

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of April 27, 2009

Chairman Boyd Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. In addition to Chairman Jackson, Board members present 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, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Health Agent John Coulon together with Sheryl Knutsen and Wade Goldman of the Board of Health, Fire Chief Ronald P. Giovannacci, Police Chief Evan E.J. Haglund, Council on Aging Chairman Jolene Guerra, and Town residents Aaron Johnson and Abbey Jackson (arrived at 8:07)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Selectman Morrison made several announcements:

- The Town's 9th Annual Clean-Up Day will be held on May 2nd, beginning at 8AM at the Town Hall Parking lot, rain or shine. This event is sponsored by the Main Street Foundation, Recycling Committee and Park & Cemetery Commission.
- The Gould Fund for the Performing & Visual Arts will be sponsoring the Ipswich River Brass Ensemble to play May 3rd at 3PM at the Town Library. Doors open at 2:30PM and admission is free.
- Citizens concerned about the swine flu outbreak can access Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>. This site is updated daily.
- Two Police Citizen Alerts that residents should be aware of were discussed. One was the so-called "Grandparent Scams" and the other was the cancellation of the AARP driving class scheduled for April 28th.
- A Senior Information Day sponsored by the Council on Aging will be held on May 16th at Proctor School.
- Reminder that taxes are due May 1st.
- Arbor Day celebrations on May 1st at 9AM at Steward School and 2PM at Proctor School. Proclamations will be read. Selectman Luther will represent the Board at the Steward School ceremony and Selectman Morrison will represent the Board at Proctor School.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30PM-A Better Chance Bike-A-Thon-Doreen Chapman, ABC Board Member, presented a request by the ABC House to hold a bike-a-thon for a fundraiser. Ms. Chapman gave an overview of the ABC program in Topsfield. In terms of the bike-a-thon, Ms. Chapman noted that she has been working with Topsfield and Boxford Police to ensure safety along the route. Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Topsfield portion of both the 3.2 mile and of the 10 mile routes of the A-Better-Chance bike-a-thon on June 14th to start at 1PM, contingent upon the approval of the routes with the Topsfield and Boxford Police, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

7:45PM-Mutual Aid Agreement for Board of Health-J.Coulon, Health Agent, and Board of Health members Wade Goldman and Sheryl Knutsen presented a request for the Board to sign a Regional Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Preparedness in Region 3A. John Coulon stated that at the May 2, 2006 Annual Town Meeting a unanimous vote authorized the Board of Selectman, in conjunction with the Board of Health, to enter into an inter-municipal

agreement with one or more other governmental units to provide those public health services which the Board of Health is authorized to perform. John Coulon noted that the Mutual Aid Agreement before the Board was reviewed by Kopelman & Paige attorney Gregg J. Corbo. In total, there are thirteen communities within Region 3A and four of them have already signed. Selectman Gandt stated his concerns with the agreement and stated that he was not prepared to sign without further review. Selectman Dow questioned who would have authority to initiate a response or request assistance should the need arise. Sheryl Knutsen noted that there was a sense of urgency to the agreement given the outbreak of swine flu. Wade Goldman also stated his support for signing the agreement. Chairman Jackson closed in stating that the Board will take the comments stated under advisement and that they would move quickly with finalizing a decision, however, more time was needed prior to signing it.

8:00PM-Regional Emergency Call Center - Police Chief E. Haglund and Fire Chief R. Giovannacci addressed the Board on the Warrant Article for the Regional Emergency Call Center (RECC). The Fire Chief gave an overview of the background leading to the current proposal and the move toward regionalization of 911 dispatches. The Police Chief addressed the potential savings to the Town and the need to update the Town's dispatch equipment if the Town were not to join the RECC. The cost for cities and towns joining the RECC is estimated at \$16.26 per capita. It was further noted that the Town does not have reverse 911 services or provide emergency medical dispatch. Both are planned for the RECC.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of March 25, 2009; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 5-0. Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the amended minutes of March 30, 2009; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 5-0. Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Executive Session of March 30, 2009; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 5-0. Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of April 1, 2009; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 5-0.

Summarization of Town Warrant: Selectman Gandt provided a general overview of the 35 Articles that are to be presented and voted on at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, beginning at 7PM at the Proctor School.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Special Olympics Ride with the Champions: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the route for the Special Olympics 2009 Ride with the Champions to be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Council on Aging Transportation Donation Fund: Council on Aging presented a request to the Board to use Funds from its Transportation Revolving Account to support the monthly cost of the cell phone, van maintenance and repairs, and salaries associated with three hours of a van driver's time on Fridays. Selectman Gandt began the discussion stating that the Board traditionally does not allow salaries to be paid out of revolving funds. Jolene Guerra, Chairman Council on Aging, addressed the Board explaining that the line item to pay the driver for three hours on Friday was cut from the FY2010 budget and use of this funding would allow the service to continue. Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the use of the Council on Aging Transportation Revolving Account Fund, SR545-COA, to cover the monthly cell phone service, van maintenance and repairs and the van driver's wages paid on Fridays for FY 2010, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Senior Citizen Information Fair Banner: Selectman Luther made a motion to approve a request from the Council on Aging to place a banner between Town Hall and Proctor School from May 6th to May 16th to advertise the Senior Citizen Information Fair which is to be held at Proctor School from 9AM – Noon, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Recognition of Boyd Jackson: Selectman Gandt took a moment out of the regular business to acknowledge Boyd Jackson as this would be Mr. Jackson’s last meeting as a selectman. Selectman Gandt invited Boyd’s wife, Abbey Jackson, to join Boyd as he was presented with two citations for his nine years of service as a Selectman. One citation was issued from Senator Fred Berry and the other from Mr. Jackson’s fellow Selectmen. Chairman Jackson thanked the Board noting his gratitude to the Board and the people of Topsfield.

One Day Liquor License: Selectman Luther made a motion to approve a one day liquor license for the Friends of the Topsfield Library’s Fundraiser to be held on May 2nd at the Gould Barn beginning at 7PM and to waive the \$50.00 application fee and 30-day-prior-to-the-event submission requirement, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Town Meeting Preparation
- Other Budget-Related Items
- Special Town Meeting
- Override Issues
- Business Surveys
- East Street Petition
- Green Communities-Alternative Energy Committees
- FY2010 Contracts
- Other Meetings Attended

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

MassHighway Department submitted a National Bridge Inspection for Rowley Bridge Street/Ipswich River.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council is seeking nomination papers to be submitted for municipal seats on the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization.

National Grid Union Negotiations update was received.

Information regarding Comcast Care Day event that will occur on April 25, 2009 was received.

Metropolitan Area Planning Council is interested in obtaining information on municipal projects that are “shovel ready”.

MIIA Insurance provided an update on their financial status.

Kopelman & Paige sent a memo regarding Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers.

The Massachusetts Coalition for Jobs and Growth is seeking support to endorse licensing of up to three gaming entertainment and destination venues with Massachusetts.

Independent Living Center of the North Shore & Cape Ann Inc. is holding a Legislative breakfast on May 8, 2009, in Peabody, beginning at 8AM. Nominations are being accepted for 5 different awards.

Reports

Cable TV Advisory Committee submitted Minutes of February 4, 2009

Surface & Ground Water Study Committee submitted Minutes of March 12, 2009

Minutes – 04/27/09

Page 4

North Shore Regional Vocational School District submitted Minutes of February 12, 2009 and agenda for April 9, 2009

Library Board of Trustees submitted Minutes of February 10 and March 10 and 24, 2009

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 196,797.10**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:	
087T	\$ 77,033.14
088	\$ 119,763.96

At 9:30 PM, Chairman Jackson entertained a motion to adjourn, Selectman Luther moved the motion, and Selectman Morrison seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as written at the , 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.