

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 2, 2010

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Gandt, were Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue and Laura Powers. 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 Brendan Lewis, Police Chief Evan Haglund, Playground Committee President Claudine Lefevre and Committee member Karen Duval, Agricultural Commission Chairman Trudi Perry, resident Kim Sherwood, Library Board of Trustee members: Barbara Bodengraven, Sean Cunniff (along with son Matthew and daughter Elise), Jen Baker, Dot DeLuca, and candidate for Board of Library Trustee Audrey Iarocci.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief Contract and would not return to Open Session.

Chairman Gandt welcomed Masconomet Regional High School's newly appointed Superintendent Dr. Darrell Lockwood. Dr. Lockwood stated that he had been visiting with the three towns and would like to meet individually with each of the Selectman. Dr. Lockwood stated that school will open on September 2nd for seventh and ninth grade, and September 3rd for the remaining grades. Teachers will begin on September 1st.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Candidate for Police Department - Police Chief Evan Haglund presented the name of Reserve Officer Neal Hovey to be appointed to the Police Department; he has 12 years on the force and is a paramedic. Chairman Gandt mentioned that this appointment is to fill a vacancy, not adding to the force. Selectman Luther made a motion to appoint Reserve Officer Neal Hovey to the position of probationary full time Police Officer effective August 5, 2010 through June 30, 2011, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. The probation period will extend for one year from initial appointment.

New Business

Agricultural Commission Candidates: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint James O'Brien, General Manager of the Essex County Agricultural Society, to the Agricultural Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2013, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. Selectman Goodhue made a motion to appoint Richard Adelman, owner of Alfalfa Farm Winery, to the Agricultural Commission as an Alternate Member with a term to expire June 30, 2013, seconded by Chairman Gandt. Following a discussion regarding outside issues Mr. Adelman has with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, Selectman Goodhue withdrew his nomination and requested the appointment be tabled. Chairman Gandt accepted the withdrawal.

7:45 - Playground Update - Playground Committee President, Claudine Lefevre and Committee Member Karen Duval presented a detailed description of the equipment that will be purchased for the "tot-lot" playground area at 32 Grove Street.

Selectman Goodhue made a motion to have the Topsfield Playground Committee be added as an additional insured for FY2011 under the Town's general liability coverage, seconded by Selectman Morrison. Following a discussion relative to adding another non-profit organization as an additional insured on the Town's policy, the motion was put to a vote, so voted: 3-2. Selectmen Luther and Powers opposed.

8:30 - Candidate for Library Trustee – Chairman Gandt requested the Library Trustees to come forward. Clerk Laura Powers solicited nominations to fill the Library Trustee vacancy created upon the resignation of Sheila Becker. Library Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Jennifer Baker nominated Audrey Iarocci and Selectman Luther seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, Clerk Powers closed the nominations and executed a Roll Call vote. The following voted for nominee Audrey Iarocci as Trustee: Barbara Bodengraven, Sean Cunniff, Jen Baker, Dot DeLuca, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther, Eldon Goodhue, Laura Powers and Dick Gandt. The vote was unanimous with a term to expire at the next town election in May of 2011.

GENERAL BUSINESS

198 Central Street – HOME Funds: 1) Selectman Luther made a motion to execute an agreement authorizing a loan of \$20,473.00 under the North Shore HOME Consortium Home Investment Partnership Program to Top House, Inc. of 64 Holten Street of Danvers MA for the purpose of constructing a group home for disabled adults at 198 Central Street and authorize the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

2) Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept the affordable housing restrictions of the Home Investment Partnership Program with respect to the Top House, Inc project at 198 Central Street, as authorized by MGL c.184 § 31-33, and to authorize the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Non-Profit Grant Agreement: Selectman Luther made a motion to approve a Grant Agreement between the Town and the Tri-Town Council, Topsfield MA in an amount of \$18,319 appropriated at 2010 Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

FY11 Vision Appraisal Contract: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Annual Software Maintenance Agreement for the Town’s assessing program with Vision Appraisal Technology of Northborough, MA in the amount of \$4,900 for FY 2011, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Household Hazardous Waste Day: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection agreement with Clean Harbors Environmental Services of Braintree, MA in the not to exceed amount of \$5,000 for FY 2011, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0. The event is to take place on November 6th.

Alcohol License Fee: Selectman Morrison made a motion to prorate the fee for the Beer and Wine Retail Liquor License awarded to ICDT, Inc, d/b/a Main Street Market and to authorize the Town Administrator to calculate said prorated fee based on the number of months that the license will be in effect for calendar year 2010 starting with the month in which the licensee pays for said license, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- No action was taken on Sustainable Communities Consortium
- Emerson Field Lease Review
- Annual Reports requested by September 15th
- Commonwealth Capital Application Update
- Sale of property at 21A Grove Street Update
- Computers for the Finance Team are being ordered
- Relocation of Gloucester Court Update
- PERAC early retirement distributed
- Recycle now being picked up at Hood Pond

- Review of new cleaning service
- Comcast negotiations for renewal continues
- City of Lowell is submitting a Home Rule petition for Health Care Design

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Hood Pond: Department of Revenue has certified that the Topsfield Beach Association is in compliance with the State's tax requirements.

Candidate for Zoning: Letter received from Chairman of ZBA Bob Moriarty recommending Mr. Dave Moniz to be appointed for term to expire June 30, 2015. Chairman Gandt asked if all members had done due diligence and were prepared to appoint this evening. Selectman Goodhue made a motion to appoint Dave Moniz to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire June 30, 2015, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Comcast News: Comcast has submitted a letter explaining their Customer Guarantee.

Herbicide Treatment: Rail Trail member, Gregg Demers has sent a letter notifying the Board of plans to apply herbicides to treat Japanese Knotweed that is encroaching along the Rail Trail.

Great Places in MA: Topsfield has been recognized by House of Representative as having 4 Great Places to visit out of 1,000 within the State of Massachusetts. Included are:

- Bradley Palmer State Park,
- Cleaveland Farms State Forest,
- Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary,
- Topsfield Fairgrounds

DEP Water Management: A Draft of the Town's 20-Year Water Permit Renewal was received and forwarded to the Water Department for comment.

Reports

Council on Aging: has submitted Minutes of June 8, 2010.

North Shore Regional Vocational School has submitted the Agenda for July 22nd and minutes of May 13, 2010.

Invitation

Senior Care Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on September 21, 2010 at the Danversport Yacht Club beginning at noon.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 331,662.81**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY11:	
011T	\$ 82,345.63
012	\$ 249,317.18

At 9:04 PM, Selectmen Powers made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Fire Chief's contract; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Luther, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Powers. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the September 13, 2010 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.