

*Board of Selectmen's Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 9, 2007
Town Hall, 3rd Floor Meeting Room*

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

James McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led with the pledge of allegiance. Renee Edwards and Maryann Boord present.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED BY MOVING ITEM #11, TO #5. ALL AYES

Public Comments

None

Senior Tax Relief Committee Report

Martin French started his presentation by providing handouts to the Board of Selectmen. He stated that the committee was formed in November 2006; they met regularly and had several guests such as Bill Bloss, a member of Guilford's Senior Tax Relief Committee and current Board of Education member, and Senator Edward Meyer. He explained that the committee looked at 4 different programs, requested information from the Connecticut Council of Municipalities, spoke with State Representative Raymond Kalinowski, and spoke to many local seniors.

He stated that the Town of Durham has a need for senior tax relief to allow seniors to stay in their homes. Seniors are valuable to the community's diversity; they contribute to volunteering/organizing, and being leaders in the community. He explained that seniors have paid a lot in taxes over the years and senior tax relief would put the burden of increasing RSD13 budgets on the individuals who are using the school system.

The committee came up with 2 types of plans. He commented that these plans are consistent with the State of Connecticut's programs and other programs, and that the committee wants to put a plan in place that the most people can take advantage of.

- Tax Deferral Plan- deferred up to 100% of real estate or personal property taxes owed. The taxes will still be due and collectable upon the death of the taxpayer or when the property changes hands. The town would be guaranteed to collect these taxes.
- Tax Freeze Plan- predictable, affordable, chief advantage would be that it takes the anxiety out of ever-increasing taxes for the senior. He stated that the amount seniors are getting under the current state program would be incorporated as a fixed amount in the freeze and the additional cost would be distributed over the years to the residents.

M. French recommended that the Board of Selectmen read the overview of guidelines and review the cost sheet, which the committee based on estimates (close to worst case scenario). James McLaughlin asked if towns that have a tax freeze plan in place have more participants than a town with a deferral plan. M. French indicated that was correct. J. McLaughlin then asked what percentage the town currently was at with the state program. M. French responded that around 80 people, 15% of seniors were in the plan. Maryann Boord asked if the town could offer both plans. M. French stated yes, the town could offer both plans but the senior could only participate in one plan after the state program. Renee Edwards asked if the recommendations would be placed into a new ordinance. M. French commented yes.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the committee for their hard work and asked for time to review the documentation so they could get back to the committee with their comments.

Charles Bogen, member of the senior tax relief committee, commented that he hopes that this is beneficial to the seniors in town.

Acceptance of Settlement Associated with the Elevator Enclosure from Tom Arcari, Architect

Attorney John Corona, Chair of the Town Hall Building Committee, stated that during the town hall renovation the construction of the elevator design did not meet with the building code. A new enclosure was built and there was a cost associated with that. The Building Committee felt justified in the cost, they needed to comply with code and a better aesthetic design. He stated that he has been in negotiations with the architect, Tom Arcari on a settlement. The overall cost for the new design was \$15,000.00 and J. Corona has reached an agreement with T. Arcari for \$10,000.00. He asked that the Board of Selectmen write a release to the insurance company on settlement of the \$10,000.00, but limited to the specific issue of the elevator and no other outstanding claims.

J. Corona stated that he would have Tom Arcari contact J. McLaughlin to confirm the terms of the settlement so town counsel can review it.

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO ACCEPT THE TOWN HALL BUILDING COMMITTEES REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT FOR THE ELEVATOR ENCLOSURE ONLY WITH ARCHITECT TOM ARCARI. ALL AYES

Resident Request for Parabolic Mirrors on Carriage Drive and Haddam Quarter Road

J. McLaughlin stated that H.B. Field III, in a letter dated March 15, 2003 [sic] requested SNET for permission to use pole #647S at the intersection of Carriage Drive and Haddam Quarter Road for a parabolic mirror to enhance safety, cc'd the Board of Selectmen. J. McLaughlin stated that he wanted to bring this to the attention of the board of selectmen and would wait to hear from either SNET/ATT or H.B. Field.

Approval of Traffic Plan for Memorial Day Festivities on May 28, 2007 as prepared by Resident State Trooper

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC PLAN FOR MEMORIAL DAY FESTIVITIES ON MAY 28, 2007 AS PREPARED BY RESIDENT STATE TROOPER. ALL AYES

Approval of request from Exchange Club for Special Use Permission to sell snacks/hot dogs from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Monday, May 28, 2007, at Allyn Brook Park for Participants of Memorial Day Washington Trail 10K Road Race

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE EXCHANGE CLUB TO SELL SNACKS/HOT DOGS FROM 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM ON MONDAY MAY 28, 2007 AT ALLYN BROOK PARK. ALL AYES

American Diabetes Association 9th Annual Tour de Cure, June 10, 2007, Approval of Town Roads

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO APPROVE USE OF TOWN ROADS FOR THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION 9TH ANNUAL TOUR De CURE, JUNE 10, 2007. ALL AYES

Economic Development Resignation

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO ACCEPT TIM MACKS RESIGNATION WITH GRADITUTE. ALL AYES

Economic Development Commission Steering Committee

R. Edwards stated that Richard Hanley was putting together a steering committee for the strategy plan development of approximately 2 dozen persons from Durham, extending invitations to a number of boards and commissions. She explained that 2 representatives from the Board of Selectmen have been

requested and she suggested J. McLaughlin and Maryann Boord. J. McLaughlin agreed and M. Boord requested the meeting dates prior to her commitment.

Crooked Hill Road and 345kV Transmission Line Updates

J. McLaughlin stated that he attended a meeting with Ivy Way residents and Town Engineer, Brian Curtis on April 5th. They discussed a 65-foot section of Ivy Way, which is a private road that is plowed and maintained by the residents. In order to make it connect with Crooked Hill Road a section of the private road would have to be re-graded. The residents do not want to own the new section so the town has to plow it. The most practical way to plow would be to plow the private road to the turnaround and come back down. J. McLaughlin asked the Board of Selectmen to think about a solution to this problem.

R. Edwards asked Luke Backus if he approved the re-grading. He stated yes.

R. Kleeman stated that Crooked Hill Road is a private road and why does the town have to take responsibility of plowing it. Luke Backus commented that it was an insurance liability. R. Edwards stated that Crooked Hill Road has been a problem for a long time and the fact of the matter is that housing is going in and the town needs to find a solution for all parties involved.

M. Boord felt that we need an opinion on the towns liability, that it was a CIRMA (insurance) question about private property-private road and that the town would need an agreement for plowing it.

J. McLaughlin stated that he would talk to town counsel to draft an agreement. R. Edwards commented that this was a safety situation if there is no other place for the plow to turn around.

345Kv Transmission Line Update-Nothing to report

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 26, and March 31, 2007

Tabled until next meeting

Selectmen's Comments

Maryann Boord stated that in prior years the town budgeted \$2,400.00 for rent to the Durham Fair Association for the office of the Health Director. She would like to reinstate this budget amount to the Durham Fair Association for the Resident State Trooper rent before the budget goes through.

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS, SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:50 P.M.
ALL AYES

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata