

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2005**

Call to Order

First Selectwoman Maryann P. Boord called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. in the library. Present: Maryann P. Boord (First Selectwoman); Ernie A. Judson (Selectman), and Renee J. Primus (Selectwoman).

M. Boord asked the selectmen how they felt about putting unapproved minutes on the town's web site. Both selectmen said they should be put on the web; there is also a disclaimer on the site anyway.

Minutes

MOTION E. JUDSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2005, WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS

1. page two, ¶ 2 ".....who said they could work with the Planning and Zoning Commission to make everyone happy as well [re traffic]..."
2. page three, ¶ at end which begins with "Ernie Judson....." replace the word part with place;
3. he also noted that at the December 10th BoS meeting, he had asked Martin French for a document listing the tax collector's policies and procedures and a listing of what the state allows.
4. page five ¶ 1, last sentence, "...to town meeting and supports it 100%" should read "...to town meeting at the 100% level."
5. page six, item #12 add the words "M. Boord said Donna Abdella was working on a document but had not completed the research on it."
6. page six under Mary Ryan's comments, note that she supported using a collection attorney.

MOTION SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS, APPROVED WITH THREE AYES.

Re Minutes of January 24, 2005: R. Primus noted typos that should be corrected (and subsequently were corrected for the minutes which were "filed").

Appointments

MOTION M. BOORD, SECONDED BY E. JUDSON, TO APPOINT ANN MARIE BENJUNIS TO THE **RECREATION COMMITTEE** (all of the terms of the Recreation Committee expire at the end of 2005); MOTION APPROVED WITH THREE AYES.

MOTION M. BOORD TO NOMINATE NORM JASON TO THE 1-1-10 TERM ON THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. Mr. Jason introduced himself as a former school teacher and Head Master of Independence Day School, who is interested in old homes. His father was a contractor, with whom he worked, and he feels his background is very supportive for this commission.

R. Primus introduced Susan Daniels, who she brought to the meeting as a person who would be interested in being on the commission. Ms. Daniels has lived in the District since 1999 and has three children; she is a nurse and active volunteer in the schools. R. Primus said she found out

today there were two candidates. Ms. Daniels said she would withdraw her name but would like her name added to a waiting list. M. Boord said she was surprised because she didn't know there was another candidate; that Alan Reed (chairman of the Historic District Commission) had told her he knew of a man had expressed some interest in the position. E. Judson said he isn't uncomfortable with appointing Mr. Jason and SECONDED THE MOTION. M. Boord thanked both Susan and Norm for coming forward. Ms. Daniels said she lives in the [Gifford] house and doing sweat equity gives you a sense of the Historic District. Vote on the motion: 3 ayes.

Quisenberry Arcari Agreement

This service agreement is about the repairs needed that aren't part of the accident at the firehouse, where a town truck backed into the building. MOTION E. JUDSON TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT; SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES. M. Boord explained that one of the temporary hires had backed into the firehouse when he was plowing the yard; the driver was actually a fireman; for a 1 ton truck, you do not need a CDL license. R. Primus asked about certification for the drivers. She also asked why the town is contracting out this work. M. Boord explained she had talked to David Heer, who recommended we hire an architectural/engineering firm like Quisenberry Arcari to be sure that the damage assessment was complete including the integrity of the roof. He suggested the insurance company should pay for this service and they said it was not necessary to go out to bid. E. Judson said the insurance company has offered a settlement; M. Boord said they even cut a check for \$10,000 and she told the Insurance Coordinator to return it because we do not believe it will be adequate to cover the repairs..

Frank Behrens said there was a great amount of damage that he alluded to and so they recommended a more in-depth study. The wall is cracked and the door can't be used. The money needed to repair the job could be 7-10 times the amount of the insurance company's proposed "settlement." R. Primus asked if we have any documentation in writing. M. Boord said that yes, they had agreed to it. E. Judson said it was a recommendation of the engineer, trustees and insurance company that they would cover the architect's cost contingent on receiving the signed agreement. E. Judson said the town is being very prompt with this issue. R. Primus said the accident was in December and encouraged caution in remembrance of the barn insurance payment. VOTE ON THE MOTION: 3 AYES.

Budgets

The following is the memo sent to the Board of Finance following this meeting, which includes the budgetary action taken by the Board of Selectmen at this night's meeting:

Motion by M. Boord, seconded by R. Primus that the Board of Selectmen recommend to the Board of Finance that they approve funding in the amount of **\$808.11 for the library to supplement staff funding** during the absence of one library employee, who will be on assignment out of the country. Motion approved with three ayes.

1030 Town Clerk. Motion M. Boord to reopen this line item; seconded by E. Judson, and approved with three ayes. Motion M. Boord, seconded by E. Judson to approve the total line item in the amount of \$112,573, taking the salaries back to the present level.

1500 Assessor. Motion M. Boord to reopen this line item; seconded by E. Judson, and approved with three ayes. Motion M. Boord, seconded by E. Judson to approve \$90,236, which includes adjusted amounts of \$16,127 for the clerk's upgrade, and increases in printing and the supplemental agreement with Cole Layer, for \$5,535. Approved with three ayes.

1530 Litigation. Motion M. Boord to reopen this line item, seconded by E. Judson; with three ayes. The Board had initially voted to approve \$30,000. Motion M. Boord, seconded by E.

Judson to approve \$41,000, for this line item, which includes \$11,000 for the tax collector to pursue foreclosings through town counsel. Vote: 2 aye (Boord, Judson); 1 abstain (Primus; she recused herself because she lives within the affected transmission line area) Motion passed.

4015 Dog Fund; Motion by M. Boord, seconded by E. Judson to approve \$23,950, which reflects the difference between the expenditures and the amount of revenues generated within the line item. This is for the Animal Control Officer and his expenses. Motion approved with three ayes.

4040 Valley Shore. Motion M. Boord, seconded by R. Primus, to reopen this line item because a new request has been received from them; 3 ayes. Motion M. Boord, seconded by R. Primus, to approve \$52,908 for this line item. Approved with three ayes.

***Telecommunications budget** (needs new line item number). A FEMA grant was received in 2004 for improving the town's radio system, which does not include equipment within the Public Works Department. This new line item will cover the repair and maintenance of telecommunications equipment for the fire and ambulance. Motion R. Primus, seconded by M. Boord, to approve the expenditure of \$15,832. Motion approved with three ayes.

4030 DVAC. It was noted that they previously purchased clothing for volunteers to be safe from the weather from their own funds -- in the future the town will pay for this item.. Service billing is not in this budget. Motion M. Boord, seconded by E. Judson, to approve \$30,245 for this line item. Approved with three ayes.

4031 Service Billing. Motion M. Boord, seconded by R. Primus, to fund service billing for \$1.00. Approved with three ayes.

7500 DMIAAB. Motion M. Boord, seconded by R. Primus, to approve this line item in the amount of \$364,917. The Board agreed that this budget should undergo the same scrutiny as the Public Works Department budget by the Board of Finance. Approved with three ayes.

Receipts:

Motion M. Boord, seconded by E. Judson, and with three ayes, to approved the following receipts:

LOCIP \$54,307

Maple Ave \$1

D/MFYS \$14,000

Insurance - retirees \$42,787

Sr. grant \$9,000

Sr. Bus revenue \$14,400

Motor Vehicle Collections

Martin French, tax collector, was present to discuss the question of motor vehicle tax collections. M. Boord said that town counsel's interpretation of the statutes is that Mr. French can hire a collection agency. Any fees from the collection agency can be added on for the taxpayer to pay. A lawyer's fees (if hired) could not be added to the taxpayer's cost.

M. French suggests putting the contracts out to bid; companies must have a good track record. He would find it helpful to see a list of delinquencies for each year.

M. Boord said his authority is to use a collection agency, not a law firm. R. Primus said that in his RFPs he's not putting restrictions on it. M. Boord reiterated that using a law firm has been voted on; he can use a collection agency; he can't use a law firm, which Rossi is. If he used all the

means under the statute (not using a law firm), this proposal in her mind deals with collection agencies. She encouraged him to continue pursuing the delinquent accounts; he has been getting a good response. She said she feels he should move forward with what is available to him.

R. Primus said she supports this; she thinks an RFP is a good idea to identify companies who can do this collection service.

E. Judson said he can be comfortable with the philosophy to collect delinquencies but you have to weigh the impact. Martin French said there is half a million dollars in uncollected taxes every year. There are a few large real estate delinquencies and many small motor vehicle delinquencies, which are more complicated. E. Judson stressed he wants to see the data; M. Boord requested it be broken out by year.

Old/New Business and Update from the First Selectwoman

1. A thank you received from Peter Harding for the coats collected at the annual Christmas Tree lighting by the Recreation Committee, which were distributed to St. Vincents.

Selectmen's Concerns

none

Public comments

Roger Kleeman:

1. concerned about speeding on Tuttle Road; requests use of the Smart Machine and the trooper. M. Boord responded that the trooper told her the Smart Machine would be available in the spring.
2. asked if Quisenberry Arcari is the only one we can hire for the firehouse repair. There is an engineer who is a fireman. M Boord said David Heer has looked at the damage and recommended an architectural engineer be hired to evaluate necessary repairs and he recommended Quisenberry Arcari. J. Muraca, Insurance Coordinator, had called CIRMA who confirmed they would pay for an architectural engineer and they said we do not have to go out to bid. Roger Kleeman said we are supposed to put out to bid. Why do we keep picking the same architect? M. Boord said we also use Wright Pierce and Nathan Jacobson. The Board will take his concerns under advisement.
3. He noted that anyone who works for the state needs a CDL license. He asked how the Road Foreman picks these drivers? M. Boord said she would let him know.

Ona McLaughlin: noted that Tyler Gary of Fowler Ave had expressed interest in being on the Historic District Commission and asked to be put on the list. M. Boord said Susan Gillespie had also expressed interest.

Molly Nolan: (re firehouse repair) On whose dime is the work being done? M. Boord responded there is damage that was not done during this incident and so she has asked for that to be set apart. M. Nolan asked if Quisenberry Arcari provided a scope of service. M. Boord said the town paid nothing on the original evaluation and the fee is included in the \$7,500 (all CIRMA insurance money).

Adjourn

MOTION M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:07 P.M.; 3 AYES.

MPB:DDA

