

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 10, 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 27, 2006 REGULAR MEETING

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

**7:00 p.m. - VIRGINIA SIMMS GEORGE & LOUISE HOULE
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**
Presentation on Town Clean-up Day.

Community Affairs Committee Chair Virginia Simms George and Member Louise Houle were present. Ms. Houle informed the Board that the 19th Annual Town Clean-up Day will be on April 29, 2006 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Middle School. The rain date will be on Sunday, April 30, 2006. Following the clean-up, a cook-out will take place at the Ellsworth-McAfee Park. Members of the Board were invited to participate, as well as members of the public.

7:05 p.m. - PRESENTATION TO FIRE CHIEF DAVID DURGIN
Certificate from National Fire Academy on Completion of Executive Fire Officer Program.

Fire Chief David Durgin was present along with his wife and son. Chief Durgin provided details to the Board about the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. Chief Durgin thanked the Town and members of the Board for their support.

Chairman Polanowicz presented Chief Durgin with the Executive Fire Officer Program Certificate on behalf of the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Academy.

7:10 p.m. - MARK LEAHY, POLICE CHIEF
Appointment of Acting Sergeant.

Police Chief Mark Leahy requested that the Board appoint Police Officer Joseph Galvin as Acting Sergeant during the absence of Sergeant Patrick McStay.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING SERGEANT CONT. . .

Chief Leahy informed the Board that he anticipates coming back before the Board following Sergeant McStay's leave of absence to request their consideration to appoint Officer Galvin as a permanent Sergeant.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to appoint Police Officer Joseph Galvin as Acting Police Sergeant effective April 3, 2006; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:15 p.m. - APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendations on FY 2007 Budget and Funding for the Family & Youth Services Department.

Appropriations Committee Chair Elaine Kelly called the Special Meeting of the Appropriations Committee to order. Also present from the Appropriations Committee were Janice Hight, Dale Rains, Dan McInnis and Lynne Winter.

Ms. Kelly informed the Board of her request to be present this evening in order to address concerns raised by the Appropriations Committee about the Family & Youth Services Department being the subject of a Proposition 2½ Override rather than being included in the Base Budget for FY 2007.

Ms. Kelly stated that a majority of the Appropriations Committee voted to recommend that the Reserve Fund Account for FY 2007 be reduced \$50,000 from \$118,500 to \$68,500 with the \$50,000 being reallocated to finance the Family & Youth Services Department.

Mr. Brenner recommended that the Board of Selectmen favorably consider this adjustment. He also recommend that the starting date of the additional Staffing Positions included by the Board of Selectmen in the FY 2007 Base Budget for the Fire Department, Engineering Department, Health Department, and Building Department be deferred from October 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007, which would result in savings of \$45,000. These actions would provide \$95,000 towards financing a scaled down Family & Youth Services Department operation for FY 2007. These actions would also eliminate the need for an Override to Proposition 2½.

The scaled down Family & Youth Services Department operation would consist of the following Staffing and costs:

Director (10½ months salary-allowance for recruitment time)	\$51,000
Part-time Counselor	\$21,000
Part-time Administrative Assistant	\$20,000
Consultant Services – Clinical Supervision	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
	\$95,000

A brief discussion ensued amongst members of the Board and the Appropriations Committee.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CONT. . .

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to adjust the FY 2007 Budget as follows:

Reserve Fund	Decrease (\$50,000)
Defer Start Date for Additional Staffing	Decrease <u>(\$45,000)</u>
Subtotal	Decrease (\$95,000)
 Family & Youth Services	 Increase \$95,000
Total Net Change	\$ -0-

Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Members of the Appropriations Committee adjourned their meeting at 7:40 p.m.

7:40 p.m. - BOARD OF SELECTMENConsideration of Vote/Recommendations on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The Board agreed to postpone this item to the Board's Special Meeting on April 24, 2006 in order to allow an opportunity to review the recommendations of the Appropriations Committee and the Planning Board.

Selectman Bakstran expressed her feeling that the Board of Selectmen should take a position on each of the Warrant Articles prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Following some discussion amongst members of the Board as to whether or not they agree with this, Chairman Polanowicz suggested that members of the Board come to the Special Meeting on April 24th prepared to take a position on the Warrant Articles with the understanding that not all members may be comfortable with doing so on each and every Article.

Ms. Kelly informed the Board that she will plan to email the Report of Recommendations by the Appropriations Committee to each of the Board members as soon as it is available.

The Board of Selectmen agreed to schedule the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on April 24, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the High School.

Assignment of Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Members of the Board agreed on which Warrant Articles each of them would present at the Annual Town Meeting.

8:00 p.m. - STATE SENATOR RESOR
State Legislative Update.

State Senator Pamela Resor provided a brief Legislative update to the Board. Senator Resor informed the Board that the House Budget was released today. She provided an update on the following:

- Lottery Aid will be the same as what the Governor proposed.
- Chapter 70 Funding is down slightly. It is her hope that this funding will increase a bit on the Senate side.
- The cap has been removed on the Lottery Funding.
- Increase in Regional Transportation to at least 80% coverage.
- Increase in Special Ed in order to increase the amount of funding for the Circuit Breaker.
- Increase in Road Maintenance funding to cover sand/salt and fuel costs.
- Working on the development of programs that will increase incentives for Chapter 40B Developments.
- Noted that Chapter 40R is helping to bring back some local control in terms of affordable development. She is working on the development of a program that would benefit the smaller communities.
- Noted that Chapter 40S will provide funding for each affordable housing unit assuming that there will be a student entering into the school system.
- Hoping that in the long-term, the rising costs of Health Care can be reduced.
- An expansion of the requirements for the Senior Circuit Breaker Program.
- Although the moratorium for School Building Assistance is still in effect, she is hopeful that it will be removed by either January 1 or July 1 of 2007.

