

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, December 22, 2008 at 7:00 PM
AT THE TOWN OFFICE BUILDING**

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

I. APPOINTMENTS

Claudia Considine, candidate for Ambulance Oversight Committee

Ms. Considine spoke with the board about her interest in serving on the Ambulance Oversight Committee. She is a long time resident, and is employed as the Public Health Nurse for the town, with offices at the Senior Center. Since she started work for the town on September 11, 2001, there has been a big shift in the responsibilities she anticipated, including being very involved in planning for medical emergencies. She has worked closely with the town's ambulance service and has first-hand knowledge of their professional training and service and would like to contribute to community outreach and education about emergency responders. She believes her professional background will contribute to Wilbraham's committee. She responded to selectmen's queries.

Bonnie Drumheller, candidate for Recreation Committee

Ms. Drumheller spoke with the board about her interest in serving on the Recreation Commission. She has lived in Wilbraham for a number of years and knows the recreation programs as a parent participant. She know some of the challenges faced in running a great recreation offering and knows the participants at all levels. She responded to selectmen's queries.

Chairman Brady noted that the board would make decisions at a future meeting, and would like to give the Recreation Commission an opportunity to interview the candidates.

Liquor License Hearing: Debbie's Cookin-N-Caterin'

Selectmen met with Debra Dollar who seeks to change her liquor license type from "all alcohol" to "wine and malt beverages." Ms. Dollar explained that the restaurant has evolved since the liquor license was granted, and she bought the business from the Luzi family. She serves a large crowd for breakfast and lunch but dinners are limited to two nights per week. She is burdened by the expense of the all alcohol license and would serve her customers well with only beer and wine.

MOTION: to approve a change in the liquor license category from "all alcohol" to "wine and malt only" for Luzi's Cantina, Inc., d/b/a Debbie's Cookin-n-Caterin at 2650 Boston Road and to forward the board's approval to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. (BARRY, THOMPSON) Approved 3-1.

Steve Lawson

Selectmen met with Steve Lawson and Town Counsel Michael T. Hassett. Mr. Hassett explained that Mr. Lawson is a long-time member of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and is also a member of the Minnichaug Land Trust (MLT), whose mission is to acquire and manage open space parcels in Wilbraham and Hampden. The MLT has begun negotiations for the acquisition of a significant open space parcel in Wilbraham. Mr. Lawson

has a potential, but insubstantial conflict with his two roles. As a matter of compliance with the spirit of the conflict statutes, Mr. Lawson has submitted a letter which discloses his interests. He would like selectmen to accept the letter and acknowledge it with a letter of their own, which h will be filed with the Town Clerk. Town Counsel's opinion is that the conflict does not detract from the town's interests and that Mr. Lawson's service is benign.

MOTION: That the Board of Selectmen is in agreement with the information, assurances, and exemption determination which [Mr. Lawson] requests in a letter dated December 12, 2008 [re: potential for conflict of interest]. (BARRY, THOMPSON) Approved 3-0.

II. CITIZEN'S OPEN FORUM

Jennifer Tibbets, 1 Seneca Street, addressed the board regarding the Planning Board decision in favor of the **Washington Heights** development. Specifically she questions a statement in the Planning Board decision which places the responsibility for plowing Seneca and Washington Roads, which are private ways. She also stated that residents had asked for the hearing to be kept open in order to review documentation with an attorney, but the Planning Board would not do that. Chairman Brady indicated that the selectmen would not revisit Planning Board decisions and that an explanation for the plowing condition should be addressed to the Planning Board.

III. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Town Administrator reported on several matters taken up by the **Traffic Safety Team** at a recent meeting. This included outlining possible enhancements to safety on **Stony Hill Road** in the vicinity of the school. The team agreed that more signage would be appropriate for the approach to the school entrance. Police will also do radar monitoring to slow down traffic generally. Long-term, consideration might be given to shifting the roadway to straighten the curve for visibility. On the matter of **Crane Hill and Glendale intersections**, the team decided that a "yield" intersection continues to be appropriate, but that signage is old and needs to be upgraded to a standard acceptable size. At **Old Boston Road**, police will again undertake truck monitoring.

In discussion, Mr. Brady asked for an estimate for signage improvements on Stony Hill Road by January 5, 2008. He and Mr. Thompson also would like to consider an engineering study of Stony Hill Road for long-range improvements.

IV. SELECTMEN'S UPDATES

Patrick J. Brady

Mr. Brady asked that the procedure proposed in a memorandum from the Cable TV Advisory Committee dated December 15, 1008, about local involvement with **complaints about Charter Communications**. Mr. Brady would like to assure that there is still follow up and logging of complaints. Mr. Weitz stated that this will still be possible, but there will be a priority to put the customer in touch with a Charter representative, rather than using the Executive Director of WPA (Caroline Cunningham) as an intermediary for complex problems.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. LICENSING, OTHER APPROVALS

VIII. MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the minutes of December 15 as submitted (BARRY, THOMPSON) Approved 3-0.

IX. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE, SIGNATURES

A list of documents signed at this meeting follows as Attachment A.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and real estate negotiations because discussion in open session may have a detrimental affect on the town's position, and that the board return to open session to adjourn. (BARRY, THOMPSON) Approved 3-0.

The executive session commenced at 7:35 PM.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Town Administrator

Patrick J. Brady, Chairman

David W. Barry

James E. Thompson

ATTACHMENT A

The Board of Selectmen signed the following documents at their meeting on December 22, 2008

1. Minutes of December 8, 2008
2. Minutes of December 1, 2008
3. Sunday entertainment, Interskate 91 (previously voted)
4. Form 43 for Debbie's Cookin-N-Caterin', change of liquor license category.
5. Letter prepared by Town Counsel, disclosing conflict of interest for Steve Lawson (Town Counsel took the signed original).