

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Proctor School Library
Minutes of September 22, 2014

Chairman Dick Gandt called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Dick Gandt, were Martha Morrison, Laura Powers, Steve Lais and Eldon Goodhue. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Kellie Hebert and Board Secretary Donna Rich were in attendance. Other persons present during all or part of the meeting were Topsfield Cable operators, Baxter & Ben Demers, Highway Superintendent Dave Bond, Masconomet Regional School Committee member John Spencer, Alfalfa Farm owner Richard Adelman, along with his attorney Frank DeLuna, and resident Trudi Perry.

Chairman Gandt began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Gandt announced that the Board would go into Executive Session at the end of regular session to discuss negotiation strategy for the Police Union and to discuss the implementation of new security functions in Town Hall will not return to Open Session. Selectman Morrison announced that the Metal and White goods pickup will be Oct 22, 23 and 24. Place household metal items and white goods such as stoves, dishwashers, etc. at curbside by 7AM for pickup. No stickers are required for items. If you have an item containing Freon, please call 978-887-1500 to register the item prior to pick-up.

Selectman Goodhue reminded residents that there will be a Special Town Meeting held on September 30th at Proctor School beginning at 7PM to discuss fluoridation in the Town's water. Chairman Gandt announced that the Board met on September 15th in a working session to continue discussion of the Board's Goals & Objectives for FY15.

Chairman Gandt announced that a mosquito carrying EEE was found in one of Topsfield's traps on Friday. It was a bird biting insect. More information could be found on the Board of Health webpage.

GENERAL BUSINESS

New Business

Chapter 90 Funds: Highway Superintendent Dave Bond came forward. Selectman Morrison questioned why this was before the Board for signature as it represents a reimbursement from Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Bond made the point that it would be more timely turn around for the reimbursement paperwork if the Town Administrator could sign off on these types of items. Selectman Lais made a motion to approve the Chapter 90 Reimbursement of \$257,000.00; Selectman Gandt seconded the motion; so voted: 2-3. Selectmen Goodhue, Powers and Morrison opposed.

There was then a tangent discussion relative to the authority of the Town Administrator to sign contracts. Selectman Goodhue reminded the Board that the Town had voted for a strong Town Administrator and this was an example of that, fewer burdens of the daily items to the Board of Selectmen, Selectmen Powers and Morrison agreed with this statement. Selectman Powers expressed that this was described in the job description of the new Town Administrator. Chairman Gandt disagreed with the signing of contracts by the Town Administrator. Selectman Morrison stated that the Board of Selectmen have the authority to transfer the signing of contracts to the Town Administrator as stated in article fourth of the March 1, 2005 Special Town Meeting. Selectmen Goodhue requested of the Chairman to make a motion and was denied. There was an overall sense that this global issue requires more discussion by the Board.

APPOINTMENTS:

8:04PM – Masconomet Regional School Committee Opening – Masconomet School Committee member John Spencer came forward and expressed that he had no name to put forward at this time. Chairman Gandt announced that there was an opening and that interested citizens should send their information to the Selectmen’s office or contact members of the Board of Selectmen or the Topsfield members of the Masconomet School Committee.

8:10PM-Alfalfa Farm Winery-Public Hearing-continued from September8, 2014
Alfalfa Farm Winery owner Richard Adelman, attorney Frank DeLuna and Trudi Perry came forward. Mr. DeLuna distributed a 44 space parking plan for the winery; a discussion relative to the parking ensued. After the discussion relative to the proposed parking plan Attorney DeLuna stated the parking was not required for the application to be sent to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Selectman Morrison made a motion to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted 5-0. Then Selectman Morrison made a motion to approve a Farmer Series Pouring Permit application for Alfalfa Farm Winery to be submitted to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, seconded by Selectman Goodhue; so voted: 5-0.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS & COMMENTS *none heard*

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Volunteer Applications: Chairman Gandt reviewed his interpretation of the procedure followed. Selectman Morrison then stated that Boards, Commissions and Committees had been involved in reviewing applicants and stated that there recommendations should be considered by the Board of Selectmen when making appointments. No resolution was achieved.

Town Administrator’s Report:

- Pay & Classification update provided.
- Schedule Finalized for Annual Town Meeting with Department Heads and Finance Committee announced.
- Facility Advisory Committee Update provided.

Correspondence & Reports

Reports

Board of Assessors submitted minutes of July 11th and August 15th.

Invitation

MMA Fall Legislative Breakfasts to be held on October 3rd at the Salisbury Town Hall and October 10th at the Lynn City Hall Auditorium.

At 9:31PM, Selectmen Powers made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss negotiation strategy for the Police Union and to discuss the implementation of new security functions in Town Hall; seconded by Selectman Morrison. In a roll call vote, a yes vote was recorded for Chairman Gandt, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Lais, Selectman Powers and Selectman Goodhue. The Board would not return to open session.

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Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the January 12, 2015 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Per the Open Meeting Law, the documents that were either distributed to the BOS before the meeting in a packet, or at the meeting were:

1. Agenda
2. Chapter 90 Funded Project
3. Board of Assessors – Minutes of July 11 and August 15
4. MMA Fall Legislative Breakfast
5. Alfalfa Farm Winery parking plan

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.