

*Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
7:00 p.m., February 11, 2008  
Town Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room*

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. John Szewczyk and James McLaughlin present.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE AGENDA. 3 AYE

Public Comments

Bill Smith asked about the \$218,000 CRRRA settlement. L. Francis stated she was advised to keep the funds in a separate line item until all appeal avenues have been exhausted. At the end of the year these funds will go into the general fund.

B. Smith asked about the State Revenue money for the Board of Education. L. Francis said the revenue was received last year and deposited in to the general fund.

Discussion of proposed Ethics Commission ordinance

L. Francis explained that a change needed to be made to the ordinance as a result of the public hearing. Bob Fulton was in attendance to explain the composition change from two alternate members to three.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO CHANGE LANGUAGE OF ETHIC COMMISSION ORDINANCE B1, FROM TWO ALTERNATE MEMBERS SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED BY SUCH AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AND MAY NOT BE MEMBERS OF THE SAME PARTY TO THREE ALTERNATE MEMBERS SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED BY SUCH AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, NOT MORE THAN ONE FROM THE SAME PARTY. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO BRING ETHIC COMMISSION ORDINANCE TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. 3 AYE

Discussion of proposed Senior Tax Relief ordinances

L. Francis read the motion made at the Board of Finance meeting of February 5, 2008. J. Szewczyk asked Martin French to respond. M. French stated the three changes requested by the Board of Finance to the tax deferral ordinance made the plan more predictable for a municipality. J. McLaughlin asked what the income threshold would be. M. French responded it would be two times the circuit breaker of \$35,000.

M. French explained the intention is to eliminate the current tax relief program but anyone currently participating would have their taxes frozen at what they are actually paying now. J. Szewczyk asked if a current participant chose not to participate in the two proposed ordinances, could they continue with the old program. M. French stated no.

L. Francis stated the new language would be reviewed by town counsel.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO BRING SENIOR TAX DEFERRAL ORDINANCE WITH CHANGES TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. 3 AYE

Set date and approve agenda for Special Town Meeting

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO SET DATE OF FEBRUARY 19, 2007 AND APPROVE AGENDA FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. 3 AYE

**Approval of agreement between the Durham Agricultural Fair Association, Inc. and the Town of Durham for use of medical building**

L. Francis stated she received an agreement from Attorney John Corona on behalf of the Durham Agricultural Fair Association in reference to the Public Works departments' use of the medical building during storm and emergency work hours. J. McLaughlin requested additional language added to item #4 to include illegal or non-prescribed.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DURHAM AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION AND THE TOWN OF DURHAM FOR USE OF MEDICAL BUILDING WITH REQUESTED CHANGES. 3 AYE

**Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Commission resignations**

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM LONERGAN WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE CR/PPC. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF ELIZABETH GARA WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE CR/PPC. 3 AYE

**Fire Marshall and Deputy Fire Marshall appointments**

The resignation of Robert Morpurgo as Fire Marshall was accepted.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPOINT WILLIAM WITECKI TO FIRE MARSHALL. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPOINT DAVID STEELE TO DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALL. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPOINT ROBERT MORPURGO TO FIRE INSPECTOR. 3 AYE

**Recreation Committee resignation**

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF CAROL HERZIG WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE. 3 AYE

**Discussion of Public Safety Committee membership , terms of office, and charge**

L. Francis stated she met with Frank DeFelice and talked about the structure, membership, term limits and charge of the committee. She also met with the Chiefs of Service and pointed out there was no shortage of options.

F. DeFelice reading from a draft handout, requested membership be increased from 6 to 9; to share workload and allow participation from Local Emergency Services. He then read the committees current mission statement; it is the mission of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) of the Town of Durham to advance the cause of public safety and to improve the quality of the town's emergency services now and in the future. He then presented the Board of Selectmen with a copy of Durham Public Safety Traffic Management/Calming procedures for their review and discussion at another time.

Harry Hall asked L. Francis to inform everyone in attendance of the particulars of the Chiefs of Service meeting. L. Francis stated she was struggling as to where the PSC fits in; layman vs. public safety officials; PSC should in no way have oversight over any agency. She pointed out that the last charter revision called for a Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to be established and stated the need to see if DEM would take over some of the PSC duties. F. DeFelice referred to this as apples and oranges; not the same at all. L. Francis stated quarterly meeting with chief officials might be the venue to talk about some of these things, confirming the need to cut down on the redundancy of

meetings. F. DeFelice agreed that quarterly meetings would enable all agencies to know what all groups were doing.

Sergeant Calvo questioned the duties in paragraph 2 of the PSC Draft handout stating that it needed to be streamlined. F. DeFelice stated historically the Board of Selectmen would ask the PSC to review these requests, get the appropriate people involved, and return to the Board of Selectmen with recommendations; recently residents have been attending monthly PSC meetings with their concerns. J. McLaughlin commented residents call the Board of Selectmen not the PSC. L. Francis was concerned with the unnecessary time for residents to go through the PSC when most issues can be taken care of directly through the Resident State Trooper.

