

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 7, 2010
APPROVED**

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

Absent: Joshua A. Degen

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

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda for the public.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad [**Document #1-M. Dupell Resume**] stated that he has been working with the Town of Boxborough to consolidate and share the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer position. Mr. Haddad reported that a search was conducted and Mark E. Dupell of Pepperell was chosen. Mr. Haddad gave a brief description of Mr. Dupell's current position in Tynsborough and noted that he comes highly recommended. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify this appointment. Mr. Haddad added that the annual salary would be \$70,341, of which Boxborough will be responsible for forty percent. Mr. Schulman asked Mr. Dupell how he felt about working in two separate towns. Mr. Dupell replied that he would not have a problem. Ms. Eliot asked about the possible passage of a new Sign Bylaw and if he had any issues with enforcing the new bylaws. Mr. Dupell stated that he has enforced bylaws in other towns and did not see a problem. Mr. Dillon asked about the agreement with Boxborough and what was meant by night meetings. Mr. Haddad noted that the Town of Boxborough had night hours for the building department and that those hours would be part of Mr. Dupell's Boxborough hours. Mr. Haddad assured the Board that with Don Kinney there would be forty hours worth of coverage in the building department.

Mr. Cunningham moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Mark Dupell, of Pepperell as the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer effective September 13, 2010. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

2. Mr. Haddad [**Document #2-Inter-Municipal Agreement between Groton and Boxborough**] reported that Town Counsel has approved and signed off on the proposed inter-municipal agreement between Groton and Boxborough for the Building Commissioner. Mr. Haddad stated that the only outstanding matter is the actual cost of the position and the amount of the reimbursement from Boxborough. Once Mr. Dupell chooses a benefits plan this amount can be finalized. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board approve the inter-municipal agreement so Mr. Dupell can start on September 13, 2010.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the inter-municipal agreement between the Town of Groton and Boxborough contingent on the amount for health insurance reimbursement to be determined. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

3. Mr. Haddad reported that the Police Department has been in the process of searching for two new full-time police officers to fill vacancies in the Department. Mr. Haddad, along with a recommendation from the Police Chief, requested that the Board of Selectmen ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Rachel Mead of Haverhill. Mr. Haddad gave a brief description of Ms. Mead's background and added that she would be a welcomed addition to the department.

Mr. Dillon moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Rachel Mead, effective September 8, 2010 to expire June 30, 2011. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Haddad also requested that the Board ratify his appointment of Nicholas Belt of Saugus, recommended by the Police Chief. Mr. Haddad gave a brief description of Mr. Belt's background and added that he would be a welcomed addition to the department.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Nicholas Belt, effective September 8, 2010 to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Chief Palma presented Ms. Mead and Mr. Belt with their badges. Mr. Dillon asked if there would be reciprocity for training received in NH and CT for both officers. Chief Palma replied that he would follow up with the Board.

4. Mr. Haddad distributed [Document #3-Memo from CC RE New Appointment] recommending William Neacy to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board appoint Mr. Neacy.
Mr. Dillon moved to appoint William Neacy to the Conservation Commission to an unexpired term to expire June 30, 2012. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
5. Mr. Haddad reported that there are four vacancies on the Local Cultural Council and asked that the Board appoint the individuals recommended by the committee chairman.
Mr. Dillon moved to appoint the following to the Local Cultural Council for a six-year term to expire June 30, 2016: Tim Hess;, Pat Hartvigsen and Joni Parker-Roach. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
6. Mr. Haddad reported that he is awaiting word from Town Counsel regarding Jenkins Road.
7. Mr. Haddad [Document #4-Memo from Town Planner RE Commission on Accessibility] reported that the Commission on Handicap needed the Board to approve a name change and to appoint new members. Ms. Collette actively recruited members to serve and has requested that the following be appointed: Alan Taylor, Emil Rechsteiner, Mark Shack, and Robert Fleischer.
Ms. Eliot moved to change the name of the Commission on the Handicapped to the Commission on Accessibility. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment to the Commission on Accessibility to expire June 30, 2011 to the following: Alan Taylor, Emil Rechsteiner, Mark Shack, and Robert Fleischer. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
8. Mr. Haddad referred to [Document #5-Memo from EMS RE Emergency Response Coordinator] and asked the Board to ratify his appointments.
Mr. Dillon moved to approve William Shute and Donald Palma as the Community Emergency Response Coordinator and Joseph Bosselait and Tom Delaney as alternates, for a term to expire June 30, 2011. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.
9. Mr. Haddad suggested a work session for the September 13th meeting to discuss 2011 goals and objectives.