REPORTS

Fran Bakstran

- Noted that the Community Preservation Committee will be presenting their Warrant Articles at the Joint Meeting of the Appropriations and Financial Planning Committees on April 11th.
- Noted that the Water & Sewer Department has announced that due to the increase in the MWRA Assessment, the water rates are expected to increase. This will not have an effect on the sewer rates.
- Noted the potential elimination of Federal Funding for local cable access television. Tune into Channel 11 for more details. Requested that Mr. Brenner follow-up on a previous letter that was sent on behalf of the Town, again reiterating the Town's concern with the potential elimination of this funding.
- Noted that the Historical Commission has received notification from the Building Inspector that according to the Town's Demolition Bylaw, the Historical Commission must first submit a letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectmen within 14 days of receipt of an application to demolish any building that is considered to have historical significance. See below for further discussion.

Leslie Rutan

- Attended the recent DARE Graduation for the 5th Grade Students. Thanked the Police Chief for continuing this program in our schools. Especially thanked Officer Philip Martin for his efforts.
- Noted that the Murphy Sisters 5-K Run was held at the High School. Over 800 people participated in the event.
- Noted her appreciation to Chairman Polanowicz in recognition of her last regularly scheduled meeting this evening.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Attended a fundraiser sponsored by the Recreation Department to raise funds that will help those families who cannot afford the cost of attending summer camp programs. Thanked Recreation Director Allie Dettorre for her efforts and added that the Recreation Department is still accepting donations from anyone who may be interested in helping a child attend a summer camp program.
- Attended the Casino Night fundraiser sponsored by the High School Booster's Club to raise funds for the football team.
- A Candidate's Night will be held on May 4th at the Zeh School at 7:00 p.m.
- The Annual Town Meeting will be held on April 24th at the High School.
- The Annual Town Clean-up Day will be held on April 29th at the Melican Middle School beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Noted that he had been contacted by a resident inquiring about the recent clearing of trees on Interstate 290 at the same place where a significant amount of work has already been performed in an effort to reduce noise. See below for further discussion.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Annual Town Election will be held on May 8th.
- Noted that the Senior Center Building Committee will be meeting on April 13th.

Kathleen Polanowicz, Chairman

- Requested that the residents consider donating funds to the Elderly & Disabled Taxation Fund Committee and the Scholarship Committee when submitting their tax payments. Noted that both committees are in need of volunteers.

Barry M. Brenner, Town Administrator

- No report.

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF BUILDING AT 3 PARK LANE

Selectman Bakstran noted under her report that the Historical Commission has received notification from the Building Inspector that according to the Town's Demolition Bylaw, the Historical Commission must first submit a letter of recommendation to the Board of Selectmen within 14 days of receipt of an application to demolish any building that is considered to have historical significance.

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF BUILDING CONT. . .

Selectman Bakstran stated that the Board has received such a Letter of Recommendation from the Historical Commission in regards to an application that was received to demolish a home of historical significance located at 3 Park Lane. She noted her concern with the fact that the Bylaw states that the Historical Commission must submit a Letter of Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen, but then that is the end of it. It does not give the Board of Selectmen any authority to do anything with the Letter of Recommendation. She requested that the Board of Selectmen ask the Building Inspector to withhold the issuance of a demolition permit for this building until the time that the preliminary site plan is reviewed by the Planning Board and/or the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Brenner informed the Board that the Building Inspector has 30 days from the date of the application to either issue or deny a demolition permit. Since this matter is scheduled on the Planning Board's agenda on April 11th, Mr. Brenner suggested that the Board continue this discussion to their Special Meeting on April 24th, at which time the Board will know better where this matter sits after its review by the Planning Board.

Chairman Polanowicz requested that the Building Inspector look into whether or not the applicant who has applied for the demolition permit is the actual owner of the property, as well as whether or not the access to the property is appropriate given that it is a private way.

Following some further discussion, the Board agreed to request that the Building Inspector wait the full 30 days from the date of the application to issue or deny the demolition permit for the historical building located at 3 Park Lane. In the meantime, Mr. Brenner will continue to investigate the matter and seek an opinion from Town Counsel.

RECENT CLEARING OF NATURAL SOUND BARRIERS ON INTERSTATE 290

Selectman Amberson noted under his report that he had been contacted by a resident inquiring about the recent clearing of trees on Interstate 290 at the same place where a significant amount of work has already been performed in an effort to reduce noise. He questioned why the State Highway Department would clear any natural sound barriers in this particular location.

Assistant Town Administrator John Coderre informed the Board that although the clearing is beyond our control, he is in the process of forwarding this complaint to the State Secretary of Transportation on behalf of the residents in this neighborhood.

Audience Member David French of 1 Lancaster Road stated that the Federal Highway Administration mandates how far trees must be kept from Interstate 290. Chairman Polanowicz noted that Representative Harold Naughton has also contacted the State Secretary of Transportation from Iraq via e-mail. She is concerned that these residents have been promised things that are not coming to fruition.

NORTHBOROUGH GARDEN CLUB – ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to grant permission to the Northborough Garden Club to hold their Annual Plant Sale in the center of Town on Saturday, May 13, 2006 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to reappoint those individuals who appear on the 2006 “Reappointment List” to the corresponding Boards, Committees and Commissions; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A-708

Selectman Bakstran moved the Board vote to approve and execute Cemetery Deed A-708; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant