

*Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes*  
7:00 p.m., Monday, June 9, 2008  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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

None

Approval for First Selectman to sign Statement of Understanding between the Town of Durham and the Middlesex Central CT Chapter of the American Red Cross

MOTION BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO GRANT APPROVAL FOR THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO SIGN STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DURHAM AND THE MIDDLESEX CENTRAL CT CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS. 3 AYE

Discussion of Environmental Consulting Services Proposal for environmental cleanup at 41 Main Street

Laura Francis met with Town Engineer Brian Curtis and Joe Santovasi from AEI (Advanced Environmental Interface, Inc.) and discussed what the risk and exposure would be at this site in the future. J. Santovasi stated all solid material, metal in nature, has been taken out. Because some petroleum based material was also found on the site the water would need to be tested to see if it was exposed. To limit the town's liability AEI made a recommendation to conduct an assessment of the water over a one year period; proposing the drilling of four or five wells, assessing, sampling and lab analysis, data evaluation and reporting, and abandonment of the wells. J. McLaughlin agreed with the recommendation. L. Francis also noted this work would not interfere with the use and completion of the firehouse driveway and asked for approval from the board to request funds for the assessment from the Board of Finance.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO REQUEST \$23,800 FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE TO CONDUCT GROUND WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AT DURHAM FIREHOUSE SITE, 41 MAIN STREET. 3 AYE

Award of Janitorial Services for town owned buildings

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO AWARD JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR TOWN OWNED FACILITIES BID TO CLEANMASTER INC. FOR 3 YEARS, JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2011. 3 AYE

Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>, and May 20<sup>th</sup> 2008

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MAY 12, 2008 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MAY 19, 2008 MEETING MINUTES. 3 AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE MAY 20, 2008 MEETING MINUTES. 3 AYE

### Old/New business

Laura Francis brought the Selectmen up to date on the following old business:

1.) Update on bullet investigation. L. Francis has been in contact with the Commissioners of the DEP and Public Safety and a temporary/voluntary agreement to shut down part of Blue Trail Range has been made. The Public Safety Commission reiterated that its number one mission is criminal investigations but has committed State Police professionals to work on the project to gather evidence for any civil litigation. RST Peter DiGioia is currently compiling all data; when completed it will be turned over to the State's Attorney Generals Office.

L. Francis also commented that Pat DiNatale has filed a lawsuit against Blue Trail Range and the Town of Wallingford.

2.) Union negotiations are almost complete with the exception of wages and pension. The pension study is not done yet; the deadline for requests for proposals is July 14<sup>th</sup> and she doesn't expect to settle the contract in total until September sometime. They have settled on insurance with a five year agreement with accelerated premium co-pays.

She is working with the Union on developing a Back-to-Work Program to limit workers compensation and get productivity from employees. J. McLaughlin questioned if this would be a light duty program. L. Francis responded yes, but would only apply to workman's compensation cases.

3.) Reminder that a Public Hearing is set for Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at Cuginchaug Regional High School Auditorium, 7:00 p.m., to present information on the referendum on the purchase of 239 and 247R Meetinghouse Hill Road.

4.) Fraudulent check update. L. Francis stated the original findings of a fraudulent check drawn on the tax collectors account, through reconciliation, was a check created to look like the towns check, taken from a scanned file, with prior administrations signatures. She immediately met with Bank Officials, Town Treasurer, Finance Director, and any Department Heads that have checking accounts and set up procedure to move forward. Since the first check was found, additional fraudulent checks have been found and have been cashed but all town accounts are insured. She is continuing to work closely with the bank. J. McLaughlin asked who the checks were made out to. L. Francis responded they were all made to fake individuals all \$800.00 or less.

5.) The Farmer's Market was a complete success. Fire/Police officials thought the parking went well. J. Szewczyk commented he thought leaving the market was difficult.

6.) Crooked Hill Road update. All the maps have been corrected and easements have been signed, but need to be recorded. L. Francis asked J. McLaughlin if the part of Ivy Way that is being extended is a town road. J. McLaughlin responded yes, 120 feet and the town agreed to plow it.

L. Francis brought the Board of Selectmen up to date on the following new business.

1.) L. Francis noted the seasonal help budget for FY07-08 has been expended and if areas of town look like they are being neglected this is why. The new fiscal year will start June 23<sup>rd</sup> for payroll purposes. The public works department will then have the crew they need to get to these areas.

2.) L. Francis attended the DARE Graduation at Memorial School on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

3.) The Planning & Zoning Commission voted favorably at their June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to an 8-24 Review for the Town of Durham to purchase 6.99 acres of land at 239 and 247R Meetinghouse Hill Road. L. Francis commented that an environmental study needs to be done. Richard Parmelee noted he recalled that in prior years cows were pastured and haying was done on this property. J. McLaughlin asked if the study

would be done before or after the purchase of the property. L. Francis stated she would seek the advice of counsel on this question.

4.) RSD13 Validation Act update. The Speaker of the House has agreed and is seeking to increase items on the call for special session, other than the tax conveyance, and hopefully the RSD13 validation act will be one. J. McLaughlin asked for clarification and L. Francis explained that through a procedural error on the towns part, the legal posting for the RSD13 Referendum was not noticed in the newspaper therefore the validation act was requested. She noted that there was plenty of exposure and the people voted in good faith. She will keep the Selectmen up to date on this issue.

5.) The Town has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$8,440. from the Department of Transportation under the 2008 Ct Clean Fuel Program for a Ford Escape 4WD Electric Vehicle to replace the current vehicle for the Sanitarian.

6.) Negotiation of a new cell phone contract with AT&T or Verizon is being worked on. The current Nextel service is not as good as others. L. Francis has talked to Public Safety and Public Works personnel about possible changes and they agreed to the change over.

7.) L. Francis asked the Selectmen if they felt she should review the towns current streetlights to see if they are all needed. J. McLaughlin commented that most streetlights are for public safety reasons but felt that the lights on Main Street that were originally supposed to be off by 10:00 p.m. could be turned off. L. Francis stated she would do an analysis.

#### Selectmen's comments

J. McLaughlin said he would like to see a building committee go forward with researching and pricing small projects brought forward by the Emergency Services Facility Committee Report stating the town owns the property and needs to help our volunteer services. L. Francis commented that she spoke with Steve Spooner and he stated the current Emergency Services Committee feels they have gone as far as they can but it is not out of the question that some would stay on board. L. Francis suggested forming (3) committees if the referendum passes; a senior center committee, community center committee, and a grant research committee. J. McLaughlin agreed this is a good idea stating even if the referendum doesn't go through a grant committee should get started. He feels the prior committee members have a lot to offer. Richard Parmelee stated he felt people with expertise in these areas should be considered.

L. Francis stated for the record that all three Selectmen from Durham, along with the Selectmen from Guilford and Madison, were in attendance on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> for the Walk of the Boundaries.

#### Public comments

Richard Parmelee commented about the charter revision and the alignment of terms of office for the districts Board of Education members and when this would take place. L. Francis stated that she would be meeting with Susan Viccaro on June 12<sup>th</sup> and would discuss this with her.

R. Parmelee thanked the Board of Selectmen for being accessible and also praised Melynda Naples for the improvements she has made to Deerfield Farm and her involvement in agriculture.

R. Parmelee commented that the town should be doing something with the old firehouse building currently housing the ambulance corps.

#### Adjourn

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:10 P.M. 3 AYE

Respectfully submitted: Beth Moncata