

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., March 10, 2008
Town Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the girls scouts in the audience to come to the front of the room and lead the pledge of allegiance.

John Szewczyk and James McLaughlin present.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE CHANGE OF DATE FROM FEBRUARY 24TH TO FEBRUARY 25TH ON ITEM #12. 3 AYE

Public comments

None

Proclamation for 96th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA

L. Francis asked the girl scouts to gather together in the front of the room as she read and presented the following proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 12, 2008, marks the 96th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, throughout its long and distinguished history, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence and character who act to make the world a better place; and,

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting's core values of high ideals, patriotism, respect for self and others, and community service permeate its traditional and innovative programs; and,

WHEREAS, through Girl Scouting's unique leadership development program, girls develop their potential and the self confidence and life skills to improve themselves and the world around them; and,

WHEREAS, through the dedication, time, and talent of volunteers of difference backgrounds, abilities, and areas of expertise, the Girl Scout Program is brought to over 55,000 girls in grades K-12 across the state of Connecticut; and,

WHEREAS, more than 3.7 million Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 96 years of this American tradition with nearly 50 million women who grew up participating in Girl Scouting and exemplify the impact of this empowering Movement that emphasizes helping others and community service;

NOW, THEREFORE WE, the Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Durham, by virtue of the authority vested, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to America's girls and their local communities and proudly proclaim the week of March 9-15, 2008, as Girl Scouts Make the World a Better Place Week.

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

John T. Szewczyk
Selectman

James W. McLaughlin
Selectman

Dated in Durham, Connecticut, this 10th day of March 2008

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF MARCH 9-15, 2008 AS GIRL SCOUTS MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WEEK. 3 AYE

Recreation Committee appointment

Tabled until next meeting

Disbanding of Ethics Committee

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO DISBAND THE ETHICS COMMITTEE WITH GRATITUDE. 3 AYE

Disbanding of EMS Study Committee

After a short discussion the Board of Selectmen agreed the EMS Study Committee was no longer needed, that other committees and departments were now acting on different parts of the original charge.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO DISBAND WITH GRATITUDE THE EMS STUDY COMMITTEE. 3 AYE

Discussion of proposed ordinance Deposit of Snow, Ice, Leaves or Other Debris on Public Roadways on Sidewalks

L. Francis opened this up for discussion. J. Szewczyk asked Frank DeFelice about the language. F. DeFelice reiterated his remarks from the last meeting stating there was existing legislation for dumping and the focus of the ordinance is on public safety. L. Francis commented on enforcement issues, stating there may be instances where it will be difficult to prove. J. McLaughlin disagreed stating in his opinion snow would be easy to prove and feels there is nothing wrong with having this ordinance. J. Szewczyk asked F. DeFelice how the fine would be imposed. F. DeFelice said the Resident State Trooper would write the infraction. J. Szewczyk commented that this ordinance would allow the Resident State Trooper to have discretion in giving a ticket.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO BRING PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF DEPOSIT OF SNOW, ICE, LEAVES OR OTHER DEBRIS ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS OR SIDEWALKS TO SPECIAL TOWN MEETING. 3 AYE

Discussion of Merriam Manufacturing proposal

L. Francis stated since their last meeting she has had further discussion with Jan Exman and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Jan Exman explained that he has talked with the EPA who has outlined what they would like to see as the process, i.e. agreement with them. The EPA wants to be sure that something will be done with the site when they are done with the cleanup and that J. Exman will not realize a huge windfall. L. Francis stated she had a conversation with Anni Laughlin from the EPA who stated they wanted J. Exman to very clear about the risk and cost involved and there to be no windfall profits. L. Francis then stated she would like to bring J. Exman's revised proposal back to the Town's Attorney for review. She also commented that Maryann Boord reminded her that the town was previously offered the property and was advised not to. J. McLaughlin said that was because of the liability of clean up although he thinks this is worth the town staying very close to. J. Szewczyk commented that he has no problem with this offer; the taxes will be paid to the town; risk equals reward. He gave credit to J. Exman for taking on this endeavor and supports him; he also feels the town has a safeguard in that the town's Planning & Zoning Commission has authority over what would be placed on the property. L. Francis commented the town has no current plan in place for the property and J. Exman proposal would fix this problem. Donia Viola asked the Board how long the cleanup would take. L. Francis said that many estimates have been made known but feels that seven years would be a real number. J. Exman stated the sooner the better but had no definite answer explaining the EPA has the lead to make the site a priority. D. Viola asked why the town would have this property transferred if the cleanup would eventually be done. J. Exman explained there was no clear ownership or plan for the use of the property and the EPA will not make it a priority; if there is no strong need to make it identifiable. D. Viola stated she felt the town should not jump at this offer;

the town needs a senior center and this property is centrally located. She feels this should be publicized in the newspaper for additional input. L. Francis stated this subject has been on the Board of Selectmen's agenda four times and she feels it proper to bring to a Special Town Meeting. Luke Backus asked what the dollar amount of the tax liens were. L. Francis answered \$25,000. F. DeFelice asked J. Exman what he would get after the cleanup. J. Exman responded the State and EPA would document the extent of the cleanup and what stage; also what the property could then be used for. L. Francis commented the EPA lien would be lifted from the land records.

