

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of February 19, 2008

Chairman McArdle called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman McArdle were Richard Gandt, Steve Clark, and Richard Carlson. Boyd Jackson was absent. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Other persons present were Jane Schraffa and Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, and Police Chief Evan Haglund.

Announcements: Chairman McArdle announced that the Board would go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Highway/Water and Parks & Cemetery Unions negotiations, dispatcher's union contract update and Call Fire Fighters Association request for voluntary recognition for Collective Bargaining.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of February 4, 2008; seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

School Resource Officer: Selectman Gandt spoke with the Police Chief Haglund and the MASCO Superintendent to clarify some questions and concerns the Board had with proposed funding of a School Resource Officer (SRO). It was stated that there would be a Memorandum of Understanding between the school administration, school committee and Police Department as to the duties and responsibilities of the SRO. There would be one Topsfield Police Officer assigned to the school and that officer would be trained in the specialized areas needed to perform specific tasks associated with an SRO. Another concern expressed was the allocation of funds for the officer's salary. The question of why the salary is not within the MASCO budget still needs to be resolved. Selectman Gandt stated that Police Chief Haglund suggested placing the School Resource Officer as a Warrant Article, with a Proposition 2 ½ override. Chief Haglund was in attendance and was asked to approach the Board. Chief Haglund began by clarifying that Chief Russell, Police Chief of Boxford, who is making agreements with the MASCO Superintendent, had agreed that the School Resource Officer position would not be a cost to the school. Chief Haglund also noted he agreed that the position should reside within the Police Department budget primarily for control issues over the Resource Officer. Chief Haglund explained the importance of the position to the Board, expressing his belief that it builds an understanding and bond between the youth in the area and the police. He further noted that the DARE Program is a 6th grade program in which the Police work with students. Chief Haglund mentioned that he commended Chief Russell for reaching out to Middleton and Topsfield to join Boxford in this program.

GLC Contract for Review of Renovations/Reuse of Town Hall: Selectman Gandt made a motion to award a contract to GLC of Boston, MA per their submitted scope of service in the amount not to exceed \$4,950, for services related to examining renovation costs and reuse options for the Topsfield Town Hall, seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Station Exterior Window Replacement Project: Selectman Gandt made a motion to award a contract for the Fire Station Window Replacement to Northeastern Commercial Services, Pittsfield, MA in the amount of \$10,300, second by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0.

Holocaust Proclamation: Selectman Carlson made a motion to designate the week of April 27-May 3rd as Holocaust Awareness Week in Topsfield and for the Chairman to sign the proclamation, seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence:

- Moderator’s appointment of Richard Adelman as representative to the North Shore Vocational School
- Fire Chief has submitted copies of Mutual Aid Agreements dating back to 1990’s.
- Essex Agricultural Society has submitted a letter expressing their financial support to the North Shore Greenscape Program. The Board has asked for further information regarding the program.
- Kopelman & Paige has submitted a summary of recent developments in Land Use Laws
- Letter has been received for a new member of the Rail Trail Committee.
- Emails between Rail Trail Chair and an abutter have been received.
- MBTA Advisory Board designee has submitted a summary of January 24, 2008 meeting.
- Action Ambulance has sent a letter of acknowledgement of termination of agreement.
- Letter received from Tri-Town Council explaining budget reduction ramifications.
- Letter from Chairman of Board of Selectmen explaining an option of sharing equipment among specific towns.
- Tree Planning Committee has been awarded DCR Urban Forestry Grant.

Reports:

Conservation Commission	Minutes of January 23, 2008, OoC for 244 Rowley Bridge Rd, 254 Rowley Bridge Rd and monthly report for January submitted
Inspectional Services	Monthly report for January submitted
Cable TV Advisory Committee	Minutes of January 2, 2008
North Shore Vocational School	Minutes of December 6, 2007 and agenda for February 7, 2008
Police Department	Monthly report for January submitted
School Committee	Minutes of January 3, 9 and 23, 2008
Town Accountant	Monthly report for January submitted

Town Administrator’s Report:

Please see attached report.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$135,951.70**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY08:	
067T	\$ 75,832.69
068	\$ 60,119.01

At 8:13 PM, Chairman McArdle motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss the Highway/Water and Parks & Cemetery Unions negotiations, dispatcher's union contract update and Call Fire Fighters Association request for voluntary recognition for Collective Bargaining. Selectman Clark seconded the motion. A yes vote was recorded for Selectmen Carlson, Selectmen Gandt, Selectmen Clark and Chairman McArdle. 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 March 3, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.