

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Minutes of February 22, 2012

Chairman Laura Powers called the meeting to order at 9:00AM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Powers, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Eldon Goodhue (left at 11AM) and Ken Vogel. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Kopelman & Paige P.C. representative Lauren Goldberg, Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee members Stan Ragalevsky and Nancy Luther, Gill's Grocery owner James Gilford, resident Kim Sherwood, and Elementary School Committee Chairman Jeanine Cunniff.

Adoption of Chapter 138, Alcohol License: Kopelman & Paige P.C. Representative Lauren Goldberg presented the details as to the type of licensees the town could issue if Town Meeting were to adopt Chapter 138, which includes fourteen (14) restaurants with full liquor and five (5) with malt liquor (beer) and wine, in addition the two (2) full package stores and five (5) malt liquor and wine. Ms. Goldberg explained that it is more common for towns to petition for Special Acts, as Topsfield has done in the past, which allow for more flexibility on the issuance of licenses specific to Town needs. There was a discussion relative to the timing of presenting the adoption of Chapter 138 at the May 1st Town Meeting. There was a consensus that too many details were left unknown at this point for the full adoption of Chapter 138 to go before Town Meeting this year. There was a brief discussion regarding Farmer Winery Licenses with guidance from Ms. Goldberg on what the law states and what the Town could petition for in a Home Rule Petition. Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee Chairman Stan Ragalevsky believes that the Town should identify what changes would benefit the Town, incorporate them together and submit one petition.

Underride: Kopelman & Paige P.C. Representative Lauren Goldberg explained that the Citizens Petition as presented would only obtain a sense of the meeting. Ms. Goldberg explained that the Town of Topsfield does not have the form of government in which a citizen(s) can present an initiative petition for an underride. Therefore only a Board of Selectmen can place an underride question on the ballot.

Town Warrant Review: Ms. Wilder reported that the Elementary School had requested that the Math Curriculum Warrant Article be removed.

Selectman Gandt reported that the Park & Cemetery Commission requested verbally to have the Lease of Emerson Field be on the Warrant.

Selectman Gandt reported that Conservation Commission has requested wages be added to the language in the Revolving Fund. Chairman Powers polled the Board and the consensus was to honor the request as part time wages.

Selectman Goodhue made a motion to remove the request for the Board of Health Revolving Fund, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

There was a general discussion on titles and the consensus of the Board was to allow Selectman Gandt to work independently on all the Warrant titles.

There was a discussion with Elementary School Committee Chairman Jeanine Cunniff on the details of the Elementary School Technology Upgrade. Ms. Cunniff commented that the School Committee is still working on the School FY13 Budget.

There was discussion on Warrant Articles: Town Meeting Quorum, Roadside Memorial Regulations and Town Record Restoration and Preservation.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to remove the following articles: Fire Station Apron, Farmer Market Alcohol Licensing, Town Meeting Quorum, Roadside Memorials and Reserve for Union Contract Settlements-Water, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0. Selectman Goodhue had left.

Selectman Gandt reported that the Library Trustees had agreed to hire an interim Director for 3 months while searching for a permanent one due to Dana Mastroianni's resignation.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 575,513.49**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY12:	
67T	\$ 81,422.49
67School	\$ 243,620.16
68	\$ 250,470.84

At 11:58AM, Selectmen Vogel made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Gandt seconded the motion; so voted: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Per the Open Meeting Law, the documents that were either distributed to the BOS before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting were:

1. Agenda
2. List of Warrant Articles-dated 2-16-12

Approved as amended at the March 26, 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, § 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.
