

**Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Monday, August 14, 2006**  
**7:00 p.m., Durham Public Library**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

J. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

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

**Pledge**

J. McLaughlin led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comments**

None

**Proclamation; Eagle Scout, Josh Siegartel**

J. McLaughlin read and presented the proclamation to Josh Siegartel for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Public Safety Committee**

**Committee Report on Need for Additional Police Support:**

At the request of J. McLaughlin, Frank DeFelice from the Public Safety Committee presented an analysis on Durham's need regarding the contracting of one or more additional Resident State Troopers. It was the committee's opinion that contracting for additional Resident State Troopers is an expense not warranted at this time. Supporting factors in this opinion include the effectiveness of CT State Police Troop F and Resident State Trooper Peter DiGioia in reducing and solving crimes, the increased police presence from CT State Police Troop F, and the successful implementation of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The committee offered additional recommendations to further reduce crime. F. DeFelice also stated the committee will continue to monitor the town's need for additional police services and report those findings to the Board of Selectmen.

R. Primus Edwards asked what the downside would be of getting another Trooper. F. DeFelice responded that the town would not get the interaction from Troop F that they are getting now.

M. Boord requested direct input from Peter DiGioia on the recommendation that F. DeFelice presented either formally or in writing.

R. Primus Edwards asked about the status of the Smart Machine. F. DeFelice responded that a volunteer group replaced the battery and the machine is still not in operation. J. McLaughlin stated that he would call Troop F to find out what needs to be done to get it operable.

**Committee Request to Expand the Number of Committee Members to Nine:**

In a memo dated January 4, 2006, the Public Safety Committee requested the Board of Selectmen to expand the number of committee members to nine and welcomed their recommendations. F. DeFelice stated that the same people were doing the bulk of the committee work. They need either additional membership or to increase participation of present members. He also would like a balanced, diversified group. Poor attendance is a major concern. M. Boord requested an attendance record from last year and suggested that the Board of Selectmen review this list and draft a letter requesting participation or resignation. J. McLaughlin suggested having town counsel review the Public Safety Committee language to see if the statement of "non-participation would lead to expulsion" could be added.

R. Edwards stated that vacancies and re-appointments due to term expirations needs to be reviewed. She informed the board that the List of Agencies, Boards, and Commissions does not list terms or party affiliation for the current members of Public Safety. It is possible that members may be serving past their term expiration. It was agreed that research into previous minutes would be conducted.

**Safety Issue: Charles Doe, 207 Mica Hill Road**

J. McLaughlin stated that Charles Doe of 207 Mica Hill Road has expressed concern over the limited sight line on Mica Hill Road on the curve. J. McLaughlin requested that the Public Safety Committee review and return to the Board of Selectmen their recommendations.

**Durham Volunteer Fire Company's Formal Application to the Town of Durham for the Durham Volunteer Fire Company's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade**

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS TO ACCEPT APPLICATION FROM THE DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARADE. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL AYES.

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO THE DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 14, 2006 FOR THEIR 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL AYES.

**Reimbursements Due to Union Members from the Demutualization Monies Received by the Town of Durham**

MOTION BY RENEE PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO RELEASE FUNDS. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL AYES.

**Lang & Corona, DiNatale Main Street Development: Discussion of Request to Obtain Tax Abatement for the Construction of Commercial Plaza**

Attorney John Corona stated that Pasquale DiNatale asked that he assist him in obtaining a tax abatement for the construction of his commercial plaza on Main Street that will house four local businesses. The request for abatement is to hold the taxes at their current, pre-Plaza development, rate. The tax abatements would be helpful to allow present business owners to make repairs on these properties and would send a signal that the town supports economic development. He went on the explain statute 12-65b. The Board of Selectmen requested that he collect information on the current tax status and projections for next year.

**Town of Durham WPCS/Durham Rod and Gun; Update**

J. McLaughlin stated that he had not heard back from town counsel on the status of the language that should be used in a letter that the Town of Durham's WPCA is to provide to the DEP and that he would be following up on this.

**Senior Citizen Tax Relief Committee; Name Members**

R. Primus Edwards asked if the Board of Selectmen is agreeable to support such a committee. The question of how many participants should be on the committee was asked. M. Boord suggested that the Board of Selectmen look at the prior defunct senior tax abatement committee for answers to the above questions and work forward from that point. J. McLaughlin suggested that M. French serve on this committee because of his involvement in ongoing research on the issue of tax relief for senior citizens.

**Health District Committee: Discussion; Name Members**

J. McLaughlin asked M. Boord to lead the committee. She commented that she would agree to be on the committee. R. Primus Edwards suggested 5-7 members. R. Edwards suggested Dede Levy be asked to serve on this committee. The Board of Selectmen will come back with suggestions on committee members.

### Carolyn Adams Request for Replacement of Broken Door at Temporary Town Hall

M. Boord stated that the door in question was the primary door to the town hall. J. McLaughlin stated that there were conflicting comments on who and how the door was broken. The Board of Selectmen decided to propose to C. Adams that the town pay 50% of the replacement cost.

### Crooked Hill Road Update

J. McLaughlin stated that he spoke with Mr. Allen Fritz, an Ivy Way resident, and that A. Fritz offered his home to hold a meeting with other Ivy Way residents, the town engineer, and the First Selectman to discuss lowering the elevation on Ivy Way Road for the Crooked Hill Road Construction project. J. McLaughlin noted that the developer would have to pay all costs, but that according to the deeds held by Ivy Way Road residents, all residents need to agree before any changes can be made.

### 345kV Transmission Line Update

J. McLaughlin discussed a letter dated August 2, 2006 from CL&P in reference to Notice of Commencement of Construction of the Middletown-Norwalk Transmission Project; Segment 1, Overhead Transmission.

He also presented a financial update as of 6/30/2006.

### Discussion of Charter Revisions and Actions Relative to Proposal from Charter Revision Commission

R. Primus Edwards stated that because Town Counsel was on vacation last week and the revised document that was sent to them for review via e-mail was received corrupt, they were unable to review it. The Board of Selectmen would now need to schedule a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> for discussion.

### Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2006. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL AYES.

### Old/New Business

Raffaella Fronc addressed the Board of Selectmen with a request to repair Chalker Road. She presented pictures of the current status of the road and stated that it was a safety issue. Tim Mac discussed the road condition history and the development of the road with new houses being built. He has been in contact with K. Bober and stated that the Public Works department does make repairs but this is an ongoing issue and asked if it would be cost effective to the town to oil and stone the road. A member of audience asked if the road is assessable to emergency vehicles. J. McLaughlin stated that the town is under no obligation to pave the road but he would talk to the town engineer for an assessment about getting a better solution to the drainage problem. J. McLaughlin will report back to the Board of Selectmen and the Fronc's when he receives that assessment.

### Selectmen's Comments

J. McLaughlin discussed a meeting held in reference to the Weston & Sampson billing and the Water Company grant. The billing is \$81,000 more than the \$750,000 grant, with this difference coming from a STEAP Grant. Larry Wagner from Wagner & Associates will issue a change order.

M. Boord requested confirmation of a \$500,000 STEAP Grant that was in a press release. J. McLaughlin stated he would get this information and get back to the Board of Selectmen.

### Adjourn

MOTION BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 9:20. MOTION PASSED WITH ALL AYES.

Submitted by,

Beth Moncata