

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of January 5, 2009

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Karen Dow. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Other persons present were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Robert Fitzgerald, candidate for the Computer Technology Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Jackson announced that the Board would go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a lawsuit involving the Board of Health and the Call Fire Fighter's contract proposal and would not return to open session.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 –Candidate for the Computer Technology Committee - Robert Fitzgerald: Chairman Jackson asked Mr. Fitzgerald to introduce himself to the Board and explain why he wished to join the Computer Technology Committee. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that he is presently working with a firm specializing in digital forensics and data security consulting. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed his desire to use his knowledge to assist the Town with data security. Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint Robert Fitzgerald to the Computer Technology Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2009; seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0. Discussion included the procedural process of appointing an applicant on the same night an applicant is interviewed. The outcome of that discussion was that if there was a need to delay an appointment, the Board would utilize that option. However, if there was no need to deliberate the candidate(s) qualifications, appointments would be made the same night.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Wilder, Town Administrator, informed the Board that Christmas trees could be brought up to the compost site at the DPW location this Saturday, January 10th from 9AM – 1PM.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business:

Professional Designer Engineering Services: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the contract with Beals Associates Inc, of Boston MA for the design of Phase IB of the Topsfield Linear Common in the amount of \$4,360; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

Please see attached report.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Massachusetts Municipal Association has announced that Topsfield's 2007 Annual Report received 2nd prize in Category 2.

Reports:

Board of Assessors has submitted minutes of December 12, 2008.

Web Site Committee has submitted minutes of October 22, 2008.

Town Library Trustees has submitted minutes of November 12, 2008.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ 126,114.74, breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY09:	
055T	\$ 71,085.01
056	\$ 55,029.73

At 8:03 PM Chairman Jackson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss a lawsuit involving the Board of Health and the Call Fire Fighter’s contract proposal; seconded by Selectman Morrison. A yes vote was recorded for Chairman Jackson, Selectman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther and Selectman Dow. The Board would not return to regular session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were present also.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as written at the January 20, 2009 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.