Discussion of elected official's salaries

L. Francis stated the Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Commission (CR/PPC) met on Thursday the 6th of March to review elected officials salaries and that no minutes from that meeting have been posted. She spoke with both Maryjane Malavasi and Martin French who were in attendance at this meeting and it is her conclusion that it appears the CR/PPC has no clear understanding of the goals of Randi Frank's salary study. She is going to ask Martin Anderson to entertain the idea of Randi Frank being present at their next meeting on March 20th to explain and discuss the study.

Outstanding budget issues

Nothing needed to be addressed at this time.

Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 23rd and February 24th, 2008

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2008. 2 AYE. L. MCLAUGHLIN OBTAINS. ABSENT.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2008. 3 AYE

Old/New business

L. Francis discussed the following old business.

- The Ackerman's are still interested in selling their property but need to get some personal issues in order. They will keep L. Francis posted on their plans for the property.
- L. Francis updated the Selectmen on correspondence received referring to the Bear Rock Road project and the STP-Urban program. She explained that this program is federal funding and would discuss it with Geoff Colegrove. She also noted that the letter highly recommended that the town install signs where appropriate to warn the traveling public. She will talk to public works about signage being placed permanently.
- L. Francis met with Todd Dzikcz from the Computer Company about the Voice over IP system. He is putting together a return on investment proposal; he is also working with the Town of Middlefield and RSD 13, this will be around an eight month information gathering period.
- A public hearing and coffee hour on Capitol Planning were held with success.
- Two STEAP Grant applications were submitted. She noted the grant for the culvert was only submitted for one phase; design, engineering, and mapping. The second phase would be the construction portion.
- She thanked James McLaughlin, Gene Chiappetta, Representative Ray Kalinowski, and Senator Edward Meyer for their support at a public hearing held for the water diversion permit legislation last week. The bill is out of committee and should be going to vote on the floor; it should be in the town's favor as the Department of Environmental Protection has chosen to be silent on the issue.

L. Francis discussed the following new business.

- A neighborhood CrimeWatch meeting, Tuesday, March 11th, 6:30 at the library for Howd, Mauro, Patterson, Side Hill and some Tri Mountain Road residents as a direct response to recent break-ins. L. Francis stated her commitment to help with this program and has asked the towns Resident State Trooper to have more of these meetings. F. DeFelice commented that a bill is presently being heard that would require troopers to notify the neighbors of homes that

were broken in to. L. Francis also commented that Francis Willet has arranged a meeting with a Reverse 911 vendor that she will be attending.

- A meeting was held with the proprietors of the Hitchin' Post, immediate neighbors to the south, Geoff Colegrove, RST P. DiGioia, Sergeant Calvo, and Lt. Castagliuolo to discuss issues. L. Francis felt the meeting went well, everyone communicated and cooperated.
- An open house reception will be held for Maryann Boord and Renee Edwards, Sunday, March 30th at the Durham Library 2-4, for their years of service to the town, sponsored by the Democratic and Republican parties.
- A surprise OSHA inspection was done at the Town Hall and Public Works Garage. L. Francis felt that everything went well; she should be getting a report within the next couple of weeks and will share it with the selectmen at another meeting.
- L. Francis met with Jeff Walter, President and CEO of the Rushford Center. They are considering renting a part the Lake Grove facility for a small ten bed residential program for boys 13-17. She also mentioned that there is a potential buyer.
- On Wednesday, March 12th L. Francis will be attending a meeting provided by the CT Power and Energy Society to learn about Energy Improvement Districts. Tom Starr from the Clean Energy Task Force and Frank DeFelice from Planning & Zoning will also be attending.
- A Clean Energy Task Force organizational meeting was held on March 5th. Jennifer Muir was appointed Chairman, Tom Starr Vice Chairman, and Katherine Conroy, Secretary.
- Strong School has invited one of the Selectmen to participate in a program by reading the book Secrets of the Fire. John Szewczyk will check his availability and let L. Francis know.
- L. Francis will be taking the week of April 6-13 off.

Selectmen's comments

None

Public comments

Donia Viola asked if the new furnace was installed at the public works facility. L. Francis stated yes and it has been paid for.

D. Viola questioned the elected official salaries that were discussed previously in the meeting. L. Francis stated the Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Commission did make some motions but she did not have the minutes to say what they were. She stated the Commission is unclear about the Town Clerk's position. D. Viola asked if the salaries would become effective at the next election date. L. Francis stated the prior Board of Selectmen set the date of the new term being December 3rd, 2007. D. Viola expressed she felt elected officials are hired at a certain amount and unless they work extra hours or perform extra duties she does not feel they should get an increase. D. Viola reiterated that she feels the study should not be implemented because of an election year; she realizes the Board of Selectmen is trying to keep the budget in check and appreciates that. She hopes the Board of Education budget is kept in check and the Board of Selectmen will take a stand. L. Francis commented the worst case scenario with the town budget and BOE budget to date, with building project, would be a .77* mill increase. L. Francis also stated the Board of Finance is currently reviewing the town budget and she is sure the Board of Education will be doing the same.

*Post meeting correction per Maryjane Malavasi .63 mill increase.

Adjourn

MOTION BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN SECONDED BY LAURA FRANCIS TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:03 P.M. 3 AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata