

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 10, 2009
MINUTES

MEETING: Chairman Sushchyk called the meeting to order at 7:01PM. Roll call showed Selectman Sheppard, Selectman Philpot and Chairman Sushchyk all present.

AGENDA: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the agenda with 2 additions. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

MINUTES; Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2009. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

7:04 PM

CHIEF

CHAMBERLAND: Chief Chamberland gave his report for September and October 2009. He reported a number of breaking and entering incidents within Sterling. He informed the Board that he attended meetings on the potential regional dispatch center and planned on attending more. He reported that so far the financial side of the regionalization is great. He reported that three tasers were ordered, one for each shift as another level of protection to the officers. The Chief and Tom Rutherford were working on the preparation of the police station for winter. Selectman Philpot informed the Board that he visited the Fire Station and looked at the building with his general contractor expertise to see if he could help with the ice dam issues.

TOWN COMMON
REVITALIZATION
COMMITTEE:

Paul Cathcart briefed the Board on the progress made by the Town Common Revitalization Committee and informed them that he was pleased with the team members. He reported that they were looking into some grant money but that in the mean time they are seeking donations. The team had separated the project into 5 categories and would be prepared to present a complete outline of the projects to the Board of Selectmen by the end of the year. There was discussion on the actual ownership; Chairman Sushchyk stated the First Church owns the land and that members of the church were working with the committee. Mr. Cathcart informed the Board that the goal is to be transparent with everyone involved and to come up with a plan that was most cost effective and improve the common for the town.

BOARD OF HEALTH
RESIGNATION:

Chairman Sushchyk read the letter of resignation from Steve Damiano of the Board of Health and stated that he was sorry to see Mr. Damiano resign, that he was a great asset to the Board of Health as well as the town. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to accept the resignation with much regret, 2nd by Selectman Philpot echoing the sentiments of both Selectmen Sushchyk and Sheppard.

Stanley Selkow of the Board of Health was present to say that they would miss Mr. Damiano very much but that he had done a great service to the Board and found a replacement for the Board. They recommended Ms. Katherine Grim to fill his position. The appointment was to be a joint appointment of both Boards. Selectman Sheppard after reviewing the resume of Ms. Grim made the motion to appoint her to fill out Mr. Damiano's term, which is up in 2011, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S

FOLLOW-UP:

Ms. Ackerman read off the list of volunteers for the nights taping of the meeting. She informed the Board that a letter was sent to Pandolf-Perkins asking for a meeting. The Drug Enforcement Policy had been revised and approved by the Personnel Board and was asking the Board of Selectmen to do the same. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the Drug Enforcement Policy as revised, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

In a response to a comment by Selectman Sheppard, Chairman Sushchuk informed the Board members that the Building Needs Committee Protocol does not appear ready for adoption; more time is needed to review the protocol and make changes.

Selectman Sheppard agreed. Selectman Philpot asked for that the draft of the protocol be submitted in word format and e-mailed to him.

The Senior Center feasibility study was due October 29, 2009, receiving five bids. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to reject all the bids, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor. The Board asked that the bidders be informed of their decision.

FAIR APPOINTMENTS: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to appoint Lisa Hebert and Wanda Walsh to the fair committee. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

A.D.A. COMMITTEE: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to appoint Clare Fisher to the A.D.A. Committee, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

BANNER REQUEST: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the hanging of the banner over Main Street announcing the Church Fair. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

ELECTION WARRANT: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to sign the warrant from the Town Clerk for the upcoming election. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

COMMUNITY

GARDENING:

Ms. Shantia Wright-Gray addressed the Board regarding a community garden for those people in town who did not have the space to plant or grow a garden. She asked if the Board was interested and stated that she would do the follow up work, help and train those interested in the program if the Board approved. Chairman Sushchuk happily supported the idea. Ms. Ackerman would ask for input from the department heads at their next meeting. Selectman Philpot expressed concern with the size and scope of the project and the issue of the community garden competing with those farm stands already established. The Board agreed that Ms. Wright-Gray would look into the project further and report back to the Board. Selectman Sheppard suggested she talk with the Conservation Committee about any available Conservation land in town.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

POLICY #1:

Selectman Philpot asked for clarification and an accurate understanding of Policy #1. He informed Chairman Sushchuk that he heard of a request from Chairman Sushchuk to Selectman Sheppard asking him to represent the Board of Selectmen at a Hiram O. Taylor Legion Post event without his knowledge. He understood that there was to be no individual decisions made and that all decisions were to be made collectively or not at all and that the Chairman did not have the right to be selective in the decision making. Selectman Philpot wanted to be sure all Selectmen understood the Policy was intended, among other things, to ensure they all act together, not individually, and do not attend or call private meetings as Selectmen. He asked that in the future the Selectmen make no decisions unless all three members were informed. Selectman Sheppard noted that the Policy was made to avoid putting pressure on anyone group

by one individual of the Select Board. Chairman Sushchuk informed Selectman Philpot that his point was well taken.

TAX CLASSIFICATION: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to set December 9, 2009 at 7:15 PM for the Tax Classification hearing. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

TREE LIGHTING
CEREMONY: Ms. Salluce read the announcement from the Recreation Committee announcing the tree lighting ceremony being held by the Recreation Committee on December 6, 2009 at 3:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to adjourn at 8:45, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RUSSELL R. PHILPOT
CLERK