

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MARCH 27, 2006

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

First Selectman Jim McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Durham Public Library.

**Selectmen members present:** James McLaughlin, Renee Primus Edwards

**Absent:** Maryann Board.

**Also Present:** Ken Dale, Ernie Judson, Lauri Stevens, Mike Germimia, Sue VanDerzee Town Times, Roger Kleeman, Matt Engelhardt Middletown Press, Steve and DeDe Levy, Donya Viola, and others.

**Pledge**

J. McLaughlin asked Mr. Ernie Judson to lead the meeting in a Pledge of Alliance to the flag.

**Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

**Public Comments:** None

**United Church Lease (documentation from Tyler Cooper)**

The committee discussed the changes to be address on the lease as follows:

- Page 4 Item 7g. The Lessee, at the Lessee's sole expense shall provide police protection and security for the Leased Area as provided for other town owned property.
- Page 5 Item 10. Lessee shall indemnify, defend and hold Lesser free and harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities and losses of whatsoever nature, including, but not limited to, claims for death and personal injury, including Lessee's employees, against or servants, or property damage, including that of Lesser, caused by, happening in connection with or arising directly or indirectly out of the initial or any subsequent exercise or enjoyment of the lease and / or rights conferred hereunder; except that this paragraph shall not apply to any claim, liability or loss caused by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the Lesser or any of its employees, agents or servants.

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE UNITED CHURCH LEASE AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES.  
MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

**Middlesex United Way: Proclaim the week of April 23-29, 2006 as National Volunteer Week in the Town of Durham**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF APRIL 23-29, 2006 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK IN THE TOWN OF DURHAM. MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

**Durham Street Name Approval requested by Pat DiNatale**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY PAT DINATALE FOR THE NEW STREET NAME OF CATHERINE DRIVE.

Pat DiNatale has requested to use Catherine Drive for the new 3 lot subdivision off of Mauro Drive. The Committee discussed this request noting that prior to the Board of Selectmen's approval this needs to be reviewed and approved by Town Engineer, Fire Department, Ambulance Corp and finally brought to the Board of Selectman. This item was tabled by the Board and J. McLaughlin will send this request to the appropriate people for their review.

**Resolution; State of Connecticut Department of Public Health**

The Committee reviewed the letter from Diana Lejardi, Public Health Preparedness Contracts Coordinator discussing the amendment to the previous contract.

E. Judson asked if there was a time table the State is looking for the Town to move forward to join a District Health Department.

J. McLaughlin stated there was not a time table; however there was a Public Hearing and it did not appear to be well received by the public. He also added that residents do not want to be forced into a district and the state is not at this time advising when that is going to take place.

Sue VanDerzee, Town Times asked that if the Town accepts the five thousand dollars, are we then obligated to join their plan?

J. McLaughlin advised that Pamela Kilbey-Fox has said no to this concern.

Roger Kleeman asked if we could use that five thousand dollars to hire a consultant to further investigate the options.

R. Primus Edwards stated that P. Kilbey Fox presented the State's preference that all Towns be part of a district and that we are now in a position to choose are own. The money should be used for all explorations. J. McLaughlin added that you only need two Towns to form a district and Durham partnering up with Middlefield might be another option.

E. Judson applauded the Board of Selectmen for there slow approach and expressed concern in the State of Connecticut pushing the Town to join.

**Republican Town Committee; request to serve alcohol beverages at the Volunteer Fire House on April 29, 2006**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO ALLOW ALCOHOL BEVERAGES TO BE SERVED AT THE VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE ON APRIL 29, 2006. MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

**Approval of the March 13, 2006 Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES DATED MARCH 13, 2006 AS PUBLISHED. MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

**Old/New Business**

J. McLaughlin reported an update on the Crooked Hill project stating that he has been in close contact with Attorney Rebecca Adams, Attorney Richard Adams and Brian Curtis PE Town Engineer. The developer of the site Mr. Ferris has a list of 13 requirements that need to be met before Board of Selectman can move the application to go before Planning and Zoning. To date, progress is going well.

J. McLaughlin report that the Water Company bid is out. This is a two part project; one part is to rebuild the system, which has been approved by the DPH, and the second is the booster station, which we are hopeful the submitted STEAP grant will be accepted to pay for this portion of the project.

R. Primus Edwards discussed a meeting between Susan Viccaro (Superintendent), Rob Gourley, Chet Razcka (Chair Board of Education), Jon Brayshaw (Middlefield First Selectman), Ed Meyer, Ray Kalinowski, Jim McLaughlin, and herself regarding concern by town officials and representatives over the Board of Education's 6.4% school budget increase. The meeting was productive, and C. Razcka made a very good attempt to inform Board of Education members at the March 22nd meeting of the town's concerns; however, despite his good intentions, the Board of Education voted for only \$100,000 in reductions.

J. McLaughlin added that although the quality of education is one top priority, the quality of life for all residents of Durham is equally important. He is still hopeful for a resolution.

R. Primus Edwards suggested inviting Scott Wright to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting for discussion of program cost sharing toward covering the billing shortfall not covered by Medicare for paramedic services.

J. McLaughlin stated he did not want anyone to be afraid to call for an ambulance for fear of it not being covered with there medical plans, adding that the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corp. has done a fine job in response rate to emergency calls. E. Judson agreed that the service that the ambulance provides is incredible.

**Selectman's Comments:** None

**Public Comments**

R. Kleeman asked for clarification on the Crooked Hill Rd item of the Town giving up some land. J. McLaughlin advised they are looking to move the road to the south. This gap where the road used to reside will be vacant. It needs to be decided if the property there is going to be deeded to abutting property owners or retained by the town.

D. Viola asked about the grant administration fee for \$50,000 for the New Town Hall that was apparently overlooked by the Town Hall Building committee. J. McLaughlin replied that with the grant of \$500,000, there was an administration fee of \$50,000 that was apparently not communicated to the committee. The shortfall will probably be resolved through the Town Hall Building budget contingency fund.

D. Viola stated according to the article in the newspaper there was mention to a change in the First Selectman's office and asked what those changes are.

J. McLaughlin replied there are no changes and things are moving along. The plumbing is complete as is the wiring. The Town also accepted a generous donation from a resident for the security system in the Town Hall.

R. Kleeman asked about the Town Hall water line hook-up, and if that was from the Public Works account. J. McLaughlin stated this was a Town Hall maintenance charge. Improvements to the septic system will be begun soon.

D. Viola asked for an update on the money acquired for the fire truck that was purchased from Middlefield. J. McLaughlin advised of a negotiation that is taking place with the City of Middletown.

A resident asked if there was any clarification on the rumors being heard of a 50,000 square foot building going up in Durham. J. McLaughlin stated that there has been some questions to the Town, but nothing is known at this time.

D. Viola applauded the Board of Selectmen for sending the letter to the Board of Education and thanked R. Primus Edwards for adding the quality of life being just as important.

**Adjourn**

MOTION BY R. PRIMUS EDWARDS, SECONDED BY J. MCLAUGHLIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 PM; MOTION PASSED WITH 2 AYES.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kamey Ahrens