

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 3, 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 Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable; Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript; Lucien M. DiStefano, Project Manager-Bohler Engineering representing TD Bank; Ben Nutter, resident; Rose Ann Waite, Vice President New Meadows Garden Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Chairman announced that the Board will go into Executive Session to discuss a Union Grievance and a Call Fire Fighters union contract negotiations and would not return to the regular meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – Green Communities Act: Chairman Morrison explained that the Renewable Energy/Green Communities Committee is requesting the Board to make a decision if the Committee should apply for the planning assistance grant at this time. After a discussion regarding the criteria to be met to be eligible for the grant, Selectman Powers made a motion to not proceed at this time with the Grant for Technical Assistance, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

New Business

New Meadows Garden Club: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve a one day liquor license for New Meadows Garden Club for October 23rd at the Gould Barn from 6:30-9:30PM, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

7:45 – Sign Public Hearing for TD Bank, NA – Selectman Dow read the Public Hearing Notice. Lucien DeStefano, project manager for Bohler Engineering, representing TD Bank, NA, presented the new signage proposed for TD Bank, NA located at 16 Main Street. This request is being made due to a change in name from TD Banknorth to TD Bank. Chairman Morrison expressed her concern in regards to the lack of an accurate site plan and lack of consideration of the architectural integrity of the building. It was the consensus of the Board that there were too many signs being proposed for a building of this size, and too massive for location in the center of town where the traffic is by foot and slow vehicle. The Board requested that the engineers relay to Image Resource Group their concerns. It was also requested that an accurate site plan be presented along with several options for the Board to review for approval. Selectman Gandt made a motion to continue the Public Hearing for TD Bank, NA, 16 Main, until August 17th, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. It was agreed that Mr. DeStefano will work with Chairman Morrison and Ben Nutter to expedite the process of reviewing options for new signage at TD Bank. Mention was also made of the poor condition of the parking area to the south side of the building.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Circuit Bicycle Race: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the 5th Annual Circuit Bicycle race on September 12th beginning at 7:45AM and lasting until 1PM on the route as shown and discussed; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Masco Re-Funding of Bonds: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve and sign the Masco May 2000 bond refinancing as presented, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

MBTA Advisory Board: Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Gregg Demers as the Town of Topsfield's representative to the MBTA Advisory Board for a term to expire June 30, 2010, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 5-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

- Common Victualler License process is under review.
- Attended a Web Committee meeting regarding a new host changeover with a target date of August 19th.
- Attended a meeting of the Downtown Ad-Hoc Study Committee.
- Attended meetings relative to the issues involving the Essex Regional Retirement Board.
- North Shore Vocational School Merger.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes of June 8, 2009 as written; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 5-0. Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the minutes of the Working Session of July 6, 2009 as amended; seconded by Selectman Dow; so voted 5-0. Selectman Luther made a motion to accept the minutes of the Working Session of July 13, 2009 as amended; seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0. Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the minutes of the Working Session of July 20, 2009 as amended; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 4-0. Selectman Dow abstained. Selectman Powers made a motion to accept the minutes of July 20, 2009 as amended; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 5-0.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Board of Water Commissioners has sent a letter to residents advising them of the rate increase for FY10.

Joan Panella has sent a letter inquiring if there is any State-funded relief available to the Downtown businesses.

Conservation Commission issued a partial Certificate of Compliance for the Asbury Street Bridge project (full compliance waits on completion of the Rowley Bridge Road bridge project).

Kopelman & Paige has sent a memo regarding amendments that Congress made to ADA last year.

Reports

Board of Library Trustees submitted minutes of June 9, 2009

North Shore Regional Vocational School District submitted minutes of May 14, 2009 and agenda for July 23, 2009, available for review in the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of July 10, 2009.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **214,896.32**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
011T	\$ 83,213.62
012	\$ 131,682.70

At 9:15 PM, Chairman Morrison moved to go into executive session to discuss Call Firefighters Union Contract Negotiations and a Union Grievance; seconded by Selectman Luther. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Morrison, Selectman Dow, Selectman Luther, Laura Powers and Selectman Gandt. The Board would not return to open session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were also present.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the September 14, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.