

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 13, 2006**

63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Polanowicz, Chairman
Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman
Jeff Amberson, Clerk
Leslie Rutan
Fran Bakstran

6:30 p.m. - EXECUTIVE SESSION – Conference Room C

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B – Legal Matter; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Bakstran	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”	Polanowicz	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”		

7:25 p.m. - OPEN MEETING – Selectmen’s Meeting Room

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 27, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the February 27, 2006 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:30 p.m. - JUNE HUBBARD-WARD, TREASURER/COLLECTOR &
KELLY BURKE, SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR**
Presentation on Elderly Tax Programs

Treasurer Collector June Hubbard-Ward and Senior Center Director Kelly Burke were present. Ms. Hubbard-Ward reviewed the Town’s current Senior Citizen Abatement and Property Tax Credit Programs.

The Board noted that an Article is included on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to expand the eligibility requirements for the Elderly Tax Deferral Program.

7:40 p.m. - MARK DONAHUE, IDC CHAIR AND LYNN TOKARCZYK
Presentation on Tax Increment Financing Agreement for Economic
Development Project on Bartlett Street.

Industrial Development Commission Chairman Mark Donahue introduced Lynn Tokarczyk from Business Strategies and Peter Latta from A. Duie Pyle Companies. Mr. Donahue informed the Board that A. Duie Pyle Companies has approached the Town with a 10-year TIF Proposal for a distribution facility to be located on a portion of the Guitierrez Companies property off Bartlett Street.

TIF PRESENTATION CONT. . .

Mr. Latta informed the Board that A. Duie Pyle, Inc. is a premier transportation company headquartered in Pennsylvania. He noted that the proposed expansion plans consist of constructing an 80,000 square foot warehouse and distribution facility with the capacity for an on-site expansion. The total capital investment is approximately \$9.2 million including \$9 million in construction costs and \$200,000 for new machinery and equipment. The company expects to retain 142 jobs in Massachusetts that will all be relocated to Northborough along with creating an additional 110 full-time jobs.

Ms. Tokarczyk made a presentation to the Board on the Tax Increment Financing Program and more specifically the terms of the TIF Proposal that will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre spoke on behalf of the Industrial Development Commission (IDC), informing the Board that the IDC voted unanimously to recommend the proposed TIF Agreement as revised and presented to the Board this evening. The IDC also voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Selectmen petition the State's Economic Assistance Coordinating Council to revoke the designated South East Industrial Sector Economic Opportunity Area (EOA) in order to make way for the proposed A. Duie Pyle EOA.

Mr. Coderre provided information on the history of the Program, as well as the tax benefits of entering into such an agreement. Mr. Brenner also provided information on the four previous TIF Agreements in which the Town has entered into.

Selectmen Amberson and Rutan noted their support of this project. Selectman Rand agreed and welcomed Mr. Latta and his company to Northborough. She added that the necessary articles to revoke the designated South East Industrial Sector EOA and allow the Town to enter into this TIF Agreement are both included on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

8:15 p.m. - MITCHELL GORDON, CULTURAL COUNCIL CHAIR
Report on Cultural Council Grant Awards.

Cultural Council Chair Mitchell Gordon was present along with Cultural Council Treasurer Cecil Adderley.

Mr. Adderley spoke about the Council's plan to conduct a survey to determine if there are any additional local cultural events that may be eligible for funds through the annual grant process. He stated that a website has been created and will be made available to all residents during the FY 2007 Grant Cycle which will begin in August of 2007.

Mr. Gordon informed the Board that the Cultural Council received 21 grant applications of which at least half were funded. He reviewed the eleven grant recipients, adding that the Council believes these organizations will provide the community with a nice variety of performances and programs.

CULTURAL COUNCIL CONT. . .

Mr. Gordon stated that the total funding awarded in FY 2006 was \$3,000. He noted that the Cultural Council welcomes donations and is always looking for volunteers who are looking to support the arts and culture in the community.

8:25 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application for a One-Day License for Wine and Malt Beverages pursuant to MGL, Chapter 138, Section 14 as submitted by Saint Bernadette's Church for premises located at 266 Main Street.

A representative from Saint Bernadette's Church was present to inform the Board that the Saint Bernadette's School is sponsoring a fund-raising event on April 1st in the form of a live/silent auction.

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that the application is in order and has been reviewed and approved by the Police Department.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to grant a One-Day License for Wine & Malt Beverages to Saint Bernadette's Church for premises located at 266 Main Street on Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and to waive the fee; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

8: 28 p.m. - REVIEW OF TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Presentation by Rick Leif, Planning Board Chair –
Planning Board Amendment to Senior Residential Overlay District Zoning Bylaw

Planning Board Chair Rick Leif summarized the objective of the proposed amendment to the Senior Residential Overlay District Zoning Bylaw. He informed the Board that after working with the current Bylaw for the past three years, the Planning Board is proposing a cap be placed on how many SRC units may be built in a given year. Mr. Leif stated that the proposed amendments also represent clarifications to the Bylaw.

Selectmen Amberson and Rutan questioned why the Planning Board would want to place a blanket cap on SRC units rather than reviewing each proposal individually. Mr. Leif stated that the cap will allow some time to pass, providing an opportunity for the Planning Board to review the impact that these SRC units will have on the Town. If it is determined that the impact is positive, the Planning Board can then amend the Bylaw again to remove the cap.

Selectman Rand agreed with the questions raised by Selectmen Amberson and Rutan. She expressed her concern with taking away the opportunity to allow the residents to decide on each proposal individually through the Town Meeting process.

Selectman Bakstran stated that the placement of a cap on the SRC units would allow an equal playing field for all projects and would help to not limit the opportunity for our community to offer a diverse range of housing needs.

Presentation by Mark Fidrych – Citizen Petition
To include 260 West Street in Senior Residential Community Overlay District

Mr. Fidrych was not present nor was anyone present to speak on his behalf.

Presentation by Assistant Town Administrator – Personnel Bylaw Amendments

Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre reviewed the proposed amendments to the Personnel Bylaw for FY 2007. The amendments include a 3% increase in compensation rates for non-union municipal employee positions effective July 1, 2006; an amendment to the accrual of vacation leave for new employees; and an amendment that would allow the Town Administrator some flexibility in granting vacation leave to new hires for salaried, management-level positions.

9:00 p.m. - ROBERT COUTURE, INTERIM SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT
Presentation of Regional School Budget.

Interim School Superintendent Robert Couture spoke about the close relationship between the Schools and Family & Youth Services Department. He noted his support and stressed the continued need for the services that this Department offers to the youth in this community.

Mr. Couture's presentation on the FY 2007 Regional School Budget included a brief summary of the accounts with the most significant increases. He noted that the Regional School Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss this Budget on March 15th. His presentation included the following two scenarios:

Scenario #1 – No New Hires

Represents \$18,879.22 in available revenue after the 6% increase as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Scenario #2 – Addition of 6.1 new teachers; 2.3 SPED and 2.0 custodians)

Represents an increase of \$362,734.00 over the 6% increase as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Couture informed the Board that Scenario #2 is the Budget that the Regional School Committee has supported up until this point and he expects that they will support it once again at their meeting on March 15th.

9:15 p.m. - ANTHONY RINO
Request to purchase Town Property.

Anthony Rino was present to inform the Board of his interest in purchasing what appears to be Town owned property located adjacent to his property at 13 Coolidge Circle. His intent is to build a home on this site.

Town Planner Kathy Joubert informed the Board that it does not appear that this land was specifically reserved for the Conservation Commission or the Parks & Recreation Commission, but instead was provided to the Town in general for open space purposes by the original developer of the "Pineknoll" Subdivision back in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Ms. Joubert stating that she is investigating as to whether or not the Town is the legal owner of this property and if so, whether or not it was deeded to the Town for any specific purpose. To date, she has not had any success in locating the Deed.

Chairman Polanowicz suggested that when and if the Deed is found and that the purpose of why the parcel was deeded to the Town is known, that the appropriate Boards, Committees and Commissions have an opportunity to review Mr. Rino's request to purchase the property prior to him coming back before the Board for their further consideration.

If the investigation ends up coming to a dead-end, Selectman Rutan questioned whether or not Legal Counsel should be brought in order to resolve this matter?

Because the Board is scheduled to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant this evening which does not allow enough time for the investigation to be completed, Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to withdraw the proposed article for the sale of this property to Mr. Rino from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion. Vote 4-0-1 (Selectman Rutan abstained).

