

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FEBRUARY 15, 2012

MINUTES

MEETING: Chairman Philpot called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call established that Selectman Sushchuk, Selectman Furmaniuk and Chairman Philpot were all present.

Chairman Philpot read the statement declaring the Sterling Lancaster Cable Television as the only official electronic copy of the meeting.

AGENDA: Chairman Philpot asked the Board to approve moving the Executive Session to the end of the meeting so that they could reconvene only to adjourn the regular scheduled meeting. Selectman Sushchuk also questioned the item regarding correspondence from the Personnel Board listed on the agenda for discussion and asked that said item be removed until the Board had a chance to review the material. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to approve the agenda with the above mentioned amendments, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

MINUTES: Chairman Philpot asked that the minutes of February 1, 2012 be moved to the next agenda for approval, giving him a chance to review them. The Board agreed.

CHIEF CHAMBERLAND

JANUARY 2012

REPORT: Chief Chamberland reported that Sergeant Gaudette had returned to work. He extended the posting for vacancies/hiring of police matrons due to lack of response. The Chief informed the Board that he submitted a proposal to the Human Resource Officer, to forward to the Personnel Board, hoping to increase the pay scale in order to promote more of an interest in the police matron positions. Chief Chamberland explained that he instituted a Courtesy Notification Card for the alarm responses made by the officers to residences/business with no one present at the time. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

BILL TURNER

MINUTEMAN ROAD

RACE: Mr. Bill Turner of the Minuteman Road Race met with the Selectmen to recap last year's activities and talk about this year's race. He reported that they held a bake sale, serviced over 20 bikes and hosted a Jimmy Fund lemonade stand. To show their appreciation for allowing the race in Sterling, Mr. Turner had a \$500 gift certificate to be used by the Town to encourage bike safety.

This year's race will be held May 12, 2012.

Ms. Mapp, a resident on Taft Road, reported that she had completed a survey on the benefits to holding the race in Sterling and informed the Board of Selectmen that the race caused more problems than it was worth. The race created traffic issues on many roads as

well as local businesses being taken advantage of and residents complaining of entitlement attitudes and rudeness from the participants of the race. Chairman Philpot stressed the need to address some of these issues and suggested Mr. Turner speak with the local businesses and produce a flyer to the participants outlining what is expected from them while riding. Mr. Turner agreed to post the routes in the Meetinghouse Hill News and website in addition to increasing the marshals along the route and in the center of town. Chairman Philpot thanked Mr. Turner for his efforts in improving upon the race and for the generosity offered in the gift certificate.

TOWN MEETING  
ARTICLES FOR  
APPROVAL:

Ms. Ackerman explained that the Board of Selectmen recommends to Town Meeting on many of the warrant articles. For each article the Board can choose to; support, not support, report at town meeting or take no position on the article.

Article #16 – Outreach Worker for the Council on Aging – Seeks to create a new a part time position with 40% of \$9874 salary covered by grant money. Chairman Philpot questioned if the Personnel Board had approved the position and why volunteers were not considered in place of creating and hiring another employee. Chairman Philpot referred to a memo sent by the Personnel Board that stated the Board never officially approved the position. Selectman Sushchuk explained that there is more to the position but would like to put off taking a position on the article until answers to the questions were supplied.

Article #17 – Create and Fund an Assistant Town Accountant – Seeks to create a 17 hour a week position with no benefits. Karen Chick, the present Accountant completing 3 months on the job, explained the need for an assistant, stating there is a backlog of work to be done due to the resignation of the previous town accountant. She informed the Board that the proposal is in the best interest of the town and with an assistant she would be able to lend more time to working on special projects for the Finance Committee, providing extra tools to assist in the budget process. Chairman Philpot agreed that it was beneficial for the town to have a safety net, to have an assistant when needed, but he questioned the environment for creating a new position with the economy being so bad. He suggested increasing the hours of the Town Accountant to 28 hours per week as existed before, in order for her to complete the job.

Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to support the article, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. Roll call, Sushchuk aye, Furmaniuk aye, Philpot nay. Two in favor, one against.

Article #19 – Accept final draft of town code - Chairman Philpot suggested that a certificate of appreciation be presented to Judge Fox for his efforts in completing this project. The Board members agreed. The Board unanimously agreed to support this article.

Article #20 – 1835 Town Hall Maintenance Fund - Seeks to fund \$5000 for the maintenance of the 1835 Town Hall. Chairman Philpot expressed the need for all money to be in one

general fund for the Facilities Technician to manager. The other two Board members disagreed. Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support the article as submitted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchuk. Roll call; Furmaniuk aye, Sushchuk aye, Philpot nay. Two in favor, one against.

Article #27 – Chapter 90 money – Chapter 90 money for the 5 year plan road construction. The Board unanimously agreed to support the article. Mr. Philpot did question why the plan included \$893,000 for FY 2014 & 2015 to repair 4.6 miles of Route 140 – which he perceived to be a State road. The Board asked that the 5 year plan be posted on the website.

Article #38 – Tree Trimming - \$70,000 to cover a 2 year catch up for trimming of trees due to storm damage etc. Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that this money is projected to last about 2 years, after which the money should be put annually into the operating budget. The Board unanimously agreed to support the article.

Article #43 – Wachusett Regional Recycling Center - The Board agreed to support the \$2460 article to fund the recycling center.

Article #44 – Fund Wachusett Greenways Expense - The Board agreed to support the funding of \$1300 for the greenways.

Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that the deadline for submitting articles is March 19, 2012 and the Selectmen will vote the warrant and its articles closed at the meeting of March 28, 2012.

#### SPECIAL TOWN

##### MEETING:

Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to call a Special Town Meeting for May 14, 2012 at 6:30, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to open the warrant for the submission of articles to fund last year's bills, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

PAPERLESS MEETING: Selectman Sushchuk will report at the next meeting.

#### APPOINTMENT

##### POLICY:

Appointment Policy will be voted on at the February 29, 2012 meeting.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S

##### UPDATE:

Ms. Ackerman questioned the Board if they were agreeable to a public hearing being held April 2012 with the Government Study Committee to hear their resolution on town government. Chairman Philpot stated that a meeting just for that issue would help to avoid mayhem at town meeting.

Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that she spoke with the town moderator on a process for acknowledging long serving volunteers and asked the Board to consider the criteria for

doing so. Selectman Sushchuk suggested the milestone of a minimum of ten years for volunteers.

The report for Hardscrabble Road should be received in time for the February 29, 2012 meeting.

After discussing the issue of snow removal, Ms. Ackerman and Mr. Rutherford agreed that they would adjust his hours when there is a forecast of snow for Fridays, which is Mr. Rutherford's day off.

Chairman Philpot asked Ms. Ackerman for an official report of the My Senior Center count and when the meeting with Harald Schied to discuss the PILOT program was scheduled.

#### ONE DAY LIQUOR

LICENSE: Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for February 25, 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.  
Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for March 17, 2012, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

#### COMMON VICUTALLER

LICENSE: Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to approve the common victualler license for Meadow Brook and First Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

#### RESIGNATION FROM 1835 TOWN HALL

COMMITTEE: Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to accept the resignation of Nancy Castagna from the 1835 Town Hall Committee with regret. All in favor.

#### WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REVENUE SHARING: The Board discussed the request for the town to send a representative to engage in a discussion on revenue sharing with the district towns. Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that the Finance Committee would be meeting with the School representatives on February 28, 2012 to discuss the same issue. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to not designate anyone, that he was against the whole concept. Selectman Furmaniuk stated that he would be interested in hearing from the School Board members on the subject and asked if it would be possible to have them attend a BOS meeting. The Selectmen agreed to invite the School Board representatives and members from the Finance Committee on February 29, 2012.

8:46 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Philpot entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, 21-6 Real Estate. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to enter into Executive Session only to resume the regular scheduled meeting to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. Roll call; Sushchuk aye, Furmaniuk aye, Philpot aye.

9:14 PM

ADJOURNMENT: The Board returned to the regular scheduled meeting. Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RONALD A. FURMANIUK  
CLERK