

*Board of Selectmen's Meeting
7:00 p.m., Monday, March 8, 2010
3rd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall*

Meeting Minutes

Call to order and roll call

Laura Francis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Local Girl Scouts led with the pledge of allegiance. John Szewczyk and James McLaughlin present.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

Public Comments

None

Proclamation - Girl Scout Week

PROCLAMATION
Girl Scout Week, March 7, 2010

WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 12, 2010, marks the 98th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA, founded by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, throughout its distinguished history, Girl Scouting has inspired millions of girls and women with the highest ideals of courage, confidence, and character; and,

WHEREAS, through the Girl Scout leadership experience girls develop the skills and lessons that will serve them a lifetime so that they may contribute to their communities; and,

WHEREAS, Girl Scouting takes an active role in increasing girls' awareness of the opportunities available to them today in math, science, sports, technology and other fields that can expand their horizons; and,

WHEREAS, more than 3 million current Girl Scout members nationwide will be celebrating 98 years of this American tradition, with nearly 50 million women who are former Girl Scouts and living proof of the impact of this amazing Movement;

NOW, THEREFORE WE, the Board of Selectmen, of the Town of Durham, by virtue of the authority vested, do hereby applaud the commitment Girl Scouting has made to support the leadership development of America's girls and proudly proclaim the week of March 7, 2010, as Girl Scout Week.

Laura L. Francis
First Selectman

John T. Szewczyk
Selectman

James W. McLaughlin
Selectman

Dated in Durham, Connecticut, this 8th day of March 2010

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2010 AS GIRL SCOUT WEEK. ALL AYE

Compensation Review/Personnel Policy Board resignation

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE RESIGNATION OF CLAUDIA O'CONNELL FROM THE CR/PPB. ALL AYE

Request from the Durham Democratic Town Committee to serve alcohol at a fundraiser Saturday, April 24, 2010 at the Durham Firehouse

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE DURHAM DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE TO SERVE ALCOHOL AT FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 AT THE DURHAM FIREHOUSE. ALL AYE

Fiscal Analysis January 2010

L. Francis presented and reviewed fiscal analysis through February 28, 2010 as prepared by Finance Director.

As of February 28, 2010, the 2010 budget stands as follows:

	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
Original Budget	25,721,441	25,721,441
General Appropriations	4,400	-
Grant Appropriations	23,952	-
Reserve Appropriations	169,621	-
08/09 Carryovers	89,844	-
Revised Budget	26,009,258	25,721,441
Actual Year-To-Date	19,131,071	21,930,496
Balance Unspent or Uncollected	6,878,187	3,790,495
Percent Spent or Collected	73.6%	85.3%

Tax collection is at 95.4%, with real estate taxes still due over \$856,000. Our other local revenues are at about 56% as of this time which is down due to continued reductions in interest revenue as well as revenue that will not be collected for Trooper overtime. There is a total of \$161,000 in anticipated reimbursement for resident state trooper overtime which will not be collected due to changes in the billing processes at the state level. On the other hand, we will not be expending those amounts on the expense side either so this is a revenue neutral issue. State TAR funding is still being held up by state bonding issues, and accounts for another \$85,000 in revenues that have yet to be collected. Of these revenue items the only one of real concern is interest since that is revenue that we do not anticipate collecting at all, and represents approximately a \$20,000 loss.

On the expenditure side, we are 73.6% spent overall. At the moment our snow removal line still has money in it, but there are addition invoices for sand that are anticipated in the coming month. All departments have been doing an exceptional job at holding to their allocated budget amounts. Only \$19,349 has been allocated from contingency so far this year.

Overall, the Town of Durham is in much better shape today than we had been at this time last fiscal year. This is due to increasing revenues as well as tighter budgeting. The State’s current budget deficit is a real concern throughout Connecticut, Durham included. Reductions in State aid for this fiscal year are anticipated and we will need to closely monitor our spending as we wait to hear how the State’s budget deficit will be mitigated.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO ACCEPT FEBRUARY 28, 2010 FISCAL ANALYSIS AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

Tax refunds

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE (4) REFUNDS TOTALING \$648.37 AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR. ALL AYE

Local Traffic Authority request

a. Higganum Road

Request from resident Barbara Spallone was discussed; stop sign at intersection of Cherry Hill and Higganum Road to control speeding, reflective sign at the curve heading east just past Strawberry Hill to warn motorists of upcoming severe corner, and a school bus stop sign going west just before Strawberry Hill to warn motorists. Mrs. Spallone expressed her concern over speeding cars and safety issues.

J. McLaughlin noted that the request for a stop sign at the intersection of Cherry Lane and Higganum Road was not warranted; the State of Ct does not recommend the use of stop signs for speed control. J. McLaughlin thought that enforcement was a better solution.

L. Francis supports the school bus sign, a reflective curve sign (possibly positioned a little closed to the curve if State of CT regulations permit), and continued enforcement.

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A SCHOOL BUS STOPPING SIGN GOING WEST AND A REFLECTIVE CURVE AHEAD GOING EAST ON HIGGANUM ROAD. ALL AYE

Approval of Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 17th, 22nd, and March 2nd, 2010

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 17, 2010 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

MOTION BY LAURA FRANCIS SECONDED BY JOHN SZEWCZYK TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 22, 2010 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. ALL AYE

MOTION BY JOHN SZEWCZYK SECONDED BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN TO APPROVE MARCH 2, 2010 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SZEWCZYK, MCLAUGHLIN; AYE, FRANCIS-ABSTAIN

Old/New business

L. Francis explained that the Board of Selectmen met prior to this meeting in executive session to hear a presentation on the Blue Trail Range Study. She noted the report is a protected document in draft form which they did not vote to accept. The Board asked the consultant to make some changes so that it would be readable by everyone. L. Francis expects the changes to be done by next week.

Selectmen's comments

None

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

MOTION BY JAMES MCLAUGHLIN SECONDED BY LAURA FRANCIS TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:25 P.M. ALL AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Moncata