

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of August 4, 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 Cathy Curran of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter, Dave Bond, Superintendent of Highway Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Jackson announced that the Historical Society has a free piano available. It is J.Chickering & Co measuring 31"W x 72"L x 36"H. Interested parties should contact Norm Isler at the Topsfield Historical Society.

Chairman Jackson read an announcement from the Town Clerk that her office is now releasing papers to fill the vacancy on the Board of Selectmen for a term to begin November 4, 2008 thru May 6, 2010. The Legislature has passed the Special Legislation for the election to be placed on the Presidential Election Ballot on November 4, 2008. Papers can be taken out on or before August 27, 2008 at 5PM.

Chairman Jackson announced that applications will be available for the second license for the sale of wine and malt liquor incidental to the sale of food and other products on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. The last date of submission of applications to the Board will be Thursday, September 4, 2008. Selectman Luther read the application schedule items 1-6 (see attached). Selectman Gandt noted that, in addition to the license, there remains a restaurant license still available with seating not more than 100 seats.

Chairman Jackson announced that there will be spraying of poison ivy on South Main Street as part of the South Main Street Beautification Project. Selectman Morrison added that it is a Main Street Foundation spearheaded project with multi-phases, multi-agencies involved and multi-years to completion. It will culminate with a walking path from Maple Street on South Main Street to River Road.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:45 Asbury Street Bridge Contract - Dave Bond, Superintendent Highway Department -

Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the contract for the Asbury Street Bridge Replacement to John D. Hartnett and Son, Inc. of Newburyport, MA in the amount of \$983,975.25, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Mr. Bond provided an update on the Pemberton Road incident stating that he has met with National Grid officials. National Grid has committed to upgrading the system in that area of Town. They will also be reviewing and trimming trees where necessary on Washington Street, Ipswich Road and South Main Street.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of July 21, 2008; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0. Selectman Morrison made the motion to accept the minutes as written of July 24, 2008; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0. Selectman Morrison made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of July 15, 2008; seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted 4-0. Selectman Gandt made the motion to accept the amended minutes of the Working Session of July 29, 2008; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted 4-0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Selectman Gandt asked that the Board publicly update the citizens of the events that have taken place related to the Conservation Commission. He began by stating that on July 21st, after the Board appointed Holger Luther and Ralph Stump to the Commission, Walter Harmer, Chair Conservation Commission submitted his resignation along with members Ralph Stump and John Olcott. John McArdle submitted his resignation to the Town Clerk the next day, July 22, 2008 followed by Tom Warren on July 23, 2008. The Board of Selectmen met on July 24th to discuss the matter having received letters of interest from James MacDougall and George Hall. The Board appointed Mr. MacDougall and Mr. Hall along with Mark Erickson to the Commission. Therefore, along with previously appointed Jud Pratt and Holger Luther, the Conservation Commission now stands at five members. Selectman Luther added that the Commission met on Wednesday, July 30 and voted George Hall as Chairman.

Appointments:

Selectman Gandt made a motion to appoint Belinda Young & Joyce Scherer-Hoock to the Recycling Committee for a term to begin August 5, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2009, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Kim Philpot to the Web Site Committee for a term to begin August 5, 2008 and to expire June 30, 2009, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 4-0.

New Business

Child Passenger Safety Equipment Grant: Selectman Morrison made a motion to accept a FFY 2008 Child Passenger Safety Equipment Grant in the amount of \$1,500 and with the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Luther; so voted: 4-0. The grant will be used to purchase child booster seats and related safety literature.

One Day Liquor License: Selectman Gandt made a motion to award Essex National Heritage Commission a one day liquor license for a fundraiser event to kick off their Trails & Sails Weekend to be held on September 25, 2008 at Willowdale Estate from 5:30PM-8:30PM, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Closing of Park Street: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve St. Rose Church's request for the closure of a portion of Park Street for a Parish Picnic to be held on September 13, 2008 from 11:30AM – 3 PM, barriers to be placed as shown on the diagram presented; seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0. The barriers are to be provided and recovered by town employees during normal business hours.

Town Administrator's Report:

Please see attached report.

- Trench Permitting
- Comcast Petition Opposition update
- MPA Web-Based Benchmark System
- MA Technology Collaborative Program
- Legislative Update
- Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the sending of a letter to the Federal Highway Administration requesting it reverse its decision to withdraw FFY2008 funding for the preliminary design of the Border-to-Boston Trail and for the Chairman to sign, seconded by Selectman Morrison; so voted: 4-0.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

- Fire Chief was elected as President of the Essex County Fire Chief’s Association.
- Notice of Appeal has been received against a ZBA Decision of June 30, 2008.
- Holger Luther has submitted a letter of disclosure.
- Jackie White, Library Director has sent a review of the procedures for meetings taking place at the Town Library.
- Town Counsel has submitted their opinion concerning the issuance of certificates of occupancy for the final four units at Amberwood Farms.
- Letter from Walter Harmer
- Pan-MA Challenge request for sponsors from John Coulon.

Reports

Board of Assessors: Minutes submitted June 13, 26, and July 18, 2008.

Conservation Commission: Letter regarding Summer Intern increase of \$200, Town Clerk’s acknowledgement of five resignations of Commissioners.

Council on Aging: Minutes submitted for June 10, 2008.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Minutes submitted for May 27, 2008

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$119,912.64**. The breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Warrant #FY09: | |
| 011T | \$ 76,535.91 |
| 012 | \$ 43,376.73 |

At 8:45 PM, Selectman Gandt made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Luther seconded the motion, so voted: 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen’s Office

Approved as amended at the August 18, 2008 Board of Selectmen’s meeting.