

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Working Session
Minutes of February 25, 2009

Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:35PM. Board members present in addition to Chairman Jackson were Richard Gandt, Martha Morrison, Nancy Luther and Karen Dow. Of the Selectmen's staff, Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, and Board Secretary Donna Rich, were in attendance. Faye Raynard from Village Reporter was present.

FY2009 & FY2010 Budget: Chairman Jackson began with the FY2010 outside budget items: HAWC-\$1,000, Tri-Town Council-\$20,354 and Hazardous Waste Collection Day-\$5,000. Ms. Wilder stated that a firm decision on the three items slated to be eliminated from the Selectmen's budgets was needed. Selectman Morrison inquired about the history of the contribution to HAWC; since 2000, Town Meeting has approved an appropriation of \$1,000 each year. Ms. Wilder stated that she has been in contact with Boxford and Middleton to determine their intent for appropriating funds to the Tri-Town Council in FY10. Selectman Dow commented that it would a difficult decision for her not to offer the hazardous waste collection event due to the nature of the event. Selectman Morrison added that she would like to review how other surrounding towns handle hazardous waste drop-offs. Donna Rich will provide a list of Department of Environmental Protection reports that display surrounding towns and collection data. Further conversation continued on the underlying assumption the budget will require an override to be placed on the ballot. Selectman Dow noted that the citizens should have a chance to speak, and a vote on the ballot for an override provides that opportunity. Chairman Jackson stated that in reviewing the budgets in light of what is essential and non-essential, it is difficult to continue the services discussed. However, he requests that the Board think about the three individual items for a future discussion. Selectman Gandt was not in favor of completely eliminating services that have been offered to the citizens over the years and believes that cutting back in these economic times would be a compromise in his mind. There was a brief discussion regarding ways to increase revenues to the Town by increasing fees for building inspectional services to better cover the costs for providing these services.

Board of Selectman Policy & Procedures Document: Chairman Jackson stated that on March 25th the Board would meet to discuss the document. It was requested that Selectman Gandt resend the comments he made last year on the document. In the meantime, comments could be filtered to Ms. Wilder.

Selectman's Annual Report: Selectman Gandt authored the report and is seeking any additions/corrections that should be made to it before submitting it.

45 Bare Hill Road: Ms. Wilder provided an update stating the property's title is "clouded" and that she had sent a letter in April 28, 2008 to the owner requesting it to be cleared, at which time the town would be interested in taking ownership of it.

Rail Trail Topics: Selectman Gandt stated that the bid documents have been circulated with an addendum also being distributed. The bids will be opened at 10AM on March 4, 2009. Chairman Jackson has had a conversation with the Highway Superintendent in regards to the parking area on Park Street. The licenses on encroachments were discussed. If issued, licenses for encroachment on Town owned property and licenses for encroachment on MBTA owned property will likely be different. Fences that encroach on the town's anticipated easement at 7 Grove Street will need to be removed. An update on the ATC easement was provided. Selectman Gandt requested that Ms. Wilder coordinate the filing of the easement with Brian Woodland and Transit Realty Associates, LLC.

Letter from Mike DeAmario: requesting information regarding screening along the Rail Trail. Selectman Morrison offered to speak to Dan Peabody, East Gate Designs in regards to moving trees as requested in Mr. DeAmario's letter.

Police Station Feasibility Study: The Board agreed that, as a result of the FY09 9C budget cuts and budget constraints, the project should not move forward at this time. Ms. Wilder will

inform Mrs. Knight that the bids, none of which were opened, will need to be returned. This will enable \$6,500 remaining in the FY08 article 23 to be turned-back to the general fund.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$2,232,689.11**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY09:	
069T	\$ 72,268.37
069School	\$ 206,980.25
070	\$1,953,440.49

At 7:01 PM, Selectman Dow made a motion to adjourn, and Selectman Jackson seconded the motion; so voted: 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the March 16, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting.