

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Monday, May 19, 2008
3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order and led with the pledge of allegiance.
John Szewczyk and James McLaughlin present.

Approval of the agenda

MOTION BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. 3 AYE

Public comments

Donia Viola commented she felt the Annual Budget Meeting has outlived its process and thinks the next ABM should be put out to referendum like the school budget; it being a fairer process and feels the town budget should not be left in the hands of only a few. L. Francis stated the Charter Revision Commission struggled with this and came to the conclusion that residents have an opportunity at the ABM to decrease the budget.

Recommendation to Board of Finance re: purchase of property on Meeting House Hill Road & Rte 17

After several months of meeting on this subject L. Francis was excited to announce the Board of Selectmen has determined the proper question to go before the town. A total of \$395,000 to purchase (7) acres of property on Meeting House Hill Road & Route 17 that entails (2) building lots; the Board of Finance has determined there is \$310,000 in the Community Senior Center line and there is ample funds for the difference.

Lainey Melvin stated that she supports this purchase maintaining the Senior Board has been looking for property for over seven years and this specific property is a good fit.

L. Francis noted the Board of Selectmen voted to send this purchase to the Board of Finance without the intent for building purposes; stating the current environment to build is not good and grants were very difficult to get without having the property purchased first. She stressed needing time to create good solid plans.

L. Melvin commented the site preparation would not be as costly as others the committee looked at stating the Town Engineer also agreed with this.

L. Francis stated the Board of Selectmen thought the town should make the decision on the purchase and if all goes as planned July 1st will be scheduled for a referendum giving ample opportunity for absentee ballots.

Hank Robinson commented he appreciated the steps the Board of Selectmen are taking and allowing everyone's voice to be heard. L. Francis stated a public hearing was also going to be scheduled with a presentation by the Finance Director and Lainey Melvin.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF FINANCE TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ON MEETING HOUSE HILL ROAD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$395,000. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCES SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH PROPERTY OWNER SUBJECT TO PASSAGE OF REFERENDUM. 3 AYE

RECEIVED: 6-3-08	TIME: 2:00 PM
Kim Garvis, Town Clerk	
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK, DURHAM, CONNECTICUT	

Set date for Public Hearing re: purchase of property on Meeting House Hill Road & Rte 17

L. Francis stated she would like to hold a public hearing on the purchase of the Meeting House Hill Road property but was having difficulty finding a location that would accommodate ample seating. The Library is not available due to their book fair and the high school was very busy with end of year events and stated she would like the opportunity to discuss further with the high school.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN FOR APPROVAL TO SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING IN JUNE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF COGINCHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. 3 AYE

Insurance - non union employees

L. Francis stated negotiations are very close on settling on an insurance package. Three different plans are going to be proposed.

The town is in the process of switching to Anthem by July 1st but the current contract will remain in effect until this is settled some time in July or August. She stated she would like to offer the non union employees the options now.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO OFFER INSURANCE PACKAGE THAT WE EXPECT TO OFFER TO UNION EMPLOYEES TO NON UNION EMPLOYEES. 3 AYE

Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes May 12, 2008

Tabled. Will be put on for approval at the next meeting.

Old/New business

Laura Francis discussed the following old business.

- 1) The installation of (8) catch basins on Maple Avenue is near complete and on budget.
- 2) The bullet investigation is not complete yet, there have been difficulties on the investigative work. She has not received a report yet from the State Police.
- 3) Funding for the Regional Animal Control has been cut but it has been decided as a group; Middlefield, Durham, Middletown, Portland and Cromwell, to complete the planning process in case funding comes through another time. John Szewczyk commented he felt the town should be very careful about what towns it regionalizes with stating the types of animals are different, guard dogs, numerous multi animal homes and is concerned about the town incurring charges that would not be in line with Durham. L. Francis clarified this is the sharing of a physical building and each town would continue to have their own Animal Control Officer. J. McLaughlin thinks this is a good idea as Durham does not have a dog pound.

Laura Francis discussed the following new business.

- 1) CIRMA training will be hosted at the town hall; Defensive Driving August 21st, 9:00-12:00 and Prevention of Sprains/Strains September 23rd, 10:00 -12:00.
- 2) Departmental Assistant Linda Berntsen will be reducing her working hours to 30 hours per week per Doctor's order.

Selectmen's comments

J. McLaughlin responded to Donia Violas comment about the ABM being outlived stating he felt people would not come to a referendum and unfortunately would not make a difference; people are just not coming out and he would not think of doing away with the ABM. D. Viola stated she felt having a referendum would allow people a better window of opportunity other than a late night meeting.

Public comments

None

Adjourn

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:50 P.M. 3
AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata