

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of March 2, 2009

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison and Karen Dow. Selectman Nancy Luther was absent. 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, Evan E.J. Haglund, Chief of Police, George Hall, Chairman, Conservation Commission and Lana Spillman, Administrator. Conservation Commission representatives arrived at 8:20PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Jackson announced that the Board would be going into executive session at the end of open session to discuss the Call Firefighter's contract and to discuss a potential litigation issue with the Conservation Commission and would not return to open session.

Selectman Gandt addressed the community to explain what activity requires a trench permit under the new law, MGL c 82A, that went into effect March 1, 2009. He explained what constitutes a trench for purposes of the new law.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30PM – COPS Hiring Recovery Program: Police Chief Haglund presented information on a grant program from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The funding is under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) and allows communities to have entry level police officers for a three year period. At the conclusion of the federal funding, the officer position must be retained by the municipality for at least one year. Selectman Gandt made a motion for the Town to apply for a Federal grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Citizen Police Academy Kudos: The Shamroth's of Wilmor Road had sent a letter to the Police Chief expressing their appreciation of the Citizen Police Academy program they had just completed. Chief Haglund described the Citizen Police Academy program, which is a twelve week program, and stated there are presently 20 citizens in a second session which began February 24.

9C Cuts effects on Police Department: Chief Haglund had submitted a letter expressing how the 9C Cuts will affect the police coverage in the Town. The Community Policing Grant, which funds the Halloween detail, parades and other outreach police details, has been cut. Therefore organizations sponsoring such events will now have to request police coverage. The Chief will continue to inform the Board of the impact on the Town.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

The Town Library has requested the closure of South Main for the Summer Reading Program Kick-off. The Police Chief, Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent have approved the request. Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the closing of South Common Street on June 19, 2009 from 5:00PM-8:00PM for the annual summer reading kick-off event, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted 4-0.

Detail Administration fees: Ms. Wilder presented information regarding the City of Somerville successfully filing a Home Rule Petition which allowed them to raise the administrative charge on private details from 10% to 15%. The Board requested that further information as to the town's costs be gathered before making a decision on this matter.

Weston & Sampson request regarding the Landfill: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the preparation of a Monitoring Location Table per Weston & Sampson’s recommendation dated February 19, 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$2,500, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- MIIA Health Insurance Review
- MAPC Winter Council Meeting
- Topsfield Residents Downtown Survey
- Town Report
- Inspections Department Fee Increase
- COA Van
- Other Meetings Attended: MMA Legislative Update Breakfast, Economic Stimulus Bill, MASCO Budget Presentation, BOS Budget Presentation.

Correspondence & Reports

Reports

Rail Trail Committee has submitted minutes of January 6th and February 18th, 2009

Planning Board has submitted minutes of November 25, 2008

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 160,223.15**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:	
071T	\$ 76,407.08
072	\$ 83,816.07

At 8:45 PM, Selectman Gandt motioned to go into executive session to discuss the Call Firefighter’s contract and a potential litigation issue with the Conservation Commission; seconded by Selectman Dow. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Selectman Morrison, Selectman Dow, Selectman Gandt and Chairman Jackson. The Board would not return to open session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as amended at the March 16, 2009 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.