

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2009  
3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and asked the Girl and Boy Scouts to lead the pledge of Allegiance. John Szewczyk and Jim McLaughlin present.

Approval of the agenda

Laura Francis made motion to approve the agenda. All in favor.

Girl Scout Proclamation

L. Francis read a special proclamation proudly proclaiming the week of March 8, 2009, as Girl Scout Week.

PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Wednesday, March 12, 2009, marks the 97<sup>th</sup> 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 inspired millions of girls and women of courage, confidence and character 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 the Girl Scout Leadership Experience girls develop the skills and lessons that will serve them throughout their lives so that they may contribute to their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 3 million current Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating this American tradition, and welcome girls from every background to join;

**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 support the leadership development of America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 8, 2009, as Girl Scout Week.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura L. Francis  
McLaughlin  
First Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
John T. Szewczyk  
Selectman

\_\_\_\_\_  
James W.  
Selectman

Dated in Durham, Connecticut, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009

Public comments

Resident Donya Viola had comments regarding 2010 expiration of DMIAAB contract.

Laura Francis welcomed the Boy Scouts for coming to the meeting. She stated they are here earning their citizenship badge.

Public Safety Facility Renovations Committee Appointments

MOTION BY JIM MCLAUGHLIN to nominate Chris Flanagan to fill a regular membership vacancy for duration of charge. Laura Francis seconds the nomination. All in favor.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS to nominate Tom Wilt to fill a regular membership vacancy for duration of charge. Jim McLaughlin second. All in favor.

DMIAAB Discussion

Selectman discussed forming a citizen's board with Middlefield to look at DMIAAB structure. Laura stressed the citizens' board should not be established to do operational review of transfer station. She would like this board to be comprised of experts in the field that have experience running a transfer station. Jim was in agreement that the citizen's board should not focus on the operations of transfer station. There are funds outlaid for the operational need. Laura suggested having a field agent come out to offer advice as to best practices.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS to have Citizen's Board. Jim McLaughlin second. All in favor

Laura Francis will also speak with Middlefield regarding allowing five representatives from Durham instead of four.

L. Francis noted that the supplemental environmental project has taken a majority out of DMIAAB budget.

Exchange Club Book of Golden Deeds nomination

L. Francis explained that the Exchange Club of Durham & Middlefield is looking for nominations for their Book of Golden Deeds award. A nominee can be an individual or group that has provided community service to a town.

MOTION MADE BY LAURA FRANCIS to present two nominees for the Book of Golden Deeds. All in favor of the nominations. Proclamation will be drawn up.

Approval of Board of Selectman meeting minutes for Feb. 23, 2009

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS to approve minutes from 2/23/09. John Szewczyk second. L. Francis and J. Szewczyk in favor. J. McLaughlin abstained.

Old/New Business

L. Francis met with Middlefield Board of Selectman, Emergency Management Director Francis Willett and Superintendent of Regional School District, Susan Viccaro to present the benefits and functions of the 3N-Safer Durham Emergency Notification System. Laura mentioned S. Viccaro is very interested in the capabilities of the system for the school district. An informational brochure was recently sent to Durham residents informing them about the Safer Durham Notification System and the registration process. Residents have been coming to the Selectman and Town Clerk offices to hand in their registration forms as well as signing up online through the town's website. Five thousand Durham residents have signed up for the system so far.

Selectman's Comments

Winter storm pushed snow removal budget over. L. Francis publicly stated she is proud of the Public Works Department and asked residents to be patient with winter clean up.

Maple Avenue Bridge audit nine thousand dollars over. She met with Jan Muraca and Contractor Gil Addo to try and reduce that figure.

John Szewczyk gave an update regarding getting training, job description and supplies for crossing guard.

L. Francis spoke about deficit reduction. She stated she may have to institute a budget freeze until July 1<sup>st</sup>. She does not want to touch fund balance.

Crooked Hill Road. Brian Ferris plans to complete 100% of the work in the month of May. Selectman will watch carefully. There are four more connections to make. The Board of Selectmen will make agreement on Ivy Way and driveway when complete.

Town Hall lights have been dimmed. The Public Works Department and Electrician are working to reduce the lighting.

Public Works Facility Town Engineer, Brian Curtis has started preliminary assessment for the General Permit for the discharge of stormwater and is waiting for a formal quote. Estimated cost could be \$10,000-\$13,000.

Publics Works study by Randi Frank Inc. has begun as requested by Board of Finance at a cost of \$3,000. L. Francis chose Randi Frank Inc. because this firm is familiar with the organization and have expertise and qualifications to make recommendations.

Federal stimulus money is very difficult to get. \$320 million dollars are coming into CT; \$2 million to the Midstate region, Middletown will be receiving stimulus monies that will be going to Randolph Road project that needs to be completed by 2010. Middletown may decide to pass due to the time constraint. There may be an opportunity through Resurface Pack Alternative to get roads paved in Durham.

Firehouse modification upgrade L. Francis commented this is first time ever that money is available to a municipality for firehouse construction; Department of Transportation stimulus money for upgrading or construction \$210,000. There is money in the bill but no application process has been set forward yet.

Lake Grove Property L. Francis met with a potential buyer of Lake Grove property who is looking to use as a gymnastics facility and are close to submitting a report. It was noted that the property is more valuable as a whole than to split it up. It will be a sports based campus.

Coginchaug Soccer Club is looking for new soccer field in Durham and has funds available to build but is looking for a location.

Healthy Community Test L. Francis attended the Healthy Youth/Healthy Community Asset rollout at the High School. The test assesses the healthy assets youth possess; Durham scores were higher than the average of Middlesex County. L. Francis chaired a break-out session with the students who felt that their community valued them and is looked at as resources but felt it is hard for them to approach government. Ideas were discussed to help younger citizens realize that government is accessible to them.

American Legion was thanked for their donation to replace flags on Main St.

#### Public Comment

L. Francis asked the Boy Scout, from the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades in attendance, for some ideas about making government more accessible to our young people. One Scout commented that their Xblock period in school would be a good time for the BOS to attend. The Youth in Government committee was discussed as an option for more kids to get involved in. Annual Scouts in Government Day allows the scouts to shadow government representatives to gain more insight in operations of government.

Donya Viola commented it was a good start that the Scouts attended the meeting. She commented that Government day is a good community activity and a good experience to see first hand how things are pulled together.

Donya Viola also had questions regarding the Middletown public water system and utilizing Millers Pond. L. Francis stated that Millers Pond is too small of water shed; it does not replace the water fast enough when being drawn out of it.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION MADE BY LAURA FRANCIS to go into executive session. John second. All in favor.  
Executive session began at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Alicia C. Fonash-Willett