

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 13 2006; Library at Strong School**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

First Selectman J. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Strong School Library. Members present were R. Primus Edwards and M. Boord.

PLEDGE

First Selectman J. McLaughlin asked L. Francis to lead in the Pledge of Alliance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion J. McLaughlin, seconded R. Primus Edwards to approve the Agenda. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. Viola attended Saturday's budget meeting and asked why was it that the 3% increase is determined by the union and that all town hall employees, regardless of being in the union or not, should receive this increase each year. Could the town go by merit increases or additional responsibilities instead? Accounts were overspent; the Board of Finance should get a handle on these problems.

Was the old furniture being moved back into the new town hall at the cost of \$30,000 and then out again when the new furniture was delivered? There will be 2 months rent more for the transition, couldn't it be done quicker? Also, why is the town funding the 60+ Club? She gave the example of the Garden Club not funded by the town.

J. McLaughlin responded that the Board of Selectmen have been working hard on the budgets. It has always been the town's long-standing practice to give increases to all workers. There are no provisions for incentives or bonuses. The non-union workers are obligated to perform well, as their jobs are not as secure. One employee is protected by the union and one is not; it has been an accepted practice to share.

Professional movers must move the heavy safes and expensive electronic equipment. We will not be moving the old furniture back. The new computer stations will result in more efficient use of time. The work is on schedule and July 1st is the scheduled time for the move. However, the tax bills are going out and the tax collector's office will be the last to move. The move for this office was very difficult last year and cannot be repeated. It may be that only 1 month is needed, but 2 months are there, if needed.

M. Boord spoke in regard to D. Viola's question of the 60+ Club. M. Boord stated that the \$600 contribution is to the United Church each year because of all they do for the senior community.

L. Francis stated that the BOF voted Saturday to fund 2 intern positions. In light of the budget, she sees only the need for 1 position. There was no explanation as to how they came to decide on 2 positions. J. McLaughlin stated that he was surprised, also.

UNITED CHURCH LEASE

J. McLaughlin introduced Mr. B. Tubby and Mr. E. Hoight, Trustees of the United Church. M. Boord stated that the old BoS and the Trustees have been through many changes together. M. Boord asked if the Trustees might speak with the Bielefields and she if they are comfortable with the language that affects their property access. Mr. Tubby said that he would give them a call. M. Boord stated that the section that stated: the “police will protect and secure the area” could take on a life of its own. The town has only 1 Resident State Trooper and could not provide security to the extent that the wording might imply.

J. McLaughlin had no problem with the original wording in the lease. M. Boord would like the ‘hold harmless’ language reviewed by town counsel. R. Primus Edwards stated that it has taken way too much time to get this lease finished, signed, and off the table, but she would like to proceed so that everyone is in agreement with the final contract.

M. Boord asked why was “right of first refusal” removed? Mr. Tubby said that the minister could buy property to build a home. The church and the minister would have first right of refusal. M. Boord wanted the wording for police protection to read as “provided as for other town owned property.” The Trustees were asked to initial the changes in lieu of town counsel’s viewing. All agreed it would be the best way to go.

J. McLaughlin said that after changes were made and the lease gets passed, the Trustees would be called in to sign the new lease. W. Smith asked about the sum of \$2,681 to the United Churches. Mr. Tubby said they follow the CPI with a cap of 4% and a low of 2%.

Motion to have Town Counsel review the ‘Hold Harmless’ language in the new lease made by M. Boord and seconded by R. Primus Edwards. M. Boord and R. Primus Edwards voted aye, J. McLaughlin voted nay.

CHARTER REVISIONS

R. Primus Edwards reviewed the many changes, corrections, and timely updates as proposed initially by M. Boord, R. Primus Edwards, and J. McLaughlin. R. Primus Edwards stated that she will make the revisions to the Board of Selectmen’s recommendations for changes to the Charter so that the document is ready for the newly appointed commission.

APPOINTMENT OF CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

R. Primus Edwards stated that appointments to the commission needed to be made immediately in order to adhere to the timeline proposed. A large number of people expressed interest in serving on this commission. J. McLaughlin stated that there was a tight deadline and the commission would need dedicated people to make this deadline. He would like a 9-member commission, any more would be too big and not be able to

make this happen. R. Primus Edwards and M. Boord were disappointed to hear that the Attorney General's office said that there could not be any alternatives on this commission.

After much discussion, each Selectman stated their reasons for and the areas of expertise for choosing each applicant. J. Corona stood and asked to be heard. He stated that he would remove his name from the application process if the BoS exceed the 9 members. He feels that anything over 9 would not benefit the Commission and the work that they must do. J. McLaughlin agreed.

Motion R. Primus Edwards; second J. McLaughlin to appoint Martin French, Mark McLaughlin, and Betty Wakeman Long. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

M. Boord asked for individual voting for the Unaffiliated voters. Alice Tucker 3 ayes, John Corona 3 ayes. M. Boord moved to appoint Trish Dynia. There was no second to the motion. Pat Murawski 2 ayes by J. McLaughlin and R. Primus Edwards and 1 nay by M. Boord. M. Boord stated she does not know P. Murawski.

M. Boord moved to appoint Robert Poliner. There was no second to the motion. M. Boord moved to appoint Vincent Marino. There was no second to the motion.

L. Francis 3 ayes; R. Melnik 2 ayes by J. McLaughlin and R. Primus Edwards, 1 abstain by M. Boord.

Motion M. Boord to appoint G. Logobardi, seconded by R. Primus Edwards. 2 nays, and 1 aye by M. Boord.

J. McLaughlin moved to appoint C. Kleeman, seconded by R. Primus Edwards, 2 ayes, 1 abstain by M. Boord.

J. McLaughlin stated, "We have a Commission."

TAX REFUNDS

Behrend, James M. 211 Stagecoach Rd REFUND: 45.41	REFUND: .74 Charpentier, Peter A. or Charpentier, Linda C. 47 Meetinghouse HI Rd. REFUND: 33.06	Detroit, MI REFUND: 328.24 Ford Motor Credit Co PO Box 67000
Behrend, James. M. 211 Stagecoach Rd REFUND: 125.59	Countrywide Tax Service PO Box 10211 Van Nuys, CA	Detroit, MI REFUND: 112.06 Forline, George and Michael Caruso 949 New Haven Rd
Blanchard, Kirt H. 45 Pent Rd REFUND: 23.86	REFUND: 400.00 Ford Motor Credit Co PO Box 67000	REFUND: .01 GE Capital Corp PO Box 642111
Charette, Kevin T. or Charette, Lori W. 289 Haddam Quarter Rd		

Pittsburgh, PA
REFUND: 117.08
GE Capital Corp
PO Box 642111
Pittsburgh, PA
REFUND: 288.50
Gillmore, Nicky
3360 Shady Lane
Green Bay, WI
REFUND: 174.12
Gillmore, Nicky M.
3360 Shady Lane
Green Bay, WI
REFUND: 102.30
Honda Ls Tr
600 Kelly Way
Holyoke, MA
REFUND: 178.68
Leining, Laverne S.
Leining William III
Exec
117 Tuttle Rd
REFUND: 72.53
Mayberry, Mary Ellen

100R Meeting House
Hill
REFUND: 64.48
Moore Melissa H. or
Moore Adam R.
228 Guilford Rd
REFUND: 36.27
Nissan Infiniti Lt
PO Box 650214
Dallas, TX
REFUND: 487.54
Petro, Patricia A.
427R Madison Rd
REFUND: 74.80
Santangelo, Adele J.
77R Edwards Rd
REFUND: 114.22
Santangelo, Adele
77R Edwards Rd
REFUND: .72
Subaru Auto Leasing
Box 6000
Cherry Hill, NJ
REFUND: 34.28

Swanson & Son
Excavating LLC
11 Clark Rd
REFUND: 72.58
Toyota Motor Credit
Corp
19001 S. Western Ave
Torrance, CA
REFUND: 726.75
Wheels LT
666 Garland Pl
Des Plaines, IL
REFUND: 89.68
Whipple, Jeffrey D. &
Diane G.
306 Haddam Qtr Rd
REFUND: 9.27
Whipple, Jeffrey D. or
Whipple, Diane
306 Haddam Qtr Rd
REFUND: 395.58

Total refunds: Principal: 4,043.87, Interest: 64.48, TOTAL: 4,108.35

Motion M. Boord seconded by R. Primus Edwards, to approve tax refunds. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

DECD

Motion R. Primus Edwards; second J. McLaughlin with 3 ayes to approve Town of Durham Fair Housing Resolution.

Motion J. McLaughlin; second M. Boord with 3 ayes to approve the Town of Durham Fair Housing Policy Statement.

Motion M. Boord; second J. McLaughlin with 3 ayes to approve the Town of Durham Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Motion R. Primus Edwards; second J. McLaughlin with 3 ayes to approve the Town of Durham Affirmative Action Policy Statement.

MIDDLETOWN TRANSIT DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Questions were raised about the grant. It was decided to put this authorization on hold until more information could be obtained. R. Kleeman stated that it was MAT and not dial-a-ride. What was Durham's usage on the bus? J. McLaughlin did not know.

DESIGNATE APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Motion to approve by M. Boord and seconded by R. Primus Edwards. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2006 MINUTES

Motion M. Boord second R. Primus Edwards to approve the February 6, 2006 minutes. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2006 MINUTES

Correction under Old/New Business where M. Boord stated that the “Regional Health District needs to be proactive”, she actually said, “we need to be proactive.” Under Selectmen’s Comments 3rd paragraph, it should read 7 million, not 7 hundred million. Motion M. Boord to approve the minutes with corrections, second R. Primus Edwards. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL FEBRUARY 4, 2006 MINUTES

M. Boord stated that M. French’s response concerning the collection of delinquent taxes was not a priority with the previous administration. She wanted this statement to reflect that it is his opinion only. M. Boord also wanted the minutes to reflect the purpose of the Executive Session and who was present. Motion M. Boord to approve the minutes with amendments, second J. McLaughlin. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL FEBRUARY 11, 2006 MINUTES

Under line item 1520: Building and Health: it was found there were no calculation errors so minutes stand as is. Motion M. Boord, second R. Primus Edwards to approve the minutes. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL FEBRUARY 18, 2006, FEBRUARY 28, 2006 MINUTES

Motion M. Boord, second by J. McLaughlin to approve the minutes. R. Primus Edwards abstained. Motion passed with 2 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MARCH 1, 2006 MINUTES

Motion R. Primus Edwards, second J. McLaughlin to approve the minutes. M. Boord was not present at this meeting. Motion passed with 2 ayes.

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MARCH 4, 2006 Minutes

Correction to the year 2206 should read 2006. M. Boord reminded the Board that there used to be 2 full-time workers and 1 part-time clerk in the Town Clerks office, but now they only have 2 full-time workers in response to the Tax Collector requesting a 40-hour week. In line item 7505 to include the words “increase due to improvements to the system.” Motion M. Boord second J. McLaughlin to approve the minutes. Motion passed with 3 ayes.

BUDGETS

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was decided to meet Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 8P.M. at the Durham Public Library to discuss the budget items.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

P. Kilbey-Fox, spokesperson for the Regional Health District spoke on February 27, 2006 at the Durham Public Library. A public hearing will be scheduled.

J. McLaughlin said that the BOF requested details of the Valley Shore's 24% increase. J. McLaughlin read an email from N. Sullivan saying the Town of Durham's fee would be \$65,870. He would be receiving a letter tomorrow and would put a copy in the BOF's mailbox.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

L. Macala commented that the nomination and appointment procedure was not non-partisan and not fair to the Republican member of the Board. This violates the spirit of how the process was outlined at the last meeting. J. McLaughlin said it was a balanced commission with 3 of each party. L. Macala stated that only one representative of M. Boords recommendations was seated. R. Primus Edwards said they did not give assignments at last meeting, regardless of party.

W. Smith questioned the \$375,000 for open space debt. M. Boord said it was the last installment for a bond the town had acquired to purchase the properties. R. Primus Edwards stated that the town would be free of it next year.

D. Viola said at the budget workshop on Saturday, they mentioned soliciting a Finance Director to determine the actual needs at town hall and to hire consultants regarding employment at town hall. J. McLaughlin stated that these were 2 separate things.

1) The Personnel Policy Board's job is to make recommendations to the BoS and the BoF regarding what the elected officials and assistants are paid, how job descriptions and salaries are evaluated. The Board is supposed to do this every year, but they have taken no action. The BoF wants to expand evaluation to all 16 full time positions. It will be put out to bid.

2) The Finance Officer now is not full time; he is only in one day a week. The BoS and the BoF are concerned that to properly manage a 5 million-dollar budget, a full time person is needed. If managed correctly, the Finance Officer's salary could be realized in the interest earned and grant monies received.

D. Viola was concerned about Regional School District #13. There seems to be no changes in their budget. With the new revaluation, the added burden on veterans and seniors would be too much. The town acts complacent over these issues. J. McLaughlin said the Town government couldn't do much to change the school budget. It is the responsibility of the residents to attend these budget hearings and make themselves heard. Everyone must attend. D. Viola respectfully requested the BoS pay close attention to Regional School District #13.

R. Primus Edwards said that Matt Englehart of the Middletown Press misquoted J. McLaughlin. M. Boord wants a joint letter sent to the Board of Education to present the Board of Selectmen's concerns over the 6.3% increase in the school budget. The school budget has the biggest impact on homeowners with an increase of 7% last year and a 6.3% increase this year. The BoS will be sending a letter to the Chairman and the BoE to target large reductions in spending. W. Smith wants a barebone budget; the BoE is silent on cutting back.

J. McLaughlin thanked everyone for his or her comments.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by R. Primus Edwards and seconded by M. Boord. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Murphy