

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of May 23, 2011

Chairman Laura Powers called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Powers, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Eldon Goodhue 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 Topsfield Cable Evelyn Hammond and Walter Harmer, Tri-Town Transcript Kathy O'Brien, Council on Aging Chairman Jolene Guerra, Council on Aging Executive Director Jody Gibeley and resident Kim Sherwood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and announced there would be no executive session this evening.

Chairman Powers reported that the Board had met on May 18th in Executive Session in part to discuss contract negotiations, and then in regular session to approve minutes needed for the Town Accountant. In addition Board sub-committees provided updates on a dog hearing, and group homes. A proposed easement on land in the vicinity of School Brook was also discussed. In addition there was a brief discussion on the future structure of government in Topsfield. Selectman Morrison announced the Memorial Day festivities would be Monday, May 30th; the annual Memorial Day Parade will begin at 9 AM at Grove St., and will continue along Main St. to the Veterans' Memorial Green for a service. The parade then reforms and continues up to Pine Grove Cemetery for another service. All residents, and especially military families and veterans are invited and encouraged to attend.

Chairman Powers announced the Topsfield Recreation Committee Summer Camp, "*Celebrate Summer*," has information and registration forms available on their web site: www.topsfieldrecreation.org.

Chairman Powers announced Hood Pond applications for this summer, including swim lessons registration forms, are available through a link on the Town Web site or at the Library and the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall.

Chairman Powers announced that the link to the Assessor's online database can be found on the Assessor's Web page of the Town website toward the bottom of their page named Fiscal 2011 Assessed Values Vision Appraisal Database. Just click on this link to be connected to the database web page. First time users will need to register and choose a password.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Introduction to New Executive Director Council on Aging: Board of Directors Chairman Jolene Guerra introduced Jodi Gibeley as the new Executive Director of the Council on Aging. Ms. Gibeley informed the Board of her experiences with seniors and how past professional positions will assist her in this new position. Ms. Gibeley expressed some of her goals for the department in the area of volunteerism at all age levels.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Meeting Schedule: Chairman Powers announced that the Meeting Schedule was distributed for the ensuing year.

Board Liaisons Assignments: Chairman Powers announced the liaisons assignments have been distributed incorporating everyone's requests.

New Business

Authorization for Signatures: Selectman Morrison made a motion to authorize the personnel as listed on letter dated 5/23/2011 to sign payrolls and bill schedules for their respective departments pursuant to MGL Chapter 41 section 41, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

Recreation Committee Bicycle Event: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a series of bicycle road events to be held on August 27th sponsored by the Recreations Committee beginning at 8AM-11AM with a route as noted on the map distributed, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

North Shore CROP Walk: Selectman Goodhue made a motion to approve Trinity Church to host the North Shore CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk to be held on October 23rd beginning at 1PM for a 3 mile loop, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0. Police, Fire and Highway have approved the event. Police Detail will be the responsibility of Trinity Church.

Farmers Market Winery License: Selectman Morrison made a motion to have the request for the Farmers Market Winery License reviewed by the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

Appointment: Selectman Goodhue made a motion to appoint Nancy Luther to the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0. This is to fulfill the position vacated by Ken Vogel by this committee.

MicroSystems Technology Support Contract: Selectman Morrison made a motion to award and approve the contract with Microsystems Integrated Public Safety Solutions of Melrose, MA for FY11 data software and equipment maintenance for the Police Department at cost of \$6,660.20, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Gandt reported on the activity of the Rail Trail Committee and announced the annual top 10 streets for voter participation.

Selectman Morrison reported on the Renewable Energy Green Communities Committee and their activity to submit the application to the State by June 10 for Topsfield to be considered a Green Community. It was suggested that a working session be scheduled prior to the next Board meeting of June 6th.

Chairman Powers reported on a follow-up question from Town Meeting regarding Masconomet Regional High Schools reserve balances. The Excess and Deficiency fund, which is essentially a free cash retained earnings account was certified at holding a balance of \$1,244,902. It was reported that the “stabilization” account, also known as a Special Revenue Fund, is primarily used for capital improvements and has a balance of \$500,491.00. These figures are contained in the Masconomet Audit report, which is a public document available for anyone to view.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Renewable Energy Green Communities Committee discussion.
- Wineries to sell at Agricultural events; package of information was forwarded to the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee Chairman
- Comcast negotiations meeting with Jane Lyman and then will hold a follow up meeting with Selectman Goodhue and Cable Committee Chairman Bill Whiting
- CLUPRA: Comprehensive Land Use Reform and Partnership update
- Regionalization of Emergency Management Services update
- Attendance at Water and Road Commissioners meetings noted

- Rail Trail Chairman Joe Geller has requested that storage of a mower in the “old highway garage” be permanent, along with a trailer, the Board approved the request

Selectman Morrison briefly discussed the negative impact CLUPRA legislation would have on Topsfield. It was agreed that Selectmen Gandt and Morrison should draft a letter to the state expressing Topsfield’s concerns with the proposed legislation.

Selectmen Minutes:

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Minutes of January 31, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 3-0. Selectmen Goodhue and Vogel abstained.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of January 31, 2011 as written and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 3-0. Selectmen Goodhue and Vogel abstained.

Selectman Goodhue made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 14, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Goodhue made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of February 23, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 28, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of March 3, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Goodhue made a motion to accept the Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee Minutes of March 7, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of March 10, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to amend the Minutes of March 17, 2011 that were already approved by adding: “and to allow for deficit spending of the Snow and ice Budget”; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 28, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the Working Session Minutes of March 30, 2011 as amended; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Vogel abstained.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Small Claims Court: Kopelman and Paige sent a memorandum regarding the increase of the maximum dollar amount one could seek to \$7,000.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$1,699,913.03**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY11:	
095T	\$ 75,943.63
096	\$ 1,623,969.40

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At 9:00 PM, Selectmen Goodhue made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Morrison seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the June 6 , 2011 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.