

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 26, 2006

Call to Order and Roll Call

First Selectman Jim McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Durham Public Library.

Selectmen Members Present: James McLaughlin, Renee Primus Edwards, Maryann Boord

Pledge

Frank DeFelice led the meeting in a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Public Comments: No Public Comments. First Selectman J. McLaughlin thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

EMS Committee

After a brief discussion on the agenda item #4 EMS Committee, the BoS amended the agenda to reflect EMS Appointment.

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO AMEND THE AGENDA. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY JIM MCLAUGHLIN TO ADD EMS APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S JUNE 26, 2006 AGENDA. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Scott Wright reported a formal charge for having an appointed EMS Committee as follows:

- 1) To continually assess the need for improvements in medical emergency services to the Town of Durham
- 2) Assessment of medical equipment and facility needs
- 3) Assessment of medical personnel resource needs
- 4) To increase communication between DVAC, DVFC, and the Town of Durham
- 5) To define those areas for better integration between DVAC, DVFC, and the Town of Durham
- 6) To further address billing for emergency medical services

MOTION BY JIM MCLAUGHLIN, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO APPOINT SCOTT WRIGHT, SUSAN WIMLER AND MARSHALL BRAGG AS DVAC, HARRY HALL, DAVE STEELE, AND IRV LERNING AS DVFC, BRAD WILKINSON AS HEALTH DIRECTOR, FRAN KORN TO REPRESENT THE BOARD OF FINANCE, AND RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO REPRESENT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

AED (Automatic External Defibrillators)

Scott Wright presented a request for Automatic Defibrillation Equipment Upgrades. Recently, the American Heart Association changed the recommendations in regards to Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The recommendations also made changes in Automatic External Defibrillation (AED). He stated that the manufacturers of the current defibrillators (Medtronic) had informed them that the defibrillators used by the EMS are not upgradeable to the

new standards. The current public access defibrillators at the firehouse are software upgradeable and will be upgraded once the software is available.

We propose that the current AED's used by EMS be replaced. Additionally, the current public access AED's used by the Fire Company would be upgraded to the newer model. Additional AED's would be purchased for placement as public access units on additional apparatus. Training units will be purchased as appropriate. The total cost for this replacement and additional acquisition is \$40,000.

M. Boord asked if these AED's are mandated and what the time frame was for the town once it is mandatory that we meet the requirements in addition seeing if this is something that we can budget for in the future.

S. Wright replied that there is a grace period of 90 days from June 15th. After that our current units would not be compatible with Middlesex Hospital units.

There was discussion of the regional schools recent purchase of AED's. Further information will be gathered to see whether the EMS could share the units. J. McLaughlin stated this would be brought to the next meeting. R. Edwards asked for representation from the EMS to be present at the meeting to answer any additional questions.

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO BREAK THE BOARD OF SELECTMENS MEETING AT 7:27PM TO ATTEND JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD AND COMMISSIONS. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

The Board of Selectmen's joint meeting with Board and Commissions was called to order at 7:33pm by First Selectman James W. McLaughlin at the Durham Public Library.

JOINT MEETING OF BOS AND ALL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

J. McLaughlin thanked all in attendance.

R. Edwards also thanked all in attendance and stated that in accordance to our Charter all boards should meet for open discussion twice a year. A second meeting will be scheduled for the end of 2006.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Jerry Lipchus spoke on behalf of Economic Development reporting it has been a busy year. They had an economic development speaker who came and discussed creating a comprehensive plan for the town. There had been several requests to create a flyer that had been tabled numerous times, however they are currently looking at a business map. In addition, the search continues for additional space in town, other than residential, that could balance the residential tax. He also explained the need for a business plan possibly an active adult community to help assist with our tax base.

J. McLaughlin asked if the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) speaker could offer any kind of a plan.

R. Hanley, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, replied they did quote the town stating that for a fee of \$15,000.00 they could create a plan. Guilford currently has a plan in motion that has been reviewed and it provides a marketing strategy along with liabilities.

