

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Proctor School Library
Minutes of July 2, 2012

Chairman Eldon Goodhue called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Goodhue, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Laura Powers 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 Walter Harmer, Tri-Town Transcript reporter Suzanne Snell, Playground Committee Members Carol Devellian and Glen Gollrad, residents Holger and Nancy Luther, Peter Blewett, Fire Chief Ron Giovannacci and Captain Jen Collins Brown, and Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee Members Bruce Dyas and Joe Geller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Goodhue announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss the negotiation strategies for the Call Firefighters Union and would not return to Open Session.

Selectman Powers announced that the Topsfield Recreation Committee series of summer concerts on the Common would begin this Sunday, July 8, from 4-6pm. The concerts will run every Sunday until August 27th.

Selectman Morrison reminded residents that there are positions available on Town Boards, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission and Zoning Board to name a few. Directions on how to apply were provided. Selectman Powers added the Recreation Committee to the list of committees looking for members.

Chairman Goodhue announced that Tri-Town Transcript reporter Suzanne Snell has been reassigned and will no longer cover the town of Topsfield. The Board wished her Good Luck in her new assignment.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Steward School Play Ground Update - Committee Members Carol Devellian and Glen Gollrad presented the proposed plans for the Steward School playground. Ms. Devellian explained in detail the structure and location of the proposed playground with an installation date of September 14-16th. Selectman Powers asked if the Committee had any plans of communicating with the residents of Perkins Row. Ms. Devellian explained that now that the installation dates have been set, the Committee will develop the project details. Ms. Devellian went on to explain the location of the new playground equipment which will be where the ball field is presently located. Selectman Morrison brought to their attention that due to the space that is being altered, 8,624 square feet, the Stormwater Erosion Control Review process would need to take place so as to be in compliance with Town Rules and Regulations. Selectman Gandt asked how the Board could help. Mr. Gollrad explained that volunteers will be needed for the installation of the equipment. Ms. Devellian stated that the Committee would be notifying the abutters of the date of installation, due to increase in traffic.

Chairman Goodhue recognized resident Peter Blewett of 266 Perkins Row, to come forward. Mr. Blewett explained that he has lived on Perkins Row for 27 years and walks his dog twice a day at Steward School. He referred to an article in the Tri Town Transcript relative to the playground project. Mr. Blewett gave a brief historical review of the playground and expressed his concerns with the re-location of the structures. Ms. Devellian explained that the old playground equipment will be totally removed and the area will be seeded and returned to open playing fields. Mr. Blewett continued by discussing traffic patterns, relocation of dumpsters, onsite parking and landscaping; the Board referred him to the School Committee as the appropriate

place for this item. Mr. Luther commented that he is concerned with lighting and weekend traffic.

8:05 - Fire Department Grants Discussion: Fire Chief Ron Giovannacci and Captain Jen Collins Brown came forward to discuss the FEMA Grant Opportunities available. Fire Chief explained that the process to apply is done electronically and requires matching grants. Application process closes July 9th. The Grants that the Fire Department would want to apply for were replacement of the Ladder truck, Breathing Apparatus and Turn Out Gear. Communities are given some leeway in acquiring matching fund requirements for those grants. Selectman Powers made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to apply for the FEMA Grant Opportunities so presented, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Investment Policy: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Investment Policy for General Funds and Stabilization Funds , seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Powers noted that the Sub-Committee would continue to work on revising the policy to include a third section which would address Trust Funds. The policies for trust funds are currently in separate documents. Selectman Vogel expressed that the Policy approved would be followed town wide.

New Business

Green Communities/Renewable Energy Committee: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the energy conservation measures as described in Recommendation #2 of letter dated 6/27/12 in an amount of \$105,789 against grant funds, and \$24,447 which will be on-bill charges to the electric bills for Proctor and Steward Schools, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

120 Hill Street-Lot 3: Selectman Morrison made a motion not exercise the option to purchase the land at 120 Hill Street-Lot 3 under MA General Law Chapter 61A, Section 14, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

EBSCO Project: Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Chairman Goodhue and Selectman Vogel to a sub-committee to implement a picnic area and license agreement with EBSCO on Town owned property adjacent to the EBSCO building at Klock Park, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Proclamation: Selectman Morrison made a motion to sign a Congratulatory Proclamation for Georges and Marie-Therese Idier for their 60th Wedding Anniversary, as requested by Dr. Norm Gaudrault who will be traveling to France to present the proclamation, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Board of Health Request: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Paula Burke as an Alternate Board of Health Agent for the sole purpose of Death Certificates, seconded by Selectman Vogel; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Gandt reported that the Rowley Bridge project would start this week and is expected to be completed by January 2, 2013. In addition, this Fall the Highway Department will be paving Salem Road, McLeod Lane, Wenham Road and High Street from Valley Road to the Wenham line.

Selectman Gandt reported that the Park Street parking project has begun.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Reported that FY12 is closing and FY13 is in process of opening
- Attended a Public Safety Meeting in Fair preparation
- Town Hall flag is in need of replacement
- O’Malley Land conveyance has been approved by the state legislature
- Dog Hearing follow up on Lucky, with a report that the dog still resides in Topsfield. Two (2) options were discussed. The Selectmen expressed the seriousness of the situation. Selectman Gandt made a motion to take the matter of dog Lucky to Court unless dog Lucky is removed from Topsfield by a date certain, and that we inform the owners of this decision and the date, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Vogel asked if Chapter 70 funds had been announced, knowing that Masconomet had received an increase and hopes it will be returned to the Town. Ms. Wilder reported that the Conference Committee budget had passed with local aid receipts at \$1,720,117 with a breakdown to be sent out to the Board.

Chairman Goodhue announced that there is a Goal Setting meeting tomorrow beginning at 3PM.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

A note of thanks was received from Samantha Lovell, who was in receipt of the Masconomet Regional High School Scholarship. The other two recipients were Kenneth Bond and Maggie Young.

Fire Chief Ron Giovannacci announced the FY13 Fire Department appointments. Masconomet Chief Financial Officer sent a letter regarding Excess and Deficiency fund appropriations made by the School Committee in the amount of \$42,000.

Reports

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of June 8, 2012.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount for FY12 of **\$ 119,639.45**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY12:	
0105T	\$ 81,356.61
0106	\$ 38,282.84

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount for FY13 of **\$ 764,107.56**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY13:	
01T	\$ 16,568.65
0106	\$747,538.91

At 9:10 PM, Selectmen Morrison made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the negotiating strategy for the Call Firefighter contract; seconded by Selectman Gandt. In a roll call

Minutes – 7/2/12

Page 4

vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Goodhue, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Gandt, Selectman Powers and Selectman Vogel. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the July 30, 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

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. Steward School proposed playground plan documents.
3. Fire Department FEMA Grant descriptions.
4. Investment Policy document.
5. 120 Hill Street-Lot 3 documents.
6. Green Communities/Renewable Energy Committee recommendation.
7. 60th Wedding Proclamation.
8. Alternate BoH Agent for Death Certificates.
9. Reports: Masconomet Scholarship Recipients and a letter of Thanks, FY13 Fire Department Appointments, and Mobile Device Pilot Program information from Masconomet.
10. Reports: Minutes from Board of Assessors.

<p>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.</p>
--