

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of July 21, 2008

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison and Nancy Luther. 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, Mike Stucka of the Salem News, Belinda Young & Joyce Scherer-Hoock as candidates for the Recycling Committee, Kim Philpot candidate for the Web Site Committee, Dave Bond, Highway Superintendent, Phil Knowles, Chairman of Road Commissioners, Conservation Commissioners: Walter Harmer, Ralph Stump, John Olcott, and John McArdle, and Conservation Administrator Lana Spillman.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the July 7, 2008; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Recycling Committee Candidates: Belinda Young & Joyce Scherer-Hoock. Belinda Young was asked why she was interested in the Recycling Committee. Ms. Young explained that she is interested in the work this group does for the Town. Selectman Gandt asked if she would be willing and able to attend seminars the state offers on recycling and Ms. Young said that would not be a problem. Selectman Morrison explained how the benches in the downtown area were purchased with a recycle grant and made out of recycle material.

Ms. Scherer-Hoock was asked why she was interested in the Recycling Committee. She stated that she was drawn to the Recycling Committee's display at the Town Expo. Ms. Scherer-Hoock would like to see plastic bottles recycled more in the downtown area. Selectman Gandt asked if she would be able to attend seminars the state offers and Ms. Scherer-Hoock said that wouldn't be an issue.

Kim Philpot was asked why she was interested in the Website Committee. Mrs. Philpot stated that she has 17 years of advertising experience and appreciates the usefulness of the Town Website. Selectman Gandt noted that not all the citizens have access to the web and therefore other forms of communications are also important to inform people of Town events.

7:45 – Asbury Street Bridge Project – David Bond, Highway Superintendent addressed the group explaining the project's urgency due to the age of the bridge. In addition to the use of Chapter 90 funds, Article 17 of the May 2007 Town Meeting appropriated \$400,000 to replace the Asbury Street bridge and repair the Rowley Bridge Road bridge. All bid responses for the project, that were received several months ago, exceeded estimated project costs. Therefore, it became clear that what was presented as two bridge projects, had to be reduced to the one. The project was re-bid for the Asbury Street bridge only and that project is due to commence August 5, 2008. Meetings are taking place with all affected towns' public officials from Topsfield, Ipswich and Wenham to ensure that the information about the Asbury Street closing is done appropriately. Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the notice of award for the Asbury Street Bridge Project to John D. Hartnett & Son, Inc of Newburyport, MA in the amount of \$983,975.25, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0. Dave Bond then went on to discuss the funding of the project. Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Chapter 90 Project Request Form to Mass Highway in the amount of \$589,500 to allow these funds for the replacement of the Asbury Street Bridge, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0.

Power Outages in Topsfield: After discussing the bridge project, Mr. Bond went on to say he would be following up with National Grid in regards to a power failure and associated car fire incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2008. He explained that the incident was triggered by a tree branch that struck a high voltage power line on Pemberton Road.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Annual Appointments: Selectman Luther recused herself from the room. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Holger Luther to the Conservation Commission for a term to begin July 21, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Jackson; so voted 3-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Mark Erickson to the one year term, motion not seconded. Selectman Jackson made a motion to appoint Ralph Stump to a term to begin July 21, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2009, seconded by Selectmen Morrison; so voted 2-1, Selectmen Gandt opposed. Selectmen Luther rejoined the meeting.

Selectmen Luther made a motion to appoint Robert Hardy to the Alcohol Licensing Advisory Committee for a term to begin July 21, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2009, seconded by Selectmen Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Ad Hoc Financial Policy Committee: Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the Ad Hoc Financial Policy Committee Charter as presented, July 21, 2008, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0. Chairman Jackson appointed himself and Selectman Gandt to be the Board of Selectmen representatives to the group

Employee IRS Mileage Increase: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve an increase in the Town's mileage reimbursement amount from .505 cents to .585 cents effective July 1, 2008, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0. This change is the same as that of the IRS.

Station Sweet Shoppe Common Victualler License: Chairman Jackson explained that this is an addition to the existing agenda, the license issued on June 23, 2008 was to expire today. Ms. Wilder explained that after consulting with Glenn Clohecy, the Building Inspector, regarding the number of seats the Station Sweet Shoppe requires a special permit for a "limited service restaurant". Therefore, Peter Rakip needs to request a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Wilder will inform the owner, Peter Rakip of the process. Selectman Gandt made a motion to extend the Temporary License for the Station Sweet Shoppe to expire on September 2, 2008, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

New Business

Chapter 127 Acts of 2008-Additional Liquor License: Chairman Jackson announced that State Representative Ted Speliotis has notified the BOS of their authority to grant an additional license for the sale of wines and malt beverages not be drunk on the premise. Ms. Wilder and Selectman Luther will meet to determine the dates for the application process.

Surplus Display Case: Selectman Gandt made a motion to declare a display case located on the second floor stage area of Town Hall, with a value of less than \$5,000, as surplus, seconded by Selectman Luther, so voted: 4-0.

New Police Cruiser: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Chief of Police to purchase a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser from M-H-Q Municipal Vehicles of Marlborough, MA under the State bid process in the amount of \$19,959 with funding approved at the 2008 Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- MAPC Appointment & North Shore Task Force meeting
- Legislative Updates
- Tierney Staff Meeting Update
- Staff Training
- Planning & Organizational Changes
- CORI Access

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

3rd Annual Good Citizens Award Nominations: Essex County Anti-Crime Council is seeking the nomination of individuals and organizations for the Good Citizens Award. Nominations are due August 1, 2008.

Fire Chief Qualifications House Bill #2396: Information detailing the Bill that is being presented.

Reports

Open Space: Minutes submitted for March 26, 2008.

Zoning Board: Legal notices for 86 Central St. and 46 South Main St.

Board of Water Commissioners: Minutes submitted for April 9, May 14 and June 6, & 11, 2008.

Board of Road Commissioners: Minutes submitted for April 15, May 16 & 30, 2008.

Board of Library Trustees: Minutes submitted for June 10, 2008.

Conservation Commission: Minutes submitted for June 11, 2008.

School Committee: Minutes submitted for June 5, 2008.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **377,143.46** . The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY09:	
07T	\$ 84,867.61
08	\$ 292,275.85

At 9:03 PM, Chairman Jackson entertained a motion to adjourn, Selectman Gandt seconded the motion, vote: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the August 4, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.