

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of October 26, 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 during all or parts of the meeting were Evelyn Hammond of the Topsfield Cable, Brendan Lewis of the Tri-Town Transcript, Karen Duval and Dawn Seymour, Topsfield Playground Committee representatives, Ken Vogel and Larry Lindquist, Masconomet School Committee representatives, Amy O'Malley, Superintendent of the North Shore Vocational High School and Trudi Perry, Topsfield representative to the North Shore Vocational High School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Morrison announced that Senator Kerry will be sending two staff members to Topsfield at 11:30 on November 4th to hold "office hours" at the Town Hall to answer any questions or concerns of Topsfield residents.

Selectman Luther announced Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day is to be held at the Masco parking lot on October 31 from 9AM to 1PM.

Selectman Luther announced that Trick or Treating for Halloween will be on October 31, 2009 between the hours of 5:30PM and 8PM.

Selectman Powers reminded citizens that nominations for the Maryellen McGee Pillar of the Community award are due by November 1, 2009.

Chairman Morrison announced that the Town is seeking to fill the position of Veterans' Agent. Interested veterans should contact the Board of Selectmen's Office.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:30 – North Shore Agricultural Technical High School Merger – Amy O'Malley, Superintendent North Shore Technical High School and Trudi Perry, Topsfield Representative

- Ms. O'Malley began with a historical overview of the North Shore Technical High School and the Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute merger. Ms. O'Malley noted that Senator Berry filed legislation in 2004 which became Chapter 463 of the Acts of 2004 for the merger and the inclusion of Peabody in the District. The building of a new school to house the merged school population is estimated to cost \$133 million. After funds from the School Building Assistance Bureau, the State Bond Program and the sale of the North Shore Tech property, the cost to the communities will be \$31,168,750. The assessment for Topsfield is estimated using the number of town residents attending the school (but not less than 5) as a fraction of the total enrollment. Topsfield typically has two students enrolled each year.

Topsfield estimated debt assessment for the project would be \$16,629 for 2014, decreasing to \$6,984 the last (30th) year. The school will follow a career academy model with 4 academies: Animal and Plant Sciences, Technology and Services, Construction Technology, and Life and Natural Sciences. The town will have to vote at the 2010 Town Meeting to accept the merger and the costs associated with it.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Old Business

Acceptance of Playground Equipment: Dawn Seymour and Karen Duval, members of the Topsfield Playground Committee, addressed the Board. Selectman Dow made a motion in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, §53A ½, to accept the donation from the Topsfield Playground Committee of the playground equipment located at the Proctor School, 60 Main Street, Topsfield in "as is" condition, and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of

the October 26, 2009 letter from the President of the Topsfield Playground Committee setting forth the agreement of the Board of Selectmen and the Topsfield Playground Committee concerning the donation of the playground equipment, second by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0. Ms. Seymour publically thanked John Cowhig of Hands for Hire and his crew for the countless hours they volunteered to help with the project. Chairman Morrison thanked the Playground Committee for their efforts, expressing that when we work together wonderful things happen. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10/28 at 9 am.

New Business

Updates to Service Zone Plan: Selectman Gandt suggested that the vote to approve the updated Service Zone Plan be tabled for two weeks in order for the Board members to be able to review the document in its entirety.

Rail Trail Phase I Construction Change Order No.3: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve Change Order No. 3 with K&R Construction of Boxford in the amount of \$4,885 for Phase 1, with a final contract amount of \$50,065.09, seconded by Selectman Powers; so voted: 5-0.

Liaison Reports:

Selectman Luther reported that 1 year contracts have been signed with the Call Firefighters and Fire Fighters with a 0% wage increase for the period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Selectman Dow reported that the Finance Committee has begun meeting to discuss the guidelines for the Fiscal 2011 budget.

Selectman Dow announced that the Tri-Town School Union will be meeting on Thursday, October 29th at the Proctor School beginning at 7:30 to discuss the Regionalization Study Report. Chairman Morrison reported that the Open Space Committee is preparing the new Open Space Plan and it should be completed shortly.

In addition, Chairman Morrison mentioned the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing tomorrow night regarding the Sweet Shoppe's new location and parking plan.

Selectman Dow reminded citizens of the Veterans Day parade to be held on November 7th beginning at 11AM with a dedication ceremony at The Veterans Memorial Green on South Common Street as part of the parade activities.

Selectman Gandt introduced the two members of the Masconomet School Committee, Larry Lindquist and Ken Vogel, who were in the audience. Mr. Lindquist, Chairman of the School Committee, spoke of the recertification of the Masconomet budget due to shortfalls in state funding. There was a lengthy discussion surrounding the cuts Masconomet is facing and if the Board had any solutions or suggestions to offer. The Board expressed their own concerns over expected 9C cuts that are due out at the end of the week that will affect the Town's budget as well. The Board's message to the Masconomet School Committee representatives was that the next couple of budget cycles appear to be difficult as there will be less State aid coming to the Towns and that budgets will have to absorb those losses in some manner.

Town Administrator's Report:

- MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting Update
- Update on MIIA annual review of the Town's insurance policies
- Annual Facilities Tour Review
- Fire Pumper Bids were opened and a recommendation will be presented at the next meeting.

Correspondence & Reports

Reports

Board of Library Trustees is now posting minutes and agendas on the Library web site.
Board of Assessors submitted minutes of August 4, September 11 and 25, 2009.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$ 258,615.61**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant FY10:	
035T	\$ 72,068.37
036	\$ 186,547.24

At 9:05 PM, Selectmen Luther made a motion to adjourn and Selectman Dow seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the December 7, 2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

<p>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.</p>
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