

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
7:00 PM, Monday, May 14, 2007  
CRHS Auditorium

## REVISED MINUTES

### Call to Order and Roll Call

James McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and led with the pledge of allegiance. Renee Edwards and Maryann Boord present.

### Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. ALL AYES

### Public Comments

None

### Proclamation, Dan Trusty, Eagle Scout

J. McLaughlin introduced Dan Trusty and presented him with a Proclamation from the town in honor of his graduation to Eagle Scout.

MOTION BY J. MCLAUGHLIN, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO ADOPT PROCLAMATION. ALL AYES

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, Daniel Trusty, has created a life of service to his town, his schoolmates, and within the scouting heritage, and

WHEREAS, planned and organized the construction of six picnic tables, and

WHEREAS, the project involved securing lumber and supplies totaling \$715.00, and

WHEREAS, he supervised ten volunteers for a combined 96 hours of construction, and

WHEREAS, the use of these picnic tables will benefit the Durham Park and Recreation Department and also the residents of Durham for picnicking at Allen Brook Park, and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Durham, congratulate Daniel on the completion of this remarkable project

IN RECOGNITION THEREFORE, on behalf of the residents of Durham, we extend our sincere appreciation for this Project and hereby present this proclamation to Daniel Trusty in recognition of attaining the rank of:

## EAGLE SCOUT

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James W. McLaughlin  
First Selectman

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Renee Primus Edwards  
Selectwoman

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Maryann P. Boord  
Selectwoman

Dated in Durham, Connecticut, this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2007

Recreation Committee Appointment

R. Primus explained that Ann Figoras had resigned from the committee earlier in the year due to a conflict in schedule, but that conflict had since changed so she was asking to be reappointed. Ann would be filling her own vacancy.

MOTION BY R. EDWARDS, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO APPOINT ANN FIGORAS TO THE RECREATION COMMITTEE. ALL AYES

Award of Arboricultural Services Bid

Tree Wardens Ralph Chase and Terrence Keenan were both present. R. Chase explained that the bid package was reviewed by 10 different services and that 2 bids were submitted with Raiola Tree Service receiving the Warden's recommendation. The scope of work involves the removal or pruning some of the 160 trees in town determined by the Tree Warden to be safety hazards. Rates were also given for emergency services.

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATION FOR RAIOLA TREE SERVICE. ALL AYES

Correspondence Relative to Education Funding and Budgeting

R. Edwards described the activities of the Board of Selectmen during the past couple of weeks including: face to face meetings that M. Boord and J. McLaughlin had separately with Representative, Ray Kalinowski and Senator Edward Myer; conversation that M. Boord had with Office of Policy Management (OPM); and letters submitted by R. Edwards to Governor Rell, Senator Williams (President Pro Tempore), and Secretary Genuario (OPM).

M. Boord restated the Board of Selectmen's position that we will continue to work toward supporting a budget that provides quality education yet considers the tax burden placed on all segments of the community. M. Boord reiterated the position of the Board of Selectmen that the next RSD13 budget referendum should be delayed as long as statutorily possible in the hope of more accurate information on state funding. Letter drafted by M. Boord and signed by all members of the Board is below.

MOTION BY R. EDWARDS, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO SEND LETTER TO BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TO TOWN TIMES NEWSPAPER. ALL AYES

May 14, 2007

Dear Members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Viccaro:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Durham remains committed to working with the Regional District #13 Board of Education in an effort to present a budget to the tax payers that will continue to provide quality education to our students while remaining aware of the tax burden on all segments of our communities. It is our hope that the delayed approval of this budget will provide adequate time for us all to get a more accurate understanding of what state funding may be available for the coming Fiscal Year.

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has confirmed that new legislation will be necessary in order for an increase in Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) monies to be applied to property tax relief, as proposed by both Governor Rell's budget proposal and the state's Education Committee budget proposal. Although the two plans do not (yet) agree on the amount of increased funding or on the apportionment between what could be applied to property tax relief vs. educational costs, the dollar amount could be significant. Since our per-pupil expenditure is considered high, the ratio could be as

much as a 50% split between education and property tax relief. We are certainly not proposing anything specific at the present time and are being told by OPM that there will likely be language specific to Regional School Districts in the legislation itself.

Jim and Maryann met personally and individually with Representative Ray Kalinowski and Senator Ed Meyer urging a swift compromise to the proposals being considered. Renee sent letters to Governor M. Jodi Rell and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Donald E. Williams Jr. urging a resolution of this matter. Recent newspaper articles underscore and confirm the struggle many municipalities are having in proposing realistic revenue numbers for their budgets.

We respectfully request that you delay the date for the next referendum as long as statutorily possible in the hope that we can support and accept a Regional District #13 budget that fairly taxes our residents.

Sincerely,

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James W. McLaughlin  
First Selectman

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Renee Edwards  
Selectwoman

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Maryann Boord  
Selectwoman

#### Discussion of Request from Jeff and Elain Siena; Consideration of the Transfer of Ownership of a Parcel of Land

The land is a 40' strip on the easterly side of Siena's property that was originally to be used as a drainage easement in the construction of the Royal Oak Subdivision but never was since a new easement was used instead.

The Board agreed that J. McLaughlin should contact Geoff Colegrove (Town Planner), Brian Curtis (Town Engineer), and Hank Robinson (previous First Selectman).

#### Discussion of Board of Selectmen's review of the Durham Fire Departments Length of Service Awards Program Agreement

M. Boord asked if the reference to 'Service Award Program Committee' in the contract was the same as the fire company committee currently reviewing the Length of Service Awards Program. R. Edwards stated that she believed they are the same. M. Boord explained that while she fully respects the ability of the committee to operate, she also feels that if the town is expected to commit to and fund the program for the next several years that it would be prudent to have town representation on the committee. J. McLaughlin agreed to contact Alan Fritts.

M. Boord asked who should approve the contract once Town Counsel reviews. The Board discussed and agreed that the First Selectman should sign following Board of Selectmen approval. J. McLaughlin is to ask Town Counsel if the program must be approved by Special Town Meeting before the funds are removed from reserve.

The entire Board supported the program and agreed to have Town Counsel review the contract.

#### Discussion of Route 17 Crosswalks

It was suggested that the mid-block crosswalk by the United Churches be relocated to the corner of Maiden Lane since it is very close to a controlled walk at Route 68. The Board agreed that J. McLaughlin would contact the State Traffic Commission.

#### Crooked Hill Road and 345kV Transmission Line Updates

Brian Ferris was in attendance and stated that he would be starting construction on the subdivision very soon. The sale of the Wimler property is to be completed by the end of May. B. Ferris stated that after 1 year, he still has heard nothing from Brian Curtis regarding his proposal for the amount of bonding. B. Ferris stated that he has also offered a secured letter of credit, which he believes is an upgrade to the performance bond. J. McLaughlin will contact Brian Curtis and Rebecca Adams regarding these comments. R. Edwards reminded B. Ferris that per contract the town needs to approve the gift of land before work can start on the Crooked Hill roadway. B. Ferris and his attorney were confused by this statement and all agreed to take the discussion off line.

#### 345Kv Transmission Line Update

The Office of the First Selectman was contacted by a Resident of Elihu Drive concerning pole heights. J. McLaughlin contacted Northeast Utilities concerning the matter and is awaiting a response.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes April 23, April 30, and May 2, 2007

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. EDWARDS TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 23 2007.  
ALL AYES

MOTION BY R. EDWARDS, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED OF APRIL 30 2007. ALL AYES

MOTION BY R. EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 2 2007.  
TWO AYES AND 1 ABSTAIN (DUE TO ABSENCE FROM MEETING)

#### Old Business

J. McLaughlin asked if all received the correspondence from Troop F. M. Boord reminded the Board that we did agree to hold a joint meeting between our Public Safety Committee and Lt. Castagliuolo. R. Edwards stated that the Public Safety Committee have since changed their mind and didn't feel it was necessary based on new statistics. The Board agreed to have J. McLaughlin contact Frank DeFelice of Public Safety and request he present the new statistics at one of our meetings.

The gift of land from the Community Development Program was briefly discussed, but it was decided to table to the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

The Board agreed to have a deer crossing sign placed on Haddam Quarter Road per the request of Peg Atwell. The Board also agreed to have the lawn in front of the Historical Society house mowed by Public Works.

#### Public Comments

None

#### Adjourn

ADJOURNED MEETING AT 7:50 P.M.  
ALL AYES

Respectfully submitted,

Renee P. Edwards