

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2006

Call to Order and Roll Call

First Selectman James W. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Durham Public Library. Board of Selectmen members present: James W. McLaughlin, Renee J. Primus, Maryann P. Boord. Also present: Steve Levy, Donia Viola, Daryl Edwards, Martin French, Ken Dale, Jim Libby, Bill Smith, Irene Roberts, George Roberts, Larry McCallum, Marge Stahl, Etzie Heyl, Ellen Patterson, Sue Vanderzee (*Town Times*), Matthew Engelhardt (*Middletown Press*), and several others.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Public Comments

- Irene Roberts made several comments:
 - She welcomed the new Board of Selectmen and offered her opinion that they are off to a good start and on the right track taking care of problems.
 - She suggested hiring someone to answer the phones in Town Hall so the Town Clerk does not have to answer phones and redirect calls.
 - She expressed concern that the gates that were supposed to be taken care of for Dead Hill Road and Cream Pot Road have not yet been installed. J. McLaughlin responded that the Town DPW crew has painted and prepared the gates for installation, and the gates are in the Town Garage ready for installation.
 - She expressed disapproval of plans by the Conservation Commission (CC) to spend \$15,000 to make calendars to distribute to everyone in town. She said money appropriated to the CC is for the purpose of purchasing open space and for other land conservation projects, not for making calendars. J. McLaughlin responded that information from the CC on this issue has not yet reached his desk.
- Larry McCallum asked if the Town of Durham was losing out on resources by terminating its membership with the CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM). J. McLaughlin responded that although M. Boord is no longer on the Board of Directors of CCM, Durham is still a member of CCM. The only difference is we no longer have a member serving on their Board. J. McLaughlin added that there has been no interruption in the services that CCM provides. L. McCallum asked if the Town would benefit from having a member of the Board of Selectmen serve on the CCM Board of Directors, and J. McLaughlin replied that he did not know.
- Donia Viola asked if membership on CCM would be redundant if the Town is also a member of the CT Council of Small Towns (COST). J. McLaughlin responded that each of the two organizations has a different focus. While COST focuses its efforts and legislative support on towns with populations under 30,000, CCM represents all towns and cities in the state. The cost of membership on CCM is \$3,945 per year and membership on COST is between \$800 and \$900 per year for a town the size of Durham. M. Boord remarked that CCM offers more services than COST. She explained that CCM offers information and research material to all member towns

free of charge. She added that CCM lobbies for all towns and cities and added that in her opinion the Town gets more for its money from CCM. J. McLaughlin said the Town recently joined COST for the remaining months of the 2005-2006 fiscal year and added that he hopes to continue membership in COST going forward. He added that of the 169 municipalities in CT, 130 are small towns with populations under 30,000. M. Boord expressed surprise that Durham had joined COST. She said this was the first she was hearing about it and questioned how a decision to join COST was made without discussing it first among the Board of Selectmen. She explained to J. McLaughlin that unlike a business, decisions made by a Town government are not made in a vacuum and this decision should have been discussed openly at a Board of Selectmen's meeting so all members of the Board could participate in the decision. J. McLaughlin offered to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. M. Boord said that would result in discussing it after the decision to join COST has already been made. She added that no money was budgeted for membership in COST, just as no money was budgeted for the new Purchase Order module for the MUNIS system. She said the proper procedure is to go to the Board of Finance for these types of expenditures after the B/S has agreed on them. J. McLaughlin responded that he did go to the B/F with his desire to add a PO module to the MUNIS system and the B/F agreed with his plans and immediately allocated money for the cost of the PO module for the current fiscal year. He added that he also went to the B/F to inform them that he planned to join COST for a partial year and to advise them that the Dues and Meetings line item for the B/S would be overspent as a result. M. Boord commented that the proper procedure is for discussion to first take place among the B/S and then go to the B/F. R. Primus remarked that J. McLaughlin's style of leadership is different than hers was, however that does not mean his actions were inappropriate, and she offered to review the Town Charter to see if it stipulates that a particular decision-making process is required for the Board of Selectmen. M. Boord commented that whether or not a particular process is required by the Town Charter, when only one member of the B/S is not informed of decisions being made by the other members that is not open government. R. Primus said this is not the first time this issue has been discussed by the B/S. M. Boord disagreed. All members agreed to move on from this discussion.

