

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

### Minutes of March 3, 2008

Chairman McArdle called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman McArdle were Richard Gandt, Steve Clark, Richard Carlson and Boyd Jackson. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Other persons present were Jane Schraffa of the Topsfield Cable, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Beth Johnson, photographer for Annual Report, Luigi Constanza.

**Announcements:** Chairman McArdle announced that the Board would go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Call Fire Fighters Association request for voluntary recognition for collective bargaining and would not be returning to regular session.

**Selectmen Minutes:** Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of February 11, 2008; seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 5-0. Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of February 19, 2008; seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0. Selectman Jackson abstained. Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the Executive Session of February 19, 2008 and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted 4-0. Selectman Jackson abstained.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Cleaning of 40 Water Supply Wells Request from the Water Department:** Selectman Gandt made a motion to award a contract to Layne Christensen Company of Dracut, MA to clean 40 water supply wells at the North Street Pumping Station for a total contract not to exceed \$16,200, seconded by Selectman Carlson; so voted: 5-0.

**Layout of Fox Run Extension:** Chairman McArdle made a motion to layout as shown on a plan entitled "As-Built Plan of Fox Run Road Extension located in Topsfield, MA dated September 24, 2007 prepared by Eastern Land Survey Associated, Inc., Christopher R. Mello, PLS, 104 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960, Scale: 1" = 20'; recorded in Book 27541 Page 541 in the Essex Southern District Registry of Deeds in Salem, MA" all in accordance with Chapter 82, Section 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws, seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted: 5-0.

**A New Voice for the Public Trees of Topsfield:** Selectman Carlson made a motion to accept the Urban Forestry Challenge Grant from Department of Conservation and Recreation and to execute the contract in the amount of \$5,000 with the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted: 5-0.

**2008 John Deere Loader/Backhoe for Parks & Cemetery:** Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the contract to purchase and equip a 2008 John Deere 310J loader/backhoe with four wheel drive, pallet forks & extended warranty net of trade-in with Schmidt Equipment Inc of North Oxford, MA in the net amount of \$52,112.00, seconded by Selectman Clark; so voted: 5-0.

#### **Town Administrator's Report:**

Please see attached report.

#### **Correspondence & Reports**

##### Correspondence:

FEMA's monies relative to the May 2006 Flood: Selectman Clark made a motion to accept the contract in the amount of \$9,737.77 for the Town's 12.5% reimbursement share of FEMA's monies relative to the May 2006 Flood, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 5-0.

New Identity Theft Law: Kopelman & Paige has submitted information.

Warrant Articles regarding 2 Elderly Housing Overlay Districts: Planning Board has submitted draft language for the 2008 Warrant. Hearing is scheduled for March 18 at 8PM & 9PM.

Warrant Articles regarding Business District Highway North: Planning Board has submitted draft language for the 2008 Warrant. Hearing is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

BOS Response to MASCO: The Board has sent a response to MASCO regarding the ABC Program.

Expo 2008: Main Street Foundation Inc. is sponsoring the Expo 2008 and has submitted the events that have been scheduled for March 29, 2008.

Verizon has informed the Board of a mailing to be distributed to citizens regarding FIOS transitioning to digital format on or before May 12, 2008.

Greenscape Program: An overview of the program has been provided.

Website Committee has submitted its information for the 2008 e-government award to the Executive Director of Common Cause MA.

Reports:

Conservation Commission: submitted Amended Order of Conditions for 5 Maple Lane and Order of Conditions for 86 Salem Road.

Library Trustees submitted minutes of January 8, 2008

Surface and Groundwater Study submitted minutes of January 10, 2008

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of January 25 and February 7, 2008

Elementary School submitted minutes of January 30 and February 7, 2008

Invitation:

S.A.F.E. Studio Fundraiser invited the Board to attend an event on March 29, 2008 at Willowdale Estate beginning at 7PM with a \$50 admissions fee.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **183,078.16**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY08:	
071T	\$ 70,456.07
072	\$ 112,622.09

At 8:01 PM, Chairman McArdle made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Call Fire Fighters Association request for voluntary recognition for Collective Bargaining; Selectman Gandt seconded motion. A yes vote was recorded for Selectmen Jackson, 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 C. Rich, Secretary  
Selectmen's Office

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*Approved as amended at the March 17, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.*