

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, September 17, 2007
7:00 PM AT TOWN OFFICE BUILDING

PRESENT: Selectmen James E. Thompson (presiding), Patrick J. Brady, and David W. Barry, Town Administrator Robert A. Weitz and Pamela E. Beall, secretary.

I. APPOINTMENTS

School Officials: Executive Session

MOTION: To go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to real estate negotiations because discussion in open session may have a detrimental affect on the position of the town, and that the board return to open session to conduct further business. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

The executive session commenced at 7:00 PM and ended at 7:22 PM.
The business meeting resumed at 7:22 PM.

Kate Vanderscoff: Candidate for Council on Aging

Selectmen met with Kate Vanderscoff. Ms. Vanderscoff stated that she may not be available for the appointment to this committee, because her present position as clerk to the Hampden County Family and Probate Court may be a conflict of interest. She has asked attorney's for the court system for an opinion which should be received in a short time.

Ms. Vanderscoff spoke of her interest in elder law and senior programs. She has worked with all the area senior centers as a coordinator of the SHINE program in Western Massachusetts.

MOTION: I move to appoint Kate Vanderscoff to the Council on Aging for a term expiring in 2010, contingent upon her ability to accept appointment. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

Recreation Director: Disc Golf Program

PRESENT: Recreation Director Bryan Litz and program volunteers Dan Hale and Davis Johnson.

Mr. Litz explained how a group of residents came to him with a request to offer a recreational program for disc golf at the property on Crane Hill Road. Mr. Johnson explained the activity (a golf-style game played with Frisbee-like discs). He is part of a regional club that would be interested in providing the equipment and developing an 18-hole game space at Crane Hill. The local volunteers would do some minor brush clearing and keep the grass cut. He distributed a handout showing the kind of equipment needs, and explained that none of the equipment was permanent. The sport has a following in New England, with 18 courses in Massachusetts. It is a year-round sport. The recreation department will provide a rental kit for people wanting to try the sport.

Mr. Litz, Mr. Hale, and Mr. Johnson responded to selectmen's questions about promotion of the location, landscaping, potential peak daily participation, parking, regulations for use of the land, and the demographics of the typical players.

Mr. Litz stated that the group has already presented the plan to the Conservation Commission which controls some abutting land. Also, the Playground and Recreation Commission has endorsed the proposal. Chairman Thompson asked for a written reply from the Conservation Commission, from the Recreation Commission, and from the Open Space Committee.

II. CITIZEN’S OPEN FORUM

There were no citizens seeking to address the board.

III. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The Town Administrator reported on the meeting of local government representatives concerning planning and impact evaluation for the **proposed location of a casino** in Western Massachusetts. Mr. Thompson reported that he attended a meeting which included police, selectmen and other local government representatives. The purpose was to identify the concerns and impact on abutting communities. The group will meet regularly and would like a representative to the group. Mr. Barry stated that he has a suggestion for a representative and will put forward a name if possible at the next meeting.

Mr. Weitz reported that he inspected **Hollow Road** with DPW Director Ed Miga. Mr. Thompson proposed that selectmen plan to meeting with Hampden selectmen, in the field, along with the DPW director.

On the subject of **public access live broadcasting** of selectmen’s meetings, Caroline Cunningham stated that there is adequate capability available to do so from the selectmen’s meeting room. There was discussion of some procedural concerns with live broadcasting.

IV. SELECTMEN’S UPDATES

Patrick J. Brady

Mr. Brady requested information from a resident for any relief for non-profit users for the sewer extension charges. Mr. Weitz will look into the procedures and possibilities.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Appointment to Boards and Committees

Selectmen discussed the status of vacancies and reappointments. Mr. Thompson asked that Rob Murner be approached about the Finance Committee vacancy and that other candidates be scheduled as soon as possible for interviews; also the candidates for Sewer Advisory Board.

Financial Planning Committee

Mr. Thompson reported that Mr. Weitz has been looking at how this function is provided in other towns and has some information that should be shared with the Finance Committee. Any permanent committee would require a bylaw approved by Town Meeting. Mr. Barry proposed that it might be a discussion item at the joint meeting scheduled for October 17.

Selectmen’s Annual Goals

Mr. Barry requested that the wood burning outdoor furnace regulations be on the selectmen’s goals. Ms. Beall reported that the Advisory Board of Health has scheduled a meeting later this month to endorse draft regulations for the Board of Health.

Municipal Benchmarking LLC

MOTION: I move to enter into an agreement with Municipal Benchmarking LLC for services in the value of \$7,500 for FY 2008. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS
Indemnifications

MOTION: To indemnify Officer Christopher Doyle pursuant to MGL Chapter 41 Section 111F for 160 hours lost between August 2 and August 29, 2007, and pursuant to MGL Chapter 41 Section 100 for medical bills in the amount of \$592.87. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

Change Order: for Public Library Project

MOTION: To approve a “change order” for the fan coil replacement project at the Wilbraham Public Library, authorizing \$21,835 in alternative expenditures, using funds previously allocated, and that the chairman be authorized to sign the change order on the board’s behalf. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

VII. LICENSING, OTHER APPROVALS
Sewer Rate Relief Fund Application

MOTION: To authorize the application to the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund for FY 2008 distribution for the Main Street sewer expansion project. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

VIII. MINUTES
Minutes were not prepared for review

IX. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, SIGNATURES
Correspondence signed at the meeting is itemized in Attachment A.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: To go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to labor negotiations because discussion in open session may have a detrimental affect on the position of the town, and that the board return to open session to adjourn without further business. (BRADY, BARRY) Approved 3-0.

The executive session commenced at 8:30 and ended at 9:35 PM

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Town Administrator

James E. Thompson, Chairman

Patrick J. Brady

David W. Barry

ATTACHMENT A

The Board of Selectmen signed the following documents at their meeting on Monday, September 17, 2007:

1. Minutes of August 6 and August 20, and August 20 Executive Session
2. Letters of appreciation for service on Finance Committee, to Kimberly Lee and Victor Varga
3. Application to the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund for 2008 allocation.
4. Commendation for Eagle Scouts Gordon MacPherson II and Ian MacPherson.
5. Change Order document, to Hurley and David, for the library HVAC project