R. Hanley stated that Durham is a very desirable location however not providing the lots for availability.

Maryann Boord asked about working with Regional Planning Organizations for planning.

PLANNING AND ZONING

George Eames reported that they would welcome Economic Development Commission to come before Planning and Zoning for discussion on working together for the town, adding that although P&Z does have guidelines that need to be followed, they are open for further discussion.

G. Eames went on to report there are many encouraging things happening with Durham. Many possibilities with zoning restrictions issues, but all are open for discussion.

R. Edwards asked what updating the plan of development involves.

G. Eames stated when there is reason for an update one can take place. Also adding that the regulations are available at the Town Clerks office and can also be accessed on the web page.

J. McLaughlin asked if CERC would work with Planning and Zoning and the Town if the dollars were budgeted for in the future.

R. Hanley stated that CERC could interview all of the town boards and work with the commissions that have common goals.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Duncan Milne reported that the Historic District Commission continues to work to maintain the town's integrity and to have the town viewed as an asset for the businesses located on Main Street. D. Milne stated they would like to continue to work together to control traffic and enhance pedestrian safety. The HDC is also concerned with sign along Main Street that does not meet the zoning requirements.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ralph Chase reported the Conservation Commission is looking to acquire open space properties. The commission would like to keep the town of Durham rural, to protect the open space, and to continue to encourage the public to use these locations. The commission has concerns with the continued use of open space properties by ATV's and what they are doing to the grounds.

Robert Melvin stated there are current regulations and an ordinance that states no ATV's on town owned property, however, without the availability of a full time police officer the ordinance is very difficult to uphold.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dr. Steve Levy reported the Department of Emergency Management has evolved from a Civil Defense organization of the "duck and cover" days and the Civil Preparedness organization that devoted its efforts to preparing for an emergency related to the CT Yankee nuclear power plant. When CT Yankee was decommissioned the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) began to focus on organizing for the Durham Fair. The Local Emergency Planning Commission met intensely in the month's prior to plan for Fair Week. The work of Civil Preparedness and LEPC has in fact become the work of the DDEM. In the post 9-11 era the demands on Emergency Management have grown.

The current members of DDEM have been working to meet mandates imposed by both the State and Federal Departments of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). We have developed a Town of Durham (TOD) Emergency Operation Plan and it has been filed with CT DEMHS. This arduous task placed the TOD in compliance with mandates and made our Emergency Management Department eligible for Homeland Security grants totaling over \$75,000. With this grant money and the generous contributions of the Durham Fair Association we have created an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) recognized as outstanding in our DEMHS Region. Mary Rose Dubrek, CT, DEMHS, Region 2 Director, has commented that the DDEM, EOC, with its strategic locations, both geographically and among the many large buildings on the Durham Fair Grounds, could even be considered as a back-up Emergency Operations Center for CT, DEMHS Region 2.

The towns shelter group has worked towards an effective organization to activate and open the emergency shelter at the Strong School. The group has determined that a move to a larger and more efficient space at CRHS is appropriate. The group in conjunction with RD 13 personnel is currently working on ensuring that automatic emergency power generation and transfer will be available at the CRHS shelter.

There is much work to be done to maintain our high level of compliance with State and Federal mandates and to continue to move our state of readiness forward. We have an excellent Emergency Operations Center, a hard working core of EM Directors, the service of a skilled radio engineer and the support of our Town. We plan to move forward on operational planning of the Emergency Operations Center and emergency shelter. Radio communication interoperability capabilities are a major functional goal to be achieved so that the EOC may serve its role as a networking site for the municipal government, our first responders, and other organizations that may be involved in a major event, either natural disaster or man-made. DDEM is here to support and serve the Town of Durham, the Durham Volunteer Fire Company, the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corps, and the people of our community.

FIRE COMPANY TRUSTEES

Frank Behrens reported the discussion of a 2nd driveway for the fire building. He also stated that in the future repairs would need to be made to the firehouse. The firehouse continues to accommodate other organizations by granting use of their facilities.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Durham Chief, Henry Hall discussed the possibilities of expansion of the firehouse. The fire ponds in town have all been identified and the fire company is looking forward to working with the P&Z to set new fire protection standards. He is concerned with the difficulties of keeping our younger volunteers involved, and the challenge they face, as it is very difficult for them to afford housing in the town. H. Hall stated that in addition to last years radio grant of \$250,000.00, the need of continued funding, so when the radio system needs to be upgraded the money would be available. Chief Hall reported the DVFC had 154 calls in 2006 to date.

DURHAM VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORPS

Scott Wright reiterated the importance of keeping our younger people in town. The EMS is very busy taking up to 400 calls per year. The DVAC & Fire Department are working together for a common goal and all continues to go well.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Frank DeFelice reported that there was a session held in town for businesses to train employees in CPR and the outcome for that session was very positive. There was a study conducted over the

last 3 years on crime in Town and the numbers continue to go down, however there is continued discussion on the need for additional police patrol. Bill Smith reported that the DEP will have 2 persons monitoring Miller's Pond this summer.

WATER COMMISSION

Ray Bahr reported that the Water Commission is currently reviewing its regulations and once that is completed the results will be posted on the website. The installation of the new booster station on Maple Avenue and distribution system is moving forward.

TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

Laura Francis reported

- The \$7000 dollar grant received was used to have all 1885 records microfilmed.
- There was a panel of 3 people that took place in the interview process for the towns' internships and the 2 positions have been filled.
- Revenue projections are being met.
- The town now has a full processing passport center.
- Training is available for those interested in mandating their own web pages.
- Traffic on our town web page continues to be high.
- There are numerous fundraising activities taking place to help pay for amenities that were not included in the original building project of the new town hall. The items include such things as audio-visual and telecommunication equipment for the public meeting and conference rooms. You can see a list of the Development Fund Activities on the Durham Web Page. <http://www.townofdurhamct.org>

BOARD OF FINANCE

Elmer Clark reported the new mill rate has been set at 26.25

Jay Berardino urged J. McLaughlin, now that the mill rate has been set, to draft a letter to all boards and commissions asking them to put a hold on spending and to incur no increases in their budgets.

TAX COLLECTOR

Martin French reported the Assessor and Collectors offices would be working together over the next couple weeks processing tax bills. Volunteers are welcome to help in stuffing the envelopes. He also stated that the residents would have 30 days for payment from the date the bills go out and that the due date will be shown on the bill.

SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD

Lainy Melvin reported the Senior Citizen Board continues to look for a location for a Senior Citizens building.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chet Raczka thanked all those who came out and voted.

In addition, reported the following:

- The track is going to need to have some repairs done to it that was not in the budget. Discussion continues on how this is going to be funded.
- The BOE continues to look for a depot for the buses.
- Brewster School parking continues to be a concern and the board is discussing how additional parking at the school can be resolved.
- The building projects took a lot of the capital; however they still have 6 portable buildings.

- There are going to be some administrative changes; look soon for job postings as some have chosen retirement.
- They are currently working with an architect and the schools to obtain a better looking sign for the schools to use on Main Street that would blend in better for the Historical District

C. Raczka closed with the invitation to the Board of Finance to attend the meetings, to sit in on the discussion while contracts are being negotiated and review the data.

M. Boord asked if the Benchwarmers were still active and if they could help out with the funding of the track.

C. Raczka stated they are very active and have already provided some donations.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jane Eriksen reported the use of the library has increased and with this increase the building is having some maintenance issues that are going to need to be addressed. J. Eriksen also reported that on July 15th, 2006 the Durham Town Library would receive an 'Outstanding Service Award in the State of Connecticut'.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Bill Milardo reported on:

- The renovations that are taking place on the Durham Center.
- The water system that is going to be rebuilt in the next 2-8 months.
- The need for funds once the wells are online. For the study of the ground water, design, samples, and lab fees.

He also discussed the increase of equity in residents homes has caused more intensive use of properties.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Dick McManus stated that with the equity buildup, properties are being improved and owners need to come through the system and be in compliance with building department regulations.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Robert Francis reported there have been some set back variances at the meetings, none causing any issues.

SKATING POND COMMITTEE

Dave Monroe reported there was a \$50,000 grant that was received and the committee has been meeting to discuss how to improve the site. Work will begin on the 3rd week of August. The improvements are in place so the upcoming winter will make the site desirable for the towns' people to have access. He asked for the continued support from the town maintenance crew in addition to their guidance while they go through the process.

TOWN HALL BUILDING COMMITTEE

John Corona reported the final painting is in the process of being completed and the project is right on schedule.

CEMETARY COMPANY

Barbara Olsen reported 4 monuments have been replaced and or repaired at the old Cemetery. Mica Hill landscaping has been upgraded with some additional plantings. There has been 2-3 acres purchased on the north side of Mica Hill Cemetery for future use.

J. McLaughlin thanked all in attendance for their time and updates on the Boards and Commissions.

J. McLaughlin called the Board of Selectmen meeting back to order at 9:53pm

Tax Refunds

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REFUNDS:

Amleto Romano or Amleto Christina M
161R Foot Hills Road
Durham, CT 06422
MV Refund \$50.24

Demartino, Barbara V
70R Tri-Mountain Road
Durham, CT 06422
Overpayment \$5302.05

Hettrick, Douglas & Lynnette
88 Hellgate Road
Durham, CT 06422
Overpayment \$3679.31

Sacco, Mary Jane
147 Green Lane
Durham, CT 06422
MV Refund \$465.73

Valerio, Janice
111 Wildwood Road
Durham, Ct 06422
MV Refund \$3.88

Vizard, Douglas L & Annyta Klei
30 Hemlock Ct
Durham, CT 06422
Overpayment \$3366.61

MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

2004 Motor Vehicle Taxes: Discussion

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO RESCHEDULE THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD OF SELECTMENS MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES

Letter of Commitment; CIRMA and the Town of Durham; discussion to accept

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS AUTHORIZING FIRST SELECTMAN JAMES L MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT THE LETTER OF COMMITMENT FOR BUDGET STABILIZATION PROGRAM BETWEEN THE CONNECTICUT INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CIRMA) AND THE TOWN OF DURHAM 7/1/2006 – 6/30/2009

The BOS discussed the advantages and disadvantages of signing the letter of commitment for the Budget Stabilization Program for 7/1/06 – 6/30/09.

J. McLaughlin suggested obtaining additional information prior to signing a 3-year term to be certain that this is the best rate.

After discussion, the motion was tabled until further information is obtained.

Charter Revision

MOTION BY MARYANN BOARD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 17, 2006 AT 7:30PM. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Crooked Hill Road Update

J. McLaughlin reported Attorney John Corona has redrafted a road construction agreement. At this time there has been no response.

J. McLaughlin updated the members on the billing to date.

345k Transmission Line Update

J. McLaughlin reported things continue to move along and there is no change at this time.

Approval of the corrected May 22, 2006 and June 12, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES DATED MAY 22, 2006. MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES. JAMES MCLAUGHLIN OBSTAINED

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO APPROVE THE JUNE 12, 2006 MINUTES WITH THE REVISION TO DELETING THE LAST LINE IN FIRST PARAGRAPH OF 345KV TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATE. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Old/New Business

J. McLaughlin discussed a letter received from the State of Connecticut dated June 20, 2006 addressing the Route 17 (Vicinity of Quick Stop Convenience Store) passing zone. The letter states that as a result of Mr. McLaughlin's request, a review of the passing zone will be conducted and the Town will be contacted once this is conducted.

J. McLaughlin reported at the time of the meeting that there has not been a response to the curb cut request at 51 Main Street in Durham.

Selectmen's Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kamey Ahrens