Garden Club

- Marge Stahl introduced herself and two other members of the Durham Garden Club--Etzie Heyl and Ellen Patterson. She offered several comments on behalf of the Durham Garden Club:
 - She requested that future Town planning ensure that the rural character of the Town is preserved and protected.
 - She suggested that the Planning & Zoning Commission work closely with the Town's Historic District Commission to ensure there is no further build up of gas stations and unsightly commercial buildings on Main Street.
 - She suggested that only very qualified candidates be named to serve on the very important Planning & Zoning Commission and the equally important Historic District Commission.
 - She asked that all zoning laws and ordinances be enforced to maintain the beauty and the rural character of Main Street.

Economic Development Commission

J. McLaughlin read aloud a letter of resignation from Gary Sawicki dated January 8, 2006 expressing regret that he must resign from the Economic Development Commission because he feels he can no longer devote the time required to serve. He offered to remain on the Commission until a replacement can be found.

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF GARY SAWICKI FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WITH GRATITUDE FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE; MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Water Commission Appointment

J. McLaughlin explained that this item should have been an agenda item for a previous B/S meeting and apologized for the oversight.

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO APPOINT PATRICIA CROWLEY TO THE WATER COMMISSION EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 09, 2005 TO FILL THE VACANCY RESULTING FROM THE RESIGNATION OF GERALD DURKEE WITH A TERM THAT WILL EXPIRE DECEMBER 9, 2005; MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure

M. McLaughlin read aloud a letter from the American Diabetes Association (ADA) dated January 3, 2006 requesting approval for use of Durham town roads for the ADA Annual Tour de Cure cycling event with an estimated 400 to 500 riders participating. The event will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2006 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. A list of roads that will be utilized was provided with the letter.

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS TO APPROVE REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF DURHAM TOWN ROADS FOR THE ANNUAL TOUR DE CURE CYCLING EVENT ON JUNE 11, 2006 BETWEEN 7:30 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M.; MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS, SECONDED BY M. BOORD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2006 WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

- On page 5, first item under Selectmen's Comments, correct spelling of name of Jim **Piotrowski**.
- On page 5, fourth item under Selectmen's Comments, add wording as follows:
"M. Boord . . . has been a member of the CCM Board **and the CIRMA Board** for the past four years."

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Old/New Business

- R. Primus reported that Brian Ferris has withdrawn his request for a hearing by the Guilford Planning & Zoning Commission where he had intended to request a waiver of requirements established for him before moving forward with the Northern Heights subdivision in Guilford that would be accessed by Crooked Hill Road in Durham. M. Boord added that Attorney Rebecca Adams deserves credit for this positive outcome as a result of her excellent representation of the Town of Durham.
- M. Boord asked about the status of the Proclamation for Tom Charpentier who will become an Eagle Scout on February 25, 2006. R. Primus reported that the proclamation is currently being prepared and will be on the agenda for a February meeting. M. Boord offered to attend the ceremony on February 25th to represent the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen's Comments

- M. Boord suggested and the other members agreed that the B/S should schedule meetings for budget workshops to review and act on budget requests for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. J. McLaughlin noted that most budgets have been received with the exception of a few of the smaller Commissions. There was unanimous agreement to schedule two budget workshops to be held in the temporary Town Hall as follows:

Saturday, February 4th at 9:15 a.m.
Saturday, February 11th at 9:15 a.m.

M. Boord requested copies of budgets as they come in so she can review them in preparation for B/S discussion and action. J. McLaughlin said he would see to it that copies of all budgets are put in the mail trays.

- J. McLaughlin noted that since the MUNIS system provides a field for narrative text in budget reports, he has asked Rett Mancinelli to enter the narrative provided with budget requests into the MUNIS system so it will appear along with the financial data to assist in the review process.

Public Comments

During the second opportunity for Public Comments Donia Viola asked the B/S to “pull in the reins” of the Town budget and encouraged them to make prudent and sound decisions during the budget process.

Adjourn

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:35 PM; MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Tucker

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