

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 6, 2006

Pledge

J. McLaughlin asked Thomas F. Charpentier to lead the meeting in a Pledge of Alliance to the flag.

Call to order and Roll Call

First Selectman Jim McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Durham Public Library. Board of Selectmen members present: James McLaughlin, Renee Primus and Maryann Boord. Also present: Kurt Bober, Steve Levy, Thomas Charpentier, Fran Halloran, BJ Joyce, Mary Jane Parsons, Laura Francis, Richard Olsen, John Corona, Bob Hall, Harry Hall, Irene Roberts, Anne Cassady, Mary Ryan, Peter Charpentier, Larry Macala, John Andrulis, Ken Dale Jr., Susan Good, Peter Downs, Betsy Booz, Pat Dinatale, Martin French, Bob Fulton, Diane Levy, Trish Dynia, and several others.

Approval of Agenda

J. McLAUGHLIN MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY OMITTING #10 & #11 AND APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. R. PRIMUS SECONDED, MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

Public Comments

Kurt Bober asked, referring to #5 on the agenda, who was being appointed Fire Marshall, Deputy Fire Marshall and Deputy of Emergency Management. J. McLaughlin responded that Bob Morpurgo was being re-appointed Fire Marshall, Bill Witecki Deputy Fire Marshall and Steven Levy Deputy of Emergency Management. K. Bober asked why he hadn't been informed that he wasn't being reappointed Deputy Fire Marshall. R. Primus responded that he had been informed on three occasions. First, by a letter sent to the Durham Volunteer Fire Department [DVFD] and read at a meeting, where K. Bober was present, outlining the application procedure the First Selectmen had instituted for the Deputy Fire Marshall position. Additionally, the letter requested a recommendation from the DVFD for the Deputy Fire Marshall position. The DVFD declined to make a recommendation, leaving the decision up to the Selectmen. B. Witecki was the only person who applied for the Deputy position. R. Primus stated that additionally she called K. Bober on two occasions, left messages explaining that appointment for Deputy Fire Marshal would be on the agenda and that if he had questions regarding the application process that he should contact the First Selectman's office. K. Bober strongly objected, stating that he was being discriminated against, that B. Morpurgo wasn't a Durham resident or taxpayer, that B. Witecki has only been Fire Inspector for a year and that the two appointments were political. J. McLaughlin denied these were political appointments and pointed out that B. Morpurgo wasn't a resident at the time of his last appointment. K. Bober stated that by state statutes, Fire Marshall appointments were for life unless there was removal for cause. R. Primus responded that he was not the Fire Marshall, that state statutes didn't address terms for the Deputy Fire Marshall and that Durham's town charter specified four-year terms for the Deputy position.

K. Bober also objected to S. Levy's appointment, stating that it was political payoff. J. McLaughlin responded that wasn't true, that the appointment was made at the request of Chris Soulias, Director of Local Emergency Planning Committee [LEPC]. R. Primus reminded K. Bober that he was present at the LEPC meeting where the need for a Deputy with emergency operations and incident experience was discussed.

Proclamation

J. McLaughlin asked Thomas Charpentier to come to the front and read a Proclamation, signed by the three Selectmen, honoring T. Charpentier for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. The reading was following by a standing ovation.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Thomas Fattore Charpentier has created a life of service to his town, his schoolmates, and within the scouting heritage; and,

WHEREAS, he successfully improved the nature trail at John Lyman School by installing oak steps on a steep section of the trail, working with 35 youth and adult volunteers; and,

WHEREAS, he spread wood chips over a section of the trail used as a classroom and placed informational signs on trees; and

WHEREAS, a total of 200 hours was required to plan and complete the job, over a period of 18 months

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Durham, congratulate **Thomas** on the completion of this remarkable project

IN RECOGNITION THEREFORE, on behalf of the residents of Durham, we extend our sincere appreciation for this Restoration Project and hereby present this proclamation to **Thomas Charpentier** in recognition of attaining the rank of

EAGLE SCOUT

James W. McLaughlin
Boord
First Selectman

Renee J. Primus
Selectman

Maryann P.
Selectman

Dated in Durham, Connecticut, this 6th Day of February 2006

Appointments

FIRE MARSHALL

R. PRIMUS MOVED TO APPOINT BOB MORPURGO AS FIRE MARSHALL, J. McLAUGHLIN SECONDED. M. BOORD ASKED IF B. MORPURGO HAD BEEN NOTIFIED AND IF HE WAS INTERESTED. J. McLAUGHLIN STATED THAT B. MORPURGO WAS VERY INTERESTED IN CONTINUING AS FIRE MARSHAL. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALL

R. PRIMUS MOVED TO APPOINT WILLIAM WITECKI AS DEPUTY FIRE MARSHALL, J. McLAUGHLIN SECONDED. M. BOORD MOVED TO APPOINT KURT BOBER, THERE WAS NO SECOND. THE ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED WITH J. McLAUGHLIN AND R. PRIMUS VOTING AYE AND M. BOORD ABSTAINING.

DEPUTY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

R. PRIMUS MOVED TO APPOINT STEVEN LEVY AS DEPUTY OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, M. BOORD SECONDED. J. McLAUGHLIN NOTED THAT CHRIS SOULIAS ASKED THAT S. LEVY BE APPOINTED TO THIS FOURTH DEPUTY POSITION, JOINING FRANCIS WILLET, DANIEL MURPHY AND MAL PIERCE. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

Fire Department Trustees

The Fire Department Trustees requested permission to serve alcohol beverages at the Fire House on March 9th, 11th, 23rd, 2006; April 13th and 27th, 2006; May 2nd, 2006; and June 8th, 2006. Two of these dates are for events held by the Durham Democratic Town Committee and the Exchange Club. Both organizations must submit certificates of insurance to the Trustees one week prior to their event.

M. BOORD MOVED TO PERMIT SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT THE FIRE HOUSE, R. PRIMUS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

COST Membership

J. McLaughlin stated that the membership fee for the Connecticut Council of Small Towns [COST] hadn't been mailed after the last Board of Selectmen meeting and that the fee for 6 months was \$412.50.

R. PRIMUS MOVED TO APPROVE \$412.50 FOR A SIX-MONTH MEMBERSHIP TO COST, J. McLAUGHLIN SECONDED. M. BOORD NOTED THAT SHE MADE HER FEELINGS CLEAR AT THE LAST MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED WITH J. McLAUGHLIN AND R. PRIMUS VOTING AYE AND M. BOORD VOTING NAY.

The United Churches May Observances

J. McLaughlin read a letter from Reverend Riggles describing plans for the tercentenary celebration of the first public Christian worship service in Durham. Reverend Riggles requested permission to hold a special service on the Durham Town Green on Tuesday, May 23rd 2006.

M. BOORD MOVED TO PERMIT THE UNITED CHURCHES TO HOLD A SPECIAL SERVICE ON THE TOWN GREEN ON MAY 23, 2006, R. PRIMUS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

Building Committee, Town Hall furnishing budget

Fran Halloran reported on behalf of the Building Committee Subcommittee on Furnishing. She prefaced her report by praising the dedicated members of the Committee and the hard work and many hours given by them to this project.

After the selection of a contractor the committee carefully reviewed the budget and determined that it would be most cost effective, and least disruptive during working hours, to include five Add Alternate components during construction: 1. Air conditioning, 2. New basement access, 3. Second floor lavatories, 4. Fit out of the third floor meeting room, and 5. Reconstruction of the existing entrance. At the same meeting it was decided to remove the line item for furniture from the budget and at a later meeting window treatments were removed from the budget.

The original furniture proposal of \$95,000 did not include furniture for the third floor meeting room or window treatments. The Committee determined that furniture for all offices should be the same and the Furniture Sub Committee was formed to explore alternate pricing for furniture and window treatments. The goal was to find furniture that would be less costly while offering long-term use and durability and long-term warranties. The furniture was selected to be ergonomic which provides better working conditions and reduces health problems. Quotes received from two dealers using the State Contract List and GSA includes furniture for work spaces (desks, storage, files, task chairs, guest chairs), second floor conference space and third floor meeting room.

The Building Committee is requesting that a line item for \$86,000 for furniture for the renovated town hall be added to the budget.

M. Boord and J. McLaughlin praised the work of the Committee. R. Primus asked why it would be difficult to operate in the renovated Town Hall with old furniture. F. Halloran responded that it was part aesthetics and part planning for efficient workspace. R. Primus stated that \$86,000 was a lot of money and asked if there was anyway to phase it in, break in down into two or three parts. F. Halloran responded that it was possible to do the offices first, second floor conference next and third floor last. BJ Joyce from the Building Committee noted that the rooms weren't designed for the old furniture and they may not work in the new spaces, especially the computer technology. Also there would be additional expenses moving old furniture in and then out of Town Hall. F. Halloran stated that if the furniture isn't purchased when the renovation is occurring it often doesn't happen; people consider the project finished. BJ Joyce noted that some furnishings would be brought back.

R. Primus inquired about plans for private fundraising. F. Halloran noted that the fundraising was for items above and beyond basic furniture. Laura Francis was present and spoke about the kinds of things that might be included to enhance performance. Technology for meeting rooms including retracting screen, projector, podium, telephones, data lines; for conference room: white boards either low-end or high-end interactive, conference tables with hook ups for laptops and telecommunications; possibly window treatments if not approved as a budget line item; artwork, mill work and flags.

Item #11 (Tax Abatement; Warren Battista, LLC) was tabled for a future meeting.

Report on Regional Health District

R. Primus attended a meeting with representatives of the towns that would make up the proposed Regional Health District [RHD]. She presented a preliminary report to the Selectmen showing pros and cons of Durham maintaining its current methods vs. joining the RHD and asked if the Board would like to review the report or go through it at this meeting. J. McLaughlin noted that this was a decision that would eventually be made at a Town Meeting and welcomed town-wide participation during the review process.

M. Boord asked where the other towns stood; R. Primus responded that none of the other towns had gone to their legislative bodies yet, that RHD was still in the process of putting together a budget. M. Boord asked if a business plan had been put together yet; J. McLaughlin responded yes, but that it had omitted some costs so wasn't complete.

There are 11 towns with a population of 71,000 in the proposed plan with 1 central facility, Sanitariums and staff. Durham is the fourth largest town with a population of 7134. There is currently a shortfall of \$100,000 in income to cover expense. M. Boord stated that at the last meeting she attended, Durham would be one of the satellite towns. J. McLaughlin said that was still the plan but that our Sanitarian would now be split with other towns. R. Primus suggested that all the pros and cons in the report should be reviewed rather than picking and choosing items to discuss. M. Boord suggested that this be an agenda item at the next meeting. R. Primus stated that this report was a work in progress and that she looked forward to input for the next meeting.

M. Boord asked if there was a list of requirements to meet for bio-terrorism, emergency response, NIMS; that this would be important information to take into consideration. R. Primus said those would be considerations in planning, but doesn't know if there are requirements we are or are not meeting, it is an evolving situation. Steve Levy asked if the document would be available for review, on the web site or by hard copy. M. Boord suggested

having Pamela Kilbey-Fox review; R. Primus said she would share it with her but that she was sure of its accuracy and pointed out that they are trying to sell the program.

Approval of the Minutes of January 23, 2006 meeting

M. BOORD NOTED SPELLING CORRECTION FROM LARRY McCALLUM TO MACALA IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH AND PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION. M. BOORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ON JANUARY 23, 2006 AS CORRECTED, R. PRIMUS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED WITH THREE AYES.

Old/New Business

M. Boord reported that Deborah Reade, Family/Youth Services Director, has suggested a joint meeting of Durham and Middlefield's Boards of Selectmen to discuss percentage of usage and costs between the two towns. Currently costs are split on the same basis and RD13 but Middlefield has a higher percentage of usage.

R. Primus made a proposal to consider opening sections of the town charter for revision, something that has been put off many times. She presented a package for review including a calendar with a proposed schedule to meet state statues, timed to complete around an election for town vote. A special election would require a 15% majority; with a regular election a simple majority would be required for approval. M. Boord stated that R. Primus had done a nice job and she would try to resurrect old notes about what sections had been discussed for revision at previous meetings. It was agreed to put this on next month's agenda.

Public Comments

Laura Francis endorsed the concept of charter revision, noted that once any part was open all of it was and offered her assistance. She also suggested finishing the renovation project by furnishing it.

Richard Olsen asked if the Historic District Commission [HDC] approved the windows that have been installed in Town Hall. John Corona responded that the HDC did approve the windows that have been installed.

F. Halloran asked when the Board of Selectmen needed the revised furnishing budget and was told later in February.

Bob Hall requested that a drainage problem be solved to eliminate the problem of a mosquito breeding situation caused by standing water just a few yards southeast of the catch basin in the firehouse driveway. J. McLaughlin responded that he was aware of the problem and would look into it.

Harry Hall thanked Kurt Bober for sixteen years of service as Deputy Fire Marshall.

Irene Roberts asked what was planned for the Ackerman house. J. McLaughlin responded that a committee to try and come up with the best plan for all properties around the firehouse would be forming soon. The charge will be to find a plan that benefits both the volunteer emergency services and residents.

John Corona urged that the Town Hall project be finished, that costs would keep going up.

Responding to a question from J. McLaughlin, F. Halloran noted that the quote for \$86,000 furniture was not wood; the furniture quoted included laminates, wood-looks and steel. All quotes are half off list price.

John Corona supported the charter revision and noted that a lot had changed in 24 years.

R. Primus noted that during the last four years under M. Boord's administration there was never a fear to move forward with charter revision. There were reasons why this project hadn't gone forward due to the need to deal with crises such as the power lines and water company. J. McLaughlin noted he served on the last charter revision commission in 1981.

M. BOORD MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:25 PM, SECONDED BY R. PRIMUS. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
LAURIE STEVENS