

*BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
7:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 5, 2007
TOWN HALL, 3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM*

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order and Roll Call

First Selectman James McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Renee Edwards and Maryann Boord present.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. ALL AYES.

Public Comments

None

Discussion on Town Acquisition Policy and Budget Process

James McLaughlin asked Maryjane Malavasi, Finance Director to speak about the process. Maryjane spoke briefly on the subject stating that she spoke to the Head of Purchasing in Middletown. It was suggested that whatever policy Durham adopts that it be used for a year before making permanent policies for Durham. Renee Edwards asked what the time line was for the process. Maryjane stated the policy would be in effect by the next fiscal year.

James McLaughlin went on to discuss the budget process. Maryjane Malavasi had given each of the selectmen a budget workbook and explained how it was setup. She also stated that she had met with James McLaughlin to begin work on the first adjustments.

Maryann Boord expressed concern that the information was not given to the Selectmen early enough to study the budgets before it goes on to the Board of Finance. James McLaughlin read from the Charter which calls for departments to send their requests to both the Selectmen and the Board of Finance at the same time and that the process is on schedule. Renee Edwards stated that the Board of Finance could have their workshops at any time.

A Selectmen's workshop was scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2007.

Senior Tax Relief Committee Appointment

James McLaughlin discussed Rosemarie Naples resignation. It was decided that it was not crucial at this time for a replacement. The Chairman is ready to present his report.

Correspondence from Public Safety Committee on Recommendations

James McLaughlin read a letter received from the Public Safety Committee on Improvements to Higganum Road. Resident Hoyt spoke on several safety issues and thanked the Board of Selectmen for their attention to these issues and for their assistance.

James McLaughlin read a letter from the Public Safety Committee on Improvements to Maple Avenue. The residents of Maple Avenue were very pleased.

Appoint the Firm of Tyler Cooper as Town Counsel

James McLaughlin stated that the lead attorney for the town left the firm of Tyler Cooper but the town would remain with the firm. Maryann Boord questioned if the fees charged would stay the same. James McLaughlin stated yes.

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO NAME TYLER COOPER AS TOWN COUNSEL. ALL AYES.

Tax Abatement Discussion

James McLaughlin read from a list of five names requesting tax abatements. Maryann Boord requested a copy of the governing statute and it was decided that a meeting with the tax collector and the assessor was needed before the discussion would be put back on the agenda.

Crooked Hill Road Update

Nothing to report

345kV Transmission Line Update

James McLaughlin reported that Bob Francis called and would like to have a pole that is blocking his view moved over.

Approval of Board Of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 16, and January 29, 2007

The Minutes of January 29, 2007 were approved with the amendment to page 3 changing “the two final towns that they have selected” to districts that they have requested”, and “meet with the directors, to “meet with the Board of Directors”. “Committee asked for an extension of time to the end of February” not, “may file for an extension of time”.

MOTION BY RENEE EDWARDS, SECONDED BY MARYANN BOORD TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED. 2 AYES. JAMES MCLAUGHLIN ABSTAINED.

Old/New Business

Renee Edwards stated that a letter of resignation as Commissioner with the Planning and Zoning Commission was received from regular member Jan Melnik. She also stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has 30 days to name an alternate member to fill the position.

Selectmen’s Comments

Maryann Boord suggested again that the Board of Selectmen draft a letter in writing to support State Representative Raymond Kalinowski’s bill to name a portion of Route 79 to Charles Wilmer. She also stated that the family of Charles Wimler requested that it be called Charles W. Wimler Scenic Highway. James McLaughlin stated that a letter would be drafted.

Public Comments

Dave Montgomery spoke about it being human nature to resist change and the new ways of getting thing accomplished.

L. Backus spoke briefly on there not being speed signs posted on Higganum Road. The Resident State Trooper, Peter DiGioia is giving out speeding tickets.

Adjourn

MOTION BY MARYANN BOORD, SECONDED BY RENEE EDWARDS TO ADJOURN. ALL AYES.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Eileen Murphy

Public Safety Committee

Town of Durham, Connecticut

Town House Road, Durham, Connecticut 06422

To: Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Town House Road
Durham, Connecticut 06422

Date: January 12, 2007

RE: Improvements to Maple Avenue

Dear Selectmen and Selectwomen,

At its meeting on January 2, 2007 the Durham Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the following long-term improvements be made to Maple Avenue:

1. A three-way stop should be installed at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Old Cemetery Road. This should include new reflective signage and wide (12"-18") painted "stop-bars".
2. "Stop Ahead" signs should be posted on Maple Avenue a reasonable distance ahead of the approach to this intersection.
3. Additional Speed Limit Signs should be posted along the entire length of Maple Avenue. These should be reflective, to enable motorists to see them at night.

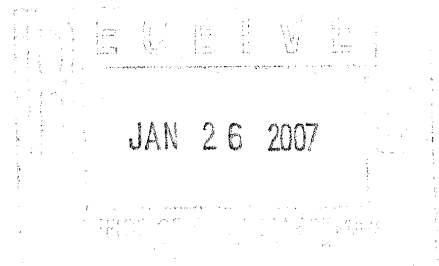
Additionally, a majority of committee members agreed that Old Cemetery Road should be changed from its present two-way traffic flow to a one-way traffic flow (west-bound direction only) to improve sightline issues at the intersection of Old Cemetery Road and Rt. 17. This would require the removal of the existing centerline stripe, posting of new "one-way" traffic signs at each end of Old Cemetery Road, and the posting of "no entrance" signs; visible from Maple Avenue.

As always, the committee is available at your convenience to discuss these recommendations.

On behalf of the Durham Public Safety Committee,



Frank C. DeFelice, Committee Chairman



Public Safety Committee

Town of Durham, Connecticut

Town House Road, Durham, Connecticut 06422

To: Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Town House Road
Durham, Connecticut 06422

Date: January 12, 2007

RE: Improvements to Higganum Road

Dear Selectmen and Selectwomen,

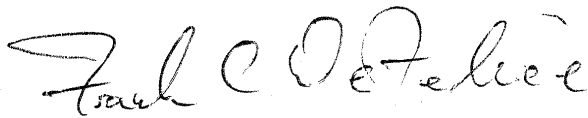
Following a site visit, at its meeting on January 2, 2007 the Durham Public Safety Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the following improvements be made to Higganum Road:

1. The roadway's centerline should be re-painted using highly reflective paint (containing glass beads or the like) to improve nighttime visibility.
2. Reflective Speed Limit Signs should be posted along the length of the roadway in both directions of travel.
3. Reflectors should be installed on guard rails to alert motorists.
4. The Durham Planning & Zoning Commission should be contacted regarding the possible inclusion of a street light at the entrance to the sub-division being constructed on the southern side of the road (east-bound travel lane). (Complete)

The Public Safety Committee will revisit the site upon completion of the above, to assess the need for possible additional measures; including additional lighting.

As always, the committee is available at your convenience to discuss these recommendations.

On behalf of the Durham Public Safety Committee,



Frank C. DeFelice, Committee Chairman

JAN 26 2007