

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2006

Call to Order and Roll Call

First Selectman Jim McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Durham Public Library.

Selectmen members present: James McLaughlin, Renee Primus and Maryann Boord.

Also Present: Ken Dale Jr., Pat Dinatale, Martin French, Richard Olsen, Barbara Olsen, Chris Flanagan, Bill Joyce, Donya Viola, Larry Macala, Pamela Kilbey-Fox, William Smith, and several others.

Pledge

J. McLaughlin asked Mr. Richard Olsen to lead the meeting in a Pledge of Alliance to the flag.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Public Comments

- Larry Macala asked if the Board of Selectmen has identified specific areas of item number five on the Agenda; Discussion of Charter Revision and Timetable that need to be revised. R. Primus responded that there is a process that will need to be gone through and then will open the issue to Public Hearing. L. Macala asked if the Board could approve before making recommendations. R. Primus stated that there is a time line and they have an objective for two Board of Selectmen meetings to discuss before appointing a commission which will give the opportunity for further discussion. M. Boord added that this was first discussed in 1999 and before any work is done there will be two Public Hearings.
- Ken Dale, Jr. asked for a reply from M. Boord in regards to the over expenditure of the Publics Works purchases. M. Boord stated that the auditors found the item expense during their audit.
- William Smith asked if they could be advised of how many full and part time town employees there are and their salaries. J. McLaughlin responded that he would follow up and provide that information at the next Board of Selectman's meeting.
- Donya Viola asked if after Pamela Kilbey-Fox, representative for discussion on A Regional Health District is going to speak tonight, if the townspeople would have to make a decision tonight whether for or against the plan. In addition the D. Viola commented on the Charter Revision and Timetable discussion as she has doubts about that. D. Viola continued with her feelings on the State Legislative matter on the re-evaluation that has put a burden on the tax payers and would like further explanation on the tax increase. J. McLaughlin responded with the explanation that there is a methodology as to how the values of the re-evaluation came to and that there can be discussion with the tax boards for any adjustments that the property owner feels should be made.

Discussion on Membership in the Regional Health District

Pamela Kilbey-Fox, State of Connecticut spokesperson for a Regional Health District presented to the Board of Selectmen and the towns people a discussion on the advantages of having a Regional Health District. P. Kilbey-Fox explained the process of a formation of district departments stating that after a public hearing the town may unite to form district departments of health, which shall be instrumental of their constituent municipalities. P. Kilbey-Fox discussed the State's position in moving forward to consolidate health departments in order to have them work more efficiently and provide better services to the communities. She reported that it is better now to choose our own health department region then to be forced to join with someone the Town would not want to join with at a later date. P. Kilbey-Fox stated that the charge for this would be eleven dollars per person per year and feels this would be a substantial savings to the Town. P. Dinatale stated that he feels this is giving over control to the government that we do not need to do; in addition he has a real concern for the state providing the Town with five thousand dollars just to have this discussion. J. McLaughlin responded there is no obligation to the Town by accepting the five thousand dollars other than to explore this option. R. Primus stated that she feels it is premature to discuss cost savings at this time as we do not know of the towns that are joining, although they are not full time employees they are employed by the Town and we are not going to terminate their positions so those cost will not disappear. K. Dale, Jr. asked if we do not join now are we going to be forced to join at a later date. P. Kilby-Fox replied there is a window of opportunity, currently there is a two year time frame and then towns could be forced to join, it is not clear where the bill is going to go. P. Dinatale asked if we know how our Health Officials feel about this. R. Primus replied that she has spoken with Bill Milardo and he is not opposed, not to say he is in favor either. In closing The Board of Selectman thanked Pamela Kilbey-Fox for her time and agreed there is going to be further discussion on this matter including the scheduling of a Public Hearing.

Discussion of Charter Revision Timetable

R. Primus and M. Boord presented the members of the Board with copies of proposed Charter Revision along with R. Primus giving a copy of the time table calendar. R. Primus asked Laura Francis, Durham Town Clerk, to review, and although felt the time table was aggressive, they also felt it was achievable and is in order. J. McLaughlin stated that although it is aggressive he also is in favor as adhering to tight schedule and following a strict schedule, which would bring more of the community out to vote while getting things accomplished at the same time. J. McLaughlin asked for a discussion on the number of Charter Commissioners should be approved for the board, although he is aware there is allowance for fifteen, he feels that nine might be a more adequate number. R. Primus agreed with the number however did not want to make that statement for certain for the fact there might be one or two additional members that would be an asset to the committee. The board felt they would take time until the next meeting to review both Charter Revisions presented and further discuss at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

United Church Lease

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the Lease between the United Churches of Durham and the Town of Durham and discussed the many changes in the new lease. Since there was no member present on the United Churches of Durham's behalf the board moved to add this to the next meetings Agenda for further discussion. R. Primus stated that contact should be made to Bruce Tubby, representative for United Churches of Durham, in asking him to attend the meeting to help with clarification on the changed items.

**Public Safety Committee; incorporation of language in the Towns municipal ordinance
Re: Deposit of Snow, Ice, Leaves or Other Debris on Public Roadways**

J. McLaughlin read a letter dated February 10, 2006 from Frank C. DeFelice, Committee Chairman for The Public Safety Committee, with the overview of the town's municipal ordinance; in order to address safety issues resulting from the deposit of snow, ice, leaves or other debris on public roads. M. Boord suggested adding these items to the existing ordinance. P. Dinatale asked who enforces these ordinances. M. Boord replied that letters are issued with fines, with the Board of Selectmen enforces them. R. Primus asked that the board obtain some of the ordinances and evaluate for further action.

Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce annual Chief Michael L. Green Award nomination

J. McLaughlin read a letter dated February 8, 2006 from Larry McHugh, President of Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, asking each Town Selectman and the Mayor of Middletown to nominate a deserving candidate for the 2006 Chief Michael L. Green Award. After discussion among the Selectmen of the many deserving potentials that volunteer for the town and who should be recognized for their service to the community, they decided on one individual that J. McLaughlin stated he would move forward with his letter of recommendation and submit a letter to the chambers office.

Approval of the February 6, 2006 meeting minutes

The Board of Selectmen moved to table the approval of the February 6, 2006 meeting minutes in addition to add the approval of February 4, 2006, February 11, 2006 and February 18, 2006 to the next meeting that is scheduled take place on March 13, 2006.

Old/New Business

R. Primus stated that she would follow up with Pamela Kilby-Fox as to how the Town is to move forward. M. Boord suggested scheduling a Public Hearing. R. Primus stated she would invite P. Kilby-Fox back to attend the Public Hearing that they would attempt to schedule for March 20, 2006, depending on P. Kilby-Fox's schedule. M. Boord stated that we need to be proactive in encouraging other towns into moving forward to consider forming Regional Health Districts. J. McLaughlin stated that our neighboring towns are not in favor as they are in fear of giving up local control. M. Boord responded with stating that this is a very complex issue that requires a lot of education, which is what should be provided to the townspeople.

Selectman's Comments

- J. McLaughlin reported that bills to date for Attorney Rebecca Adams stand at two thousand nine hundred and seventy dollars for her representation in the Crooked Hill Project. R. Primus stated that there has been a Public Hearing schedule for Inland Wetlands to discuss this issue on March 13, 2006.
- M. Boord asked for an update on the water project update. J. McLaughlin stated there is a water panel dysfunction issue. The engineer from the company stated he is going to further investigate the damages, however he advised if the panel is what is going to need to be repaired this is going to be in the price range of two to three hundred dollars. If there is going to be the need of a complete unit this could range up to two thousand dollars.
- J. McLaughlin reported that he had meet with Senator Chris Dodd, Ray Kalinowski, Rich Patterson and John Gowak from Durham Manufacturer and Legal Counsel for Durham Manufacturing, representatives from DeLauro's and Simons offices in regards to the

deadline on the process to free Durham Manufacturing from the EPA. There was a discussion in bringing the water from Middletown to Durham and if the EPA wants to bring this to closure the seven million estimate falls about six million dollars short. M. Boord suggested the two other possibilities; Parsons and Lake Grove that we could consider. J. McLaughlin stated that the EPA does not like having the wells in the gas station locations and we should consider all options provided.

- M. Boord provided the Board with copies of the Peterson Oil usage.

Public Comments

M. French asked the Board about a previous meeting with The Board of Finance where there was discussion of a pending salary survey. J. McLaughlin asked to pick up the item and it was let down rather quickly. M. French replied that the personal policy board is willing to review any proposal that was brought to them. Following with the problem being with that the approach they are under is the assumption of everything being equal; service, quality, etc. J. McLaughlin expressed his concern in them acting on recommendations and not with the review of hours, money and population of the town. M. Boord suggested them needing to be advised more specifically of what is expected of them. M. French stated they make reference to letters to the Board of Selectmen or studies, however none of that is included.

Adjourn

MOTION BY M. BOORD, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:53 PM; MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kamey Ahrens