

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of July 6, 2009

Chairman Martha Morrison called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Martha Morrison were Richard Gandt, Nancy Luther, Karen Dow and Laura Powers. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present were Bill Whiting of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, and Heidi Bond for Street Signs for Scholarships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Morrison announced the Recreation Committee will begin their 4th Annual "Concerts on The Common" series. The concerts will be on Sundays from 4PM-6PM beginning on July 12 with Quintessential Brass. More information is posted on the Town Web Site.

Selectman Powers reminded residents that the Treasurer/Collector has mailed the first quarter fiscal 2010 tax bills and payment is due August 1, 2009.

Selectman Powers announced the Recreation Committee's "Celebrate Summer" camp started today, with a new high total enrollment of 290 children over 6 1-week sessions.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Street Signs for Scholarships – Heidi Bond began by saying that this auction netted the greatest number of bids received since the program began. There were 49 totaling \$1,424.10. Winning bids for the 16 signs auctioned amounted to \$1,106.10. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Town's scholarship fund. To date this program has received \$3,577.96 in donations. Signs which were not bid on will be available in the next round. Ms. Bond said the signs would be available in the Town Administrator's office on Wednesday and thanked the community for its support.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Selectman Gandt reviewed a letter from the Boxford Board of Selectmen that was sent to Tim Bassett, Executive Director of the Essex Regional Retirement Board (ERRB) regarding the earnings loss sustained by the pension fund in calendar year 2008. There was discussion surrounding the investment return of the ERRB vs. the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) administered by the State. Chairman Morrison encouraged the Board to contemplate a communication to the ERRB stating concerns on the pension funds investments, similar to the one sent from Boxford.

New Business

ADA Day Proclamation: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, Inc's request to proclaim July 26, 2009 as "ADA Day" recognizing the 19th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, seconded by Selectman Luther with an amendment by Selectman Gandt to have the proclamation sent to Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Committee Appointments: Chairman Morrison announced that there have been several applications received to fill open positions on Committees/Boards and Commissions. The Board is prepared to appoint the following residents:

Selectman Powers made a motion to appoint Joan Panella to the Cultural Council for a 3 year term to expire June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint Kathryn Crockett Lyon to the Council on Aging for a 3 year term to expire June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Jeanne Kinhan to the Website Committee for a 1 year term to expire June 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Bob Winship, Sara Beck and Joe Geller to the Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee for a 1 year term to expire June 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. These appointments are made to allow this new committee to get started on the work required by the Committee Charter.

Grant Agreements: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve a grant agreement with the Tri-Town Council of Topsfield MA for services rendered to the Town in the amount of \$18,319.00, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Luther made a motion to approve a grant agreement with HAWC, Help for Abused Women and Children, of Salem, MA in the amount of \$900.00 for services to be rendered to the citizens of the Town, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Library System Network Administration: Selectman Gandt made a motion to award a contract to Universal Data Stream, LLC of Haverhill, MA for fiscal 2010 in the amount of \$11,000, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

MUNIS Support Contract: Selectman Powers made a motion to approve the Annual Support Agreement and License Agreement for MUNIS Software with Tyler Technologies, Inc, MUNIS Division of Falmouth, ME in the amount of \$14,840 for fiscal 2010 and for the Chairman to sign; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Report:

Selectmen Gandt gave a review of the June 25th meeting of the Park & Cemetery Commissioners at which concerns on the location of a new Babe Ruth baseball field were discussed. At this meeting, the Commissioners announced their decision to place a one year moratorium on Klock Park as the location of the new ball field. The Commissioners have stated that they will review other potential locations for a new ball field over the next year.

Town Administrator's Report:

- National Grid small business program update.
- Information on the concept of performance contracts.
- The IRS set the mileage reimbursement rate in January 2009 as \$0.55 which will be instituted by the Town effective July 1, 2009 if there are no objections; none were stated. The rate is set at \$0.55.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

The Moderator submitted a letter stating that he has made 3 appointments to the Finance Committee for 3 year terms. They are Mark Lyons, Heidi Bond and Stephen Lais.

Weston & Sampson has submitted the Spring 2009 Semiannual Environmental Monitoring Report on the Landfill.

Kopelman & Paige, P.C. has sent a memorandum regarding the exemption of municipal monuments from the constitutional restrictions that usually apply to public spaces as it relates to monuments of religious significance.

Jedidiah Lavery sent a note of thanks for being a recipient of the Town's Scholarship.

A letter to the Fire Department was received from a citizen thanking them for the compassion shown during her husband's illness.

An ex-resident of Topsfield has submitted a proposal for review and possible forwarding to the United Nations. The Board discussed taking no action on this proposal.

Reports

Council on Aging submitted minutes of March 10, April 14 and May 12, 2009.

Conservation Commission submitted a monthly report for June 2009, minutes of April 22, 2009, and denial letter to DEP regarding 57 Candlewood Drive.

Town Web Site Committee submitted minutes of May 27, 2009.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved FY09 warrants in the amount of **\$ 208,114.64**.

The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY09:	
107T	\$ 83,269.73
107School	\$ 11,239.06
108	\$113,605.85

The Selectmen signed and approved FY10 warrants in the amount of **\$ 83,805.48**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
003T	\$ 52,083.98
004	\$ 31,721.50

At 8:11 PM, Selectman Luther made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Gandt seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the July 20, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.