr. Haddad reviewed the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Haddad discussed transfers within the Water Enterprise Fund and a placeholder for the Tarbell School RFP. Mr. Haddad stated that he would continue to work on the Warrant and update the Board on any changes. Once the warrant is completed it will be sent to counsel for review.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen reported that a tent collection will be held at the Groton Exchange on March 6th and & 7th for Haitians. Mr. Schulman commented on how good the Country Club was looking and encouraged residents to go to the Country Club. Mr. Haddad agreed a lot of work had been done to improve the Country Club. Mr. Dillon commented on the Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee on February 27th. Mr. Degen expressed concerns with the schools and its expenses and that an override will cause deficits year after year. Mr. Cunningham agreed that the school's present course was unsustainable.

MINUTES

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the January 11, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the January 25, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0-1 Mr. Degen abstaining).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn at 8:09pm. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 3-31-10