RAY LYONS-AMEND CONSERVATION RESTRICTION-21 MOOSE TRAIL

Mr. Lyons explained to the Board the need for the amendment to the Conservation Restriction on Moose Trail and explained the history of the parcel. Mr. Lyons noted the insertion of a paragraph in the original restriction that should not have been included. Mr. Bruce Easom of the Conservation Commission stated that the Conservation

Commission approved the amendment to the restriction. Mr. Lyons pointed out that the amendment does not change anything in the restriction.

Ms. Eliot moved to amend the Conservation Restriction as written for 21 Moose Trail. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

REVIEW FIRST DRAFT OF FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Haddad [**Document #6-Draft Warrant**] explained Article 1 and Article 2 of the Warrant. Mr. Haddad commented on refinancing some debt that would save the tax payers 23k. Mr. Dillon asked about sewer debt and if that was included. Mr. Haddad stated that the article did include the sewer debt but not the schools. Mr. Haddad stated that money would be put into the Capital Stabilization Fund. Mr. Haddad noted that the free cash number has not been certified. Mr. Haddad stated that money would be placed into the Stabilization Fund; again the exact amount has to be determined. Once the Free Cash number is determined the tax rate can be determined, referring to Article 5.

Mr. Haddad explained that Article 6 was to adopt MGL Chapter 59 Section 5. This would authorize the Board of Assessors to grant taxpayers experiencing temporary financial hardship a deferral of their property taxes. Mr. Haddad added that it was the Board of Assessors that determined who would receive referrals. Mr. Haddad stated that Article 7 would offer local communities the opportunity to adopt a temporary tax amnesty to motivate tax payers who may be struggling to pay delinquent tax balances. Mr. Cunningham asked where the money would go once received. Mr. Haddad stated that it would go into the general fund.

Mr. Haddad commented that Article 8, 9 and 10 referred to Lost Lake Sewer and that Carol Quinn was in attendance to discuss the articles. Ms. Quinn stated that the Town is waiting to hear if it qualifies under the income median for the grant. Mr. Haddad stated that if the Town did not qualify he would not recommend the project. The Town should hear by 9-2-10 if the Lost Lake Sewer District qualified for grant monies.

Mr. Haddad stated that Article 11 and 12 was for the Community Preservation Accounts and for the Millstone Field Project. Mr. Haddad noted that the Millstone Project is a placeholder. Mr. Haddad stated that under Article 13 the town needs to establish a funding mechanism and authorization for the Country Club to continue to operate. The purpose of the article is to establish a line item budget for the Country Club until June 30, 2011. Ms. Connie Sartini asked if Country Club employees would be considered town employees. Mr. Haddad replied that Country Club employees were always considered town employees and that the Country Club would now work similar to an Enterprise Fund. Mr. Haddad briefly outlines Article 12, 15, 16 and 17 and noted that they could be discussed further during the public hearing on September 20th.

Mr. Haddad stated that Articles 18, 19, 20 and 21 all related to Station Avenue and GELDs new facilities. Article 18 is still in progress due to ongoing negotiations with landowners. Article 19 authorized GELD to purchase the land. Article 20 allows GELD to construct new offices for 3.2 million. Finally, Article 21 transfers land from GELD to the Town allowing for a joint RFP to develop the land.

Mr. Haddad stated that Article 22 addressed MGL 150E. This article is to petition the Legislature through a Home Rule Petition to allow the Town to make changes to health care contributions without being subject to collective bargaining. Mr. Haddad commented on Article 23 relating to the possible sale or lease of the Tarbell School. The RFP is due September 30th.

Mr. Haddad stated that Article 24 and Article 25 address the towns continued health insurance coverage for the surviving spouses of town employees and retirees. The two articles are being put up in conjunction making the towns contributions consistent with past practices.

SELECTMAN LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot commented on the Muster and how well it was attended. Mr. Schulman noted that he attended the Pepperell Covered Bridge ceremony, which was also well attended.

MINUTES

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the regular session minutes of August 23, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document #7-8-23-10 Draft Minutes]

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Eliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
George F. Dillon, Jr., Clerk

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

Date Approved: 9-20-10