John Szewczyk commented this was long overdo; should not be a turf war; he stressed that PSC is not trying to take anything away from the other agencies. He agreed there should be no unnecessary duplication of effort and thought it a good idea to have membership from the towns emergency agencies. He then asked Francis Willet for his input. F. Willet shared he felt the DEM should have been brought in sooner; they identify 90% of public concerns; they work closely with other town emergency agencies and the term Public Safety makes residents assume they have all resources and credentials. L. Francis commended the PSC on such work as the Neighborhood Block Watch program stating this does not fall on any other agency. F. DeFelice stated there were a variety of different ways to set up the PSC, referring to documentation received from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

L. Francis signified the fact that residents are confused; the last PSC meeting was overwhelmed with residents due to a proposed commercial development. F. DeFelice responded the PSC has historically worked in the area of traffic.

J. Szewczyk noted in a major emergency the PSC does not want to have a say in this. He continued by saying he hated seeing this committee derailed, it should be used as a support service for other departments. F. DeFelice commented he felt the committee did not need a name change.

Scott Wright expressed his concern with regards to attending the PSC monthly meetings; already overwhelmed with his current schedule. He stated residents are under the impression that there is no coordination with other emergency departments, but there is; communication with other agencies several times a week. He does not want to begrudge what the PSC has been doing but agreed with J. Szewczyk to narrow the focus of the committee and maybe change the name. He then suggested the Chairman of the PSC to attend quarterly meetings or monthly DEM meetings to open a form of communication.

Sergeant Calvo remarked the PSC put a lot of effort into their Traffic Management report; core of people who want to do something but everyone needed to get on the same page. S. Wright reiterated the perception that the PSC has oversight over other emergency agencies and the need to narrow the committee's focus and an alternate name.

Peter DiGioia commented he has been involved with the PSC over the last 10 years and there used to be a designee from all agencies on the committee; form of communication between agencies so everyone knew what they were working on. He agreed there should be no duplication of effort on any agency and commented the Chiefs of Services meeting worked well.

L. Francis reiterated the Chief of Service meeting was very productive and said P. DiGioia stood to gain the most from the PSC i.e. Neighborhood Block Watch and public education. J. Szewczyk again made it clear he felt the PSC needed more input from all emergency agencies, on paper if necessary, on projects; the committee needs general direction.

J. McLaughlin pointed out that he took issue with the PSC mission statement including the phrase, "quality of the towns' emergency services". He indicated he felt the PSC should focus on improving the towns' sidewalks, pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and supporting the Neighborhood Block Watch.

H. Hall agreed that all agencies need to talk to one another and if he is aware of PSC agenda items he could send someone to the meeting.

**Appoint members and approve resolution for Clean Energy Task Force Committee**

L. Francis presented a resolution to the selectmen. J. McLaughlin questioned the purchase of 5% in 2008. L. Francis stated the 5% was a goal.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN SUPPORT OF 20% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2010. 3 AYE

L. Francis presented a potential candidate list consisting of six. J. McLaughlin asked if three students could make up the balance of membership of nine. L. Francis said yes.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT MEMBERS SUSAN MICHAEL, TOM STARR, LORI MARTIN, RALPH CHASE, JENNIFER MUIR, AND PAUL GRIESE TO THE CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE. 3 AYE

**Approval of January 17<sup>th</sup>, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, January 26<sup>th</sup>, and January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting minutes**

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE JANUARY 17, 2008 MEETING MINUTES. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE JANUARY 22, 2008 MEETING MINUTES. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE JANUARY 26, 2008 MEETING MINUTES. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE JANUARY 28, 2008 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. 3 AYE

**Old/New business**

L. Francis brought the Board of Selectmen up to date on the following old items:

- 1.) The new furnace has been installed in the town garage, up and running.
- 2.) Merriam Manufacturing proposal has been put on hold. She had a discussion with Annie Laughlin from the EPA who wants to discuss with Jan Exman.

L. Francis brought the Board of Selectmen up to date on the following new business:

- 1.) Correspondence was received from the State of CT in reference to two decaying sugar maples at the corner of Maple Avenue and Route 17 that will be removed.
- 2.) Lighting at the major boy's field that was approved in 2005 is getting ready to be installed.
- 3.) She attended a CEO Breakfast at Troop F. Availability of grants will be tight this year.
- 4.) She met with Ginny Koslowski, President of the Greater New Haven Convention Council and the towns' representative, Len Baginski. They brainstormed on how Durham can reap some of the economic benefits from the Hollywood East tax credits.
- 5.) Interviews for the Assistant Town Clerk were conducted last Thursday with the help of Town Clerks from Berlin, Meriden and Southington. They have narrowed the search down to four candidates; second interviews will take place this week.

- 6.) She met with Attorney Duncan Forsyth and the AFSME negotiating team and set up dates for negotiations between March and May.
- 7.) She asked the emergency services personnel in the audience about the approval of a street name, Red Oak Knoll (ROW). It was decided it was to close to the current street name Royal Oak which could cause confusion in an emergency. L. Francis would advise E. Mauro to ask for an alternate name.
- 8.) Renewed talks with the Durham Fair Association about town hall staff parking on the fairgrounds. No determination to date but will keep the Board of Selectmen up to date on progress.
- 9.) Legislation has been submitted for a water diversion permit waiver. She will keep everyone informed on the status.
- 10.) The process of abandoning wells has started and should be completed over the next couple of weeks.

**Selectmen's comments**

None

**Public comments**

None

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:34 P.M.

**Executive Session - Property acquisition**

Went into executive session at 8:34 p.m. and ended at 9:30

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata