

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING JULY 8, 2008

Chairman Foyle called the meeting to order in the Senior Center at 7 PM with all members present.

I. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2008 as written. So voted.

IA. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve warrant #1066 for \$49,895.77. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve warrant #1067 for \$18,784.71. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve warrant #1068 for \$277,139.31. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #27 for \$151,513.12. So voted.

Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve warrant #1000 for \$525,763.01. So voted. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve payroll warrant #1 in the amended amount of \$62,849.18, which is a reduction of \$417.60. So voted.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Caldwell seconded, a motion to set Tuesday, September 16, 2008 as the date for a Special Town Election to elect a new selectman. This will coincide with the state primary election. So voted.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr. Foyle read a letter from Robert Smith asking to be appointed to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Smith. So voted, with Mr. Caldwell voting no.

B. Mrs. Walter read an e-mail from Brett Cavanaugh asking to be appointed to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Because Mr. Cavanaugh has experience on the Finance Committee in Warren, Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to appoint Mr. Cavanaugh as an alternate to the Finance Committee, with the possibility of his serving as the FinCom representative to the CIPC. So voted.

C. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to accept a \$25 check from Dorothy Civin for the Bates Observatory Gift Fund. So voted. The donation was made in memory of Rita Potvin.

D. Mr. Caldwell read a letter from the Board of Water Commissioners asking for approval for four end-of-year transfers. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to approve the transfers. So voted.

E. Steve Cummings of the Planning Board was present to explain a letter that was sent requesting that the selectmen authorize the installation of “No Parking” signs on Grant Street near where the bank is constructing a new building. The Planning Board does not believe that Grant Street is wide enough to allow on-street parking. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to go along with the Planning Board recommendation. So voted.

F. Mr. Cummings was also present to address another letter from the Planning Board recommending that the Selectmen vote to increase the curb cut fee from \$500 to \$1,000. Mr. Cummings noted that many homeowners are opting to forfeit their \$500 deposit in lieu of the more costly required paving. By raising the fee it is hoped that more people will pave the driveways and prevent soil erosion and runoff. Mr. Caldwell suggested that perhaps the amount should be even higher. Mr. Cummings suggested that the fee be raised to \$1,000 for now, and re-visit the issue again in one year. Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to raise the curb cut deposit to \$1,000 effective immediately. So voted.

G. Mrs. Walter read a letter from the Zoning Board of Appeals stating that their clerk did not receive a 3% salary increase at the annual town meeting. Mr. Caldwell noted that the ZBA failed to submit any budget request, and was therefore level funded. Mrs. Walter noted that it is not the fault of the clerk that the budget was not done, and she shouldn't be penalized. Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Foyle seconded, a motion to put the request onto the fall special town meeting warrant. So voted, with Mr. Caldwell abstaining.

L. Mr. Caldwell read a notice regarding the Playground Committee's annual golf tournament to be held on August 9th at Quail Hollow in Oakham. Mr. Foyle noted that Tabby Leblanc and the Playground Committee have done an incredible job raising funds for their programs, thereby mitigating their need for town funding.

M. Mr. Foyle announced that there will be a public forum on Monday, July 14th at 7 PM in the Kiva Room at the high school. This forum will be facilitated by RKG Associates, the firm hired to do a marketability study on the North Brookfield Downtown Development site. Everyone interested in the development of the site is expected to be in attendance. Mr. Foyle noted that after this forum the Board of Selectmen should be able to move forward expeditiously to set the location for the new police facility.

H. Mrs. Walter requested that the Board address the FY10 budget process, and the role of the selectmen. Mr. Foyle noted that several years ago

town officials developed a timeline for the process, but it is difficult to make the town departments submit their budget requests on time. Mr. Foyle stated that he had no problem with Mrs. Walter taking the lead on this project.

I. Mrs. Walter wanted to know how the move of the town offices will be handled. Mr. Foyle stated that Mr. Caldwell and Mrs. Burton will coordinate with the landlord, Troy Brown. Mr. Caldwell noted that the plan is to use the space programming guidelines that were determined by the architect who did the feasibility study for the town hall project.

J. Mrs. Walter asked that the selectmen revisit the issue of a selectmen's representative to the CIP committee. Mr. Foyle asked that the issue be taken up after the September special election. Mrs. Walter expressed concern that the CIP committee was told that the capital projects would be deferred this year because of the budget issues. Mr. Foyle noted that the town "robbed Peter to pay Paul" in setting the FY09 budget, and there may be repercussions coming in the fall when the Free Cash number is known. Mr. Foyle noted that further cuts to this year's budget may be necessary. Mrs. Walter asked if the town's debt and revenue policies would remain the same, and Mr. Foyle stated that they would stay as is until it is determined that they are no longer working.

K. Mrs. Walter stated that the Board of Selectmen has responsibilities in implementing the Master Plan, and she would like the Board to get involved. She gave Mr. Foyle and Mr. Caldwell a list of items that could be accomplished that do not necessarily cost money. She stated that the Master Plan Implementation Committee will be presenting a report to the Board of Selectmen in the fall. She also noted that three additional members are needed for the implementation committee, and any resident who is interested should contact the selectmen's office.

At 8:05 PM Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to go off-camera to sign bills. So voted.

Tony Zalauskas of 31 Lakeview Road came in to complain that the Highway Department has repeatedly fixed a private driveway down by the lake. He wants to know why this is happening. Mr. Foyle agreed that he will talk to Highway Superintendent Gary Jean and get back to Mr. Zalauskas.

Tree Warden Tony Holway and Highway Superintendent Gary Jean came in to talk to the selectmen about some issues that have come up with trees and the roads. Mr. Holway stated that by law, his jurisdiction is only trees affecting public ways. "Public" trees are those that are generally on the road side of stone walls, and "private" trees are those that are inside the walls. Some roads have been widened so much, or the stone walls no longer exist, that it may be difficult to determine whose trees they are. Mr. Holway noted that problems arise when a private tree falls on a public way; who should pay for the clean-up? Mr. Jean will

move a private tree that is blocking a public way to the edge of the road, but the property owner should pay for the removal from the edge of the public way. Mr. Holway had a draft of a letter that he would like to send to a homeowner whose tree falls into a public road.

Mr. Holway also voiced his concerns should the town ever designate any road a "scenic road," which would severely limit the ability to remove trees.

The selectmen told Mr. Holway that he should put his policies and operating procedures into writing to be approved by the selectmen.

Mr. Holway left the meeting at 9 PM.

Highway Superintendent Gary Jean told the selectmen that two of his men had a problem with the landfill monitor on June 25th. The selectmen asked that he contact Board of Health Chairman John Alphin and try to resolve the problems, and if they cannot work things out, come back to the selectmen.

The selectmen discussed a letter from police Sergeant Douglas Blood asking that his salary be increased in order to bolster his retirement. The selectmen do not feel that this is something they can do, since Sergeant Blood is represented by a union. Jim Foyle will draft a letter to Sergeant Blood.

The Board signed the bi-weekly bills and payrolls.

There being no further business, Mr. Caldwell moved, and Mrs. Walter seconded, a motion to adjourn at 9:55 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton
Administrative Assistant