

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of September 12, 2011

Chairman Laura Powers called the meeting to order at 7:35PM. Board members present, in addition to Chairman Powers, were Martha Morrison, Dick Gandt, Eldon Goodhue and Ken Vogel. 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, Tri-Town Transcript reporter Suzanne Snell, Police Chief Evan Haglund, candidates for Police Department appointments James Dunn and Robert Varney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Powers opened the meeting by thanking the Fire and Police Departments for organizing the Candlelight ceremony held the previous night in tribute to the 10th year anniversary of 9/11.

Chairman Powers announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss the Firefighters Union Contract and would not return to Open Session.

Selectman Vogel reminded residents of the Citizen Police Academy that the Topsfield Police Department would be sponsoring beginning September 14, 2011 from 6pm - 8:30pm. The classes would run every Wednesday night for 10 weeks. Classes would be held at the Topsfield Police Department. For more information residents should contact the Police Chief at 978-887-6533.

Selectman Gandt announced that the Fall Metals White Goods Pick Up would be October 19-20-21. Metal items containing 80% or more of metal would be picked up along with appliances. Items containing Freon are required to be registered with the Board of Selectmen's office prior to the pick-up day. Items should be placed curbside by 7AM. There is no charge for this collection.

Chairman Powers announced the Summer Concerts *Concerts on the Common* Series ends Sunday, September 18th with The Renowns from 4PM – 6PM.

Chairman Powers announced that the Board had a Working Session September 7th regarding a proposal from the Council on Aging on a potential Senior Center. Also discussed was the Town's Stormwater Management Permit.

Selectman Goodhue announced that the Library would be starting a new book club with a theme of "Food for Thought". Participants would bring in their favorite cookbook and a sample of an item within the cookbook. It is a collaborative between Boxford, Middleton and Topsfield to begin on Thursday, September 22nd at 7PM at the Topsfield Library.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Over 65 Policy: After a second discussion took place regarding paid officers working beyond the age of 65 the Board concluded by taking no action on this issue except to reiterate that paid uniformed officers should retire upon reaching age 65.

New Business

Police Department-Special Officers: Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint, on the Chief's recommendation, Auxiliary Police officers Stephen Shepard, Paul Polonsky, Tyler Dechene, Joy Fleck, Arthur Green, Melissa Alleruzzo, and James Bonganti as Special police

officers for the purpose of working police related extra duty and to expire December 31, 2011, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Police Department-Reserve Officer: Police Chief introduced James Dunn who then told the Board that he had been an Auxiliary officer for the past two years and was ready to move to the next level. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint James Dunn to Reserve officer commencing on September 15, 2011 and to expire December 31, 2011, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Police Department-Auxiliary officer: Police Chief introduced Robert Varney who then told the Board that he is a senior at Salem State University majoring in Criminal Justice, and just completed a summer internship at the Police Department. Selectman Morrison made a motion to appoint Robert Varney to the position of Auxiliary police officer and prisoner watch commencing on September 15, 2011 and to expire December 31, 2011, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Selectman Gandt asked the Police Chief how many people attended the Movie Night on Saturday, September 10th. The Chief reported that 550 popcorn buckets were served and the ice cream ran out at 430 servings. The Chief commented that it was great fun for all who attended.

Emerson Field: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve a lease agreement between the Town of Topsfield and the Congregational Church of Topsfield at 9 East Common Street, Topsfield, MA in the amount of \$1,250 for a term of twelve months commencing on July 1, 2011 and terminating on June 30, 2012, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 4-0-1. Selectman Morrison abstained due to her involvement with the Congregational Church.

Scleroderma Foundation: Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve the Scleroderma Foundation's request to place a banner between Town Hall and Proctor School September 13th – 18th for the purpose of informing residents of the upcoming walk to be held on September 18th, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted: 5-0.

Town Government Review: Chairman Powers reported that one of the Goals of the Board was to undertake a review of the Town's Government and suggested a working session be posted to discuss the issue. The Board directed the Secretary Donna Rich to post a working session for September 21st at 4PM at the Town Hall.

Liaison Reports

Selectman Morrison reported that Rowley Bridge Road bridge is closed because it is structurally unsafe. Many citizens had asked if the bridge would be open for Fair traffic, and the answer is no. Town officials are working on funding for the project through potential grants.

Selectman Gandt updated on the Rail Trail stating that for safety reasons, jersey barriers would be placed along the Trail in the area of the Topsfield Fair's Route 97 parking area. There was a discussion of the parking on Route 97 blocking the entrances to the trail at those locations.

Selectman Vogel reported that Masconomet Regional High School had received good news; the assessment to the towns had been finalized and that Topsfield's assessment would be reduced by \$76,190. In addition Boston Magazine's recent 2011 High School ratings placed Masconomet Regional High School at number 21, up from last year's 48. Some Capital Improvements that were done over the summer months included: the libraries were transformed into 21st Century learning spaces, interactive whiteboards were installed in classrooms, MS and HS technology labs were upgraded, acoustic panels were installed in the HS Music areas, security cameras were added, athletic fields were maintained and readied for the coming season, new entrance doors were installed in both buildings, the tennis courts were resurfaced with FEMA funds, the gym floor was refinished, students painted the inside of the Field House as a community service

project, and new goal posts were installed on the Stadium Field. Thanks to a \$7,000 grant from the Masconomet Education Foundation, the wireless capacity in the buildings was expanded with the installation of new access points in several spots. Also the front of the schools landscaping and gardens were spruced up by Double J Landscaping who donated their services. A majority of these capital improvements were done without using tax dollars.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Town Hall Boiler Project update-installation postponed until September 20th
- Unemployment Tax Management Corporation status provided
- Attendance at a Regionalism Conference review
- Department Heads and Finance Team meetings have commenced. The Finance Team has begun projections for the FY13 budget and would like to meet with the Board to discuss the direction regarding the process for Capital Improvement program recommendations.
- MMA registrations have been distributed to the Board.
- An invitation to the Senior Care’s Annual Meeting was reviewed.
- Thanks given to Walter Harmer for playing his bagpipes at the 9/11 commemorative ceremony on Sunday.

Correspondence & Reports

Correspondence

Metropolitan Planning Organization sent a letter explaining upcoming activities of the MPO. The Fire Chief re-appointed Christopher Erickson as a Call Firefighter, term to be 9/6/11 – 6/30/2012.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has sent a letter expressing the approval to Masconomet Regional High School for their recent amendment of the number of members to the school committee.

Reports

Fire Department submitted an activity report for July and August.

Conservation Commission submitted the monthly report for August.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of \$ **359,992.49**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY12:	
021T	\$ 80,759.29
22	\$ 279,233.20

At 8:30 PM, Selectmen Morrison made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Firefighters Union contract; seconded by Selectman Gandt. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Powers, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Gandt, Selectman Goodhue and Selectman Vogel. The Board would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the September 26, 2011 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.