Selectman Rutan wanted to extend her appreciation that a citizen has come forward with a proposal. She added that it is important that the Board be there for these individuals and make sure that they understand the process. She expressed her concern that Mr. Rino will leave tonight's meeting feeling that he has been left hanging without getting any answers.

Ms. Joubert added that Mr. Rino did appear before the Open Space Committee asking their opinion regarding the sale of this parcel for development purposes. No determination was made by the Open Space Committee regarding the sale of this parcel.

REPORTS

Fran Bakstran

- Noted that the deadline for submitting scholarship applications to the Northborough Scholarship Committee is April 3rd. Applications can be picked up at the Town Hall, the High School and the Library.
- Noted that the Friends of the Northborough Library are looking for donations for their theme baskets for their Annual Raffle, which runs from March 27th through April 8th. They are also accepting donations for their Annual Book Sale on April 8th.

Leslie Rutan

- Attended the recent meeting of the Community Preservation Committee. Announced the recommendations that the CPC will be making at the Annual Town Meeting.
- Requested that the Town Planner notify the Board of Selectmen at the time when CVS comes in to file for a Site Plan Review.
- Inquired as to when the Assistant Town Administrator will provide an updated report on the ongoing municipal projects in Town. Mr. Coderre informed the Board that this will be updated at the time that the Board revisits their goals.
- Noted that she has received feedback from concerned residents regarding the Board's decision to place the Family & Youth Services Department as an override article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. See below for further discussion.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Attended the recent meeting of the Community Preservation Committee. Thanked the Committee for their efforts in reviewing all of the proposals for funding.
- Noted that the Recreation Department will be sponsoring a fundraiser on April 8th at 5:00 p.m. at the Melican Middle School to raise funds to help kids with financial needs to attend summer camp.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Inquired again about the status of the burned-out building located across from Dunkin Donuts.
- Noted that the Senior Center Building Committee will be meeting on Friday, March 17th at 9:00 a.m.
- Noted that the last day to pick up nomination papers is Friday, March 17th. Nomination papers must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20th.

Kathleen Polanowicz, Chairman

- Noted that Veterans Agent Dick Perron has invited the Board to participate in the Memorial Day Parade.
- Announced her decision to not seek a third-term on the Board. Thanked all present and past members of the Board, Town staff and everyone who has supported her over the last six years.

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Selectman Rutan noted under her report that she has received feedback from concerned residents regarding the Board's decision to place the Family & Youth Services (FYS) Department as an override article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. She questioned whether or not the Board would be open to having further discussion this evening to creatively address how to not eliminate the FYS Department entirely and to maybe fund it on a smaller scale.

Youth Commission Chair Rebecca Haberman was present and spoke about her frustration and anger that the Board of Selectmen decided to eliminate the entire FYS Department in just one night.

In defense of the Board's decision, Chairman Polanowicz disagreed that this decision was made in just one night. She added that this decision was very difficult and that she not only supports the need for the FYS Department, but she will support the override article as well. Selectmen Amberson and Bakstran agreed that the decision was difficult, stating that they too will support the need for the FYS Department at the Annual Town Meeting.

In response to a question by David French of 1 Lancaster Road, Chairman Polanowicz and Selectmen Amberson, Rutan and Bakstran indicated that they would vote in favor of the override article for the FYS Department. Selectman Rand indicated that she is not certain at this point in time how she would vote. Mr. French suggested that since a majority of the Board will vote in favor of the override article, that the FYS Department be placed back into the Operational Budget and that the Budget in total go forward as an override article.

Following some further discussion, Selectman Rutan apologized for raising this issue under her report rather than asking that it be placed on the agenda ahead of time as an item to be discussed.

The Board continued with reports. . .

CLOSE WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to close the Warrant for the April 24, 2006 Annual Town Meeting; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

RENEWAL OF SEASONAL ALL ALCOHOLIC RESTAURANT LICENSE FOR JUNIPER HILL GOLF COURSE AT 202 BRIGHAM STREET (PAVILION)

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the application of Juniper Hill Golf Course for the renewal of its Seasonal All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for premises located at 202 Brigham Street (Pavilion); Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

RESOLUTION – STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the Resolution providing the Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

10:20 p.m. - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 39, Section 23B, Subsection 3 – Collective Bargaining; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Bakstran	“aye”	Rand	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”	Polanowicz	“aye”
Amberson	“aye”		

Chairman Polanowicz announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

10:40 p.m. - RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant