

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 27, 2006**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

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

*Pledge of Allegiance

7:00 p.m. - MARK LEAHY, POLICE CHIEF
Promotion of Police Officer to Police Sergeant.

Chief Leahy informed the Board that the promotional process for Sergeant has been completed and that Senior Patrolman Frank Mueller received the top score. He recommended that Frank Mueller be promoted to Police Sergeant. Frank joined the Northborough Police Department on July 1, 1976.

Frank Mueller was present, along with his wife Karen and children Michele, Frankie and Veronica.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to promote Police Officer Frank Mueller to the position of Police Sergeant effective March 27, 2006; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 13, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to accept the Minutes of the March 13, 2006 Regular Meeting as submitted; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:10 p.m. - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING W/ APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FY 2007 Proposed Budget.

Appropriations Committee Chair Elaine Kelly called the meeting of the Appropriations Committee to order. Also present from the Appropriations Committee were Richard Nieber, Dale Rains, Dan McInnis and Lynne Winter.

Mr. Brenner provided a brief presentation summarizing the details of the proposed FY 2007 Budget.

Mrs. Kelly indicated that the Appropriations Committee has been meeting weekly and has heard presentations from the various departments. She stated that at this time, the Committee has not yet made any recommendations on the proposed FY 2007 Budget. The Youth Commission and the Community Preservation Committee will be making presentations to the Committee within the next couple of weeks, after which time the Committee will begin deliberations on each of the Warrant Articles.

JOINT MEETING CONT. . .

Mr. Rains stated that he has questions regarding the possible restructuring of the DPW Department and the proposed weed control treatment for Bartlett Pond. Mrs. Kelly added that the Committee is very concerned with eliminating the FYS Department from the Operating Budget. She noted that the Committee is not comfortable with the FYS Department being presented at Town Meeting as an Override Article. Therefore, the Committee will look very closely at the FY 2007 Budget in order to determine whether or not this Department can be funded within the FY 2007 Operational Budget rather than being brought forward as an Override Article.

The earlier concerns brought forward by Mr. Rains regarding the weed control treatment for Bartlett Pond and the possible restructuring of the DPW Department were addressed by Town Engineer Fred Litchfield and Town Administrator Barry Brenner respectively.

Following some further discussion amongst members of the Board of Selectmen and the Appropriations Committee, Chairman Polanowicz invited comments from the audience. There were none.

Members of the Appropriations Committee adjourned their meeting at 7:45 p.m.

7:45 p.m. - FRED LITCHFIELD, TOWN ENGINEER

Presentation – Agreement for Solid Waste Disposal Contract with Wheelabrator Incinerator.

Town Engineer Fred Litchfield introduced Nancy Allen, the Director of Health from the Town of Shrewsbury and a member of the Central Massachusetts Resource Recovery Committee (CMRRC), as well as representatives from Wheelabrator Millbury.

Ms. Allen stated that the CMRRC represents all of the Central Massachusetts communities currently contracted with Wheelabrator Millbury for the disposal of municipal solid waste. She explained the process of how the CMRRC worked with Wheelabrator Millbury in negotiating a new long-term contract, including the hiring of Global Environmental Strategies who helped to explore the various alternatives for disposal of solid waste such as existing and potential landfills and transfer stations, as well as other waste to energy facilities within Massachusetts. Several out of state options were also explored.

Representatives from Wheelabrator Millbury were present. Details of the contract, which is the subject of Article 48 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, were discussed. The most significant items of the new contract include the tipping fee, the escalation rate, the length of the contract and the change in law provision. The tipping fee, which starts at \$63.00/ton on January 1, 2005 and adjusts with an escalation rate of 75% of the Consumer Price Index, has a cap of \$70.50/ton for the start of the new contract on January 1, 2008. The new contract allows either party to exercise the option to terminate the contract after ten years subject to a two year warning period. The new contract also allows the communities to defer any change in law costs for the first ten years of the contract, which would be waived if the contract were terminated.

FRED LITCHFIELD CONT. . .

Mr. Litchfield informed the Board that he had applied for and received a Technical Assistance Grant from the State to review the Solid Waste Budget. As a result, he has met with representatives from DEP to discuss some alternative funding options for the disposal of solid waste. Because the full impact of the new Solid Waste Disposal Contract will not occur until Fiscal Year 2009, he recommended that any discussions on alternative funding options take place at a future date.

Mr. Litchfield informed the Board that he will return to the Board with an update in October, 2006, at which time he will be preparing the proposed FY 2008 Budget and will have a full six months of revenue data from the recently implemented Bulk Item Label Fee.

8:10 p.m. - JAMES CASELLA, CHAIR
FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
Presentation on Financial Planning Committee Report.

Financial Planning Committee Chair James Casella was present, as well as Committee Members James Halpin and David DeVries.

Mr. Casella provided detailed information on the Report of the Financial Planning Committee. Information was provided on the Six-Year Capital Improvement Program, as well as on their recommendations for the FY 2007 projects that will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Following his presentation and some discussion amongst some members of the Board, Mr. Casella spoke about an issue that must be resolved prior to the Fall of this year. The issue is with the way in which State reimbursement will be received for the High School Renovation Project. He stated that the School District will receive a lump sum payment some time this Fall in the amount of approximately \$35M. According to the Debt Schedule, this reimbursement must be used to pay down short-term debt, even though some of this amount represents reimbursement for interest that has been charged. In other words, the School District will be reimbursed for interest that the Municipal Budget has incurred in the amount of approximately \$2M.

8:45 p.m. - MARK LEAHY, POLICE CHIEF
Request for Leave of Absence by Sergeant Patrick McStay.

Chief Leahy informed the Board that Sergeant Patrick McStay has requested a leave of absence from May 3, 2006 through July 21, 2006 in order to attend the Massachusetts State Police Recruit Training Academy. It is his plan to resign from the Northborough Police Department following the completion of his training on July 21, 2006.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to grant Police Sergeant Patrick McStay an unpaid leave of absence without benefits from May 3, 2006 through July 21, 2006; such action being without prejudice and precedence; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REPORTS

Fran Bakstran

- Attended a recent Eagle Scout ceremony for Neel Vora. Thanked all of the adult volunteers who participate in the Scouting Program.
- Noted that the Planning Board will continue their public hearing for Stop & Shop on May 2nd.
- Noted that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss their warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting on April 11th.

Leslie Rutan

- 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.
- Welcomed back David Kane as the MIS/GIS Director and thanked John Sabatini for his efforts in the absence of a Director.
- Congratulated the High School Jazz One Band for winning the silver medal at the State Finals this past weekend.
- Requested an update from the DPW Department on their sidewalk plan for Brigham Street.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Reminded the Board of the flags that have been erected at the Memorial for Neil Ellsworth at Church and Whitney Streets and the Memorial for David McAfee at the corner of Northgate and Jethro Peters Lane. He informed the Board that he has been working with several volunteers and representatives from Massachusetts Electric to illuminate these flags at no cost to the Town. He requested the Board's support in this effort. Mr. Brenner was happy to hear this, adding that \$2120 is included in the proposed FY 2007 Budget specifically for this purpose. Selectman Amberson suggested that these funds be used towards other Memorials in Town.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Noted that many of the Boards, Committees and Commissions have vacancies. At the request of the Personnel Board Chair noted that there are two vacancies on the Personnel Board.
- Requested a meeting with the High School Building Committee to receive a status update on the High School Project.
- Again noted her concern with the number of sandwich signs in Town. Requested that the Building Inspector provide information on how these signs can be eliminated.

Kathleen Polanowicz, Chairman

- No report.

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- Announced that David Kane will be returning to his former position of MIS/GIS Director. Extended his appreciation to John Sabatini for his efforts in overseeing the Department during the absence of a Director.

APPROVE/EXECUTE WARRANT FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute the Warrant for the April 24, 2006 Annual Town Meeting; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVE/EXECUTE WARRANT FOR TOWN ELECTION

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve and execute the Warrant for the May 8, 2006 Town Election; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REVISED DRAFT – FINANCIAL POLICIES

The Board agreed to forward the draft copy of the Financial Policies to the Appropriations and Financial Planning Committees for their review and comments. Following the receipt of their comments, the Board will consider approval of same.

APRIL/MAY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board agreed to establish the Board Meeting Schedule for April and May as follows:

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|------------------|-----------------|
| April 10, 2006 - | Regular Meeting |
| April 24, 2006 - | Special Meeting |
| May 15, 2006 - | Regular Meeting |

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A-707

Selectman Rand requested that the Cemetery Commission be scheduled on a future Board Meeting Agenda to provide information to the public as to how to go about obtaining a cemetery deed.

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A-707; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Bakstran seconded the motion; all members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant