

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
January 21, 2003
Police Station Community Room
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Gerard Nolet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Gerard A. Nolet, Brian M. Ashe and Hal W. Haberman

Also Present: Town Administrator Susan Wright.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the January 6, 2003 regular and executive sessions were accepted as presented. The minutes of the January 15, 2003 Special Meeting were also accepted.

Visitor Comments and Questions: Mr. Alex Fox, 679 Laurel Street, commented about the leaf program and his desire to have the same services given to all residents of the town. He stated that matted and wet leaves will be impossible to bag and it is only fair that all residents in town receive the same level of services. Mr. Lou Rashe, 669 Laurel Street commented about the leaf program as well and felt that residents should be allowed to put leaves in the street for a spring pick-up and then a loader should come and pick up the piles. He complained that his neighborhood is always last. The Board promised to look into what could be done for the residents in the portion of town that the town was unable to reach during the second pass through due to the snow. Maura Murphy Peterson, Williams Street, asked the Selectmen about traffic considerations related to the entrance roads into the new fields at Turner Park. The Board directed her to the Park Commissioners and also suggested that the issue receive consideration from the Safety Officer. She also asked how to get an article on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting and was informed that the submission of the article and ten registered voters can place an issue before Town Meeting voters. Mr. Ed Bauchiero, 80 East Greenwich Road, asked the Board of Selectmen if they were going to be involved in the legal issues related to the Wetlands Violations at Turner Park brought about by the Park Commissioners actions. He stated that fines by the DEP may be levied. The Board promised to look at the issue and expedite their involvement to resolve the issue.

Louise Lines, Town Clerk, Treasurer and Collector with Bond Counsel Clark Rowell from Ropes and Gray: Ms. Lines and Mr. Rowell were present to have the Board approve \$5.6 million in borrowing. The Bonds will be issue at an interest rate of 4.07%, which is much better than was originally estimated. Short-term borrowing has been implemented for \$16 million and this \$5.6 million will be in long-term bonding. Mr. Rowell explained that it is better financially to put some of the debt into long-term borrowing rather than roll over short-term notes again and again. The town received ten bids for the bond and the rating provided by Moody's was a AA3 with a negative outlook. What this means that the rating agency will review and probably downgrade within the next 12 months. The impact of the state's fiscal crisis and the town's own financial situation with virtually no levy capacity and very little in uncommitted reserves such as free cash and stabilization will impact future ratings of the town.

Mr. Ashe asked about the impact of the lower rating and Mr. Rowell explained that a lower rating translates into a higher interest rate on the bonds. He noted that on this bond sale, the underwriters purchased insurance to guarantee the bond holder if the town did not make payments. With regard to other bonds sold by the town, insurance had not been a factor. The cost of insurance is rolled into the total package and for this bond probably added \$19,800 to the total package of costs. Mr. Rowell warned that Moodys will be looking closely at the town and how the town deals with budget cuts and also how the town looks at untapped revenue sources.

They will be looking at how the town uses its reserves and what types of services are considered priorities of the town. After much discussion, the Board took the following vote:

“VOTED:

That all action taken by the Town Treasurer in advertising for public sale of the \$5,630,000 General Obligation Bonds (the “Bonds”) of the Town authorized under Chapter 44, Section 7 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended and supplemented, and by votes of the Town duly adopted as further described in Exhibit A attached hereto, which by reference thereto is hereby incorporated in and made a part of the minutes of this meeting and this vote, and, in that connection, preparing and distributing a Preliminary Official Statement and Notice of Sale and a final Official Statement, be and hereby is ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted;

That the Bonds shall be dated as of January 15, 2003, payable on June 15 in each of the years as follows: \$100,000 in 2004, \$205,000 in 2005, \$215,000 in 2006, \$225,000 in 2007, \$235,000 in 2008, \$245,000 in 2009, \$255,000 in 2010, \$270,000 in 2011, \$280,000 in 2012, \$295,000 in 2013, \$305,000 in 2014, \$320,000 in 2015, \$335,000 in 2016, \$350,000 in 2017, \$365,000 in 2018, \$380,000 in 2019, \$400,000 in 2020, \$415,000 in 2021, and \$435,000 in 2022, shall be in the denomination of \$5,000 or any authorized multiple thereof, and shall be numbered consecutively; and subject to the provisions of this Vote, the Bonds shall be in such form as the Treasurer and a majority of the Selectmen shall determine or approve by their execution of the Bonds;

That the Bonds maturing in the years 2004 through 2013, inclusive, shall not be subject to redemption prior to their stated dates of maturity, but the Bonds maturing on or after June 15, 2014 shall be subject to redemption prior to their stated dates of maturity, at the option of the Town, on and after June 15, 2013, either in whole or in part at any time, and if in part, by lot within a maturity, at the par amount of the Bonds to be redeemed plus interest accrued to the date set for redemption;

That the Bonds shall originally be issued by means of a book-entry system evidencing ownership and transfer of the Bonds; and in the event of failure or termination of the book-entry system, Wachovia Bank, National Association in Boston, Massachusetts, shall issue replacement bonds in the form of fully registered certificates and shall act as bond Registrar, Transfer Agent and Paying Agent, therefore;

That the Bonds maturing in each respective year shall bear interest payable on June 15 and December 15 in each year, commencing December 15, 2003, at the respective rates per annum as follows:

Year	Principal Amount	Interest Rate	Year	Principal	Interest
2004	\$100,000	2.25%	2014	\$305,000	3.85%
2005	205,000	2.25	2015	320,000	3.95
2006	215,000	2.25	2016	335,000	4.05
2007	225,000	2.50	2017	350,000	4.15
2008	235,000	2.75	2018	365,000	4.25
2009	245,000	3.25	2019	380,000	4.35
2010	255,000	3.50	2020	400,000	4.40
2011	270,000	3.75	2021	415,000	4.45
2012	280,000	4.00	2022	435,000	4.50
2013	295,000	4.40			

That the bid of **FTN Financial Capital Markets** to purchase the bonds at a price of **par** and interest accrued to date of delivery, resulting in a true interest cost of **\$2,753,574.17** and a true interest rate of **4.070608%**; being the best bid received for the Bonds, bearing interest at the lowest true interest cost, be and it hereby is accepted, and the Town Treasurer be and hereby is authorized to deliver the Bonds to the aforesaid purchaser or order against payment therefore;

That the Treasurer be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Certificate generally as described in the Official Statement relating to the Bonds and to incorporate by reference thereto in each Bond such Certificate, both in such form as the signatories may approve by their execution thereof, and the obligation of the Town contained in such Certificate, is hereby approved and confirmed; and

That the Bonds to be issued pursuant to this vote may be secured by insurance or by letter or lines of credit or other credit facilities in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 22C of the General Laws, as the Treasurer or Finance Director, as appropriate, shall determine, and the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer and the Town Clerk be and hereby are, and each of them severally is, authorized to contract for and purchase, if necessary, any policy of municipal bond insurance with respect to the Bonds, and each such officer may take all such action, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts, or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing Vote.”

The Bond paperwork was signed and the Board thanked Ms. Lines and Mr. Rowell for coming in.

“Pay as You Throw” Presentation: Present for a presentation on the concept of implementing a “Pay As You Throw” Trash System were Arlene Miller and Irwin Pers of the Recycling Commission and Carol Dann, MRIP Coordinator for regional 3 of the Department of Environmental Protection. Also present was Town Accountant Paul Pasterczyk. The DEP has provided technical assistance to the Town of Longmeadow to examine the details pertaining to implementing a trash fee and “Pay As You Throw” system. Ms. Dann began the presentation by stating that the PAYT system encourages recycling by transferring the economic incentive to recycle to the user. A PAYT system results in a reduction in the amount of trash disposed of in the solid waste stream and increases the amount of material being recycled.

Ms. Dann walked the Board of Selectmen through her analysis. Her planning model was based on a flat fee to each household of \$110 per year for collection services and then the sale of two size bags, a large bag for \$1.00 and a small bag for \$0.60. Households would receive recycling collection and solid waste collection as part of their flat household fee and their bag fee would pay for the disposal costs. Recycling disposal would still remain free. Over 100 towns in the state have a PAYT system in place. Some towns use a barrel with a sticker, some use the bag program which requires residents to purchase specially marked bags to dispose of their trash. There was discussion about how the bags are sold and distributed and it was pointed out that typically the bags are sold throughout the town at local businesses that want to the added customer traffic. The point was to choose a model that would fit for the town.

The consultant pointed out the system is fair in that those who dispose of more trash pay a higher cost. If you go to Florida for three months of the year and have no trash, you are not incurring additional costs. It shifts the costs to those who generate the most trash. The assumptions that been shown to hold across the state is that the amount of trash going into solid waste is reduced when a PAYT system is implemented and recycling increases. A reduction of anywhere from 10-30% in the solid waste stream has been found to hold true. The model prepared for Longmeadow

used the more conservative number of 10% because Longmeadow is already has a high percentage of recycling effort. However, Ms. Dann noted that Lexington, a town in the eastern part of the state, similar to Longmeadow in demographics, experienced a 33% reduction in solid waste after implementing a PAYT system. People think more about consumption and trash with a PAYT system and make conscious decisions to reduce their consumption of disposable goods. It was noted that, using the conservative figures, the savings to Longmeadow in reduced solid waste disposal was estimated at \$27,000.

Mrs. Miller noted that the PAYT system offers two things to the Board of Selectmen – assistance in dealing with the loss of state aid to the town during the state's fiscal crisis and an equitable way to impose a user fee. The recommendation to go to a PAYT system has long been part of the town's Solid Waste Master Plan and is unanimously recommended by the Recycling Committee. She stated that the Education subcommittee of the Recycling Commission is ready to assist with the implementation of the PAYT system so that it could be up and running by July 1, 2003. She cautioned that the Board of Selectmen would need to make a decision on the PAYT system in time to provide the opportunity to implement the system at the start of the fiscal year.

The Board took the matter under advisement at Mr. Nolet challenged the public to give feedback on the matter.

Old Business:

1. FY04 Budget Issues: Paul Pasterczyk was present to discuss budget issues with the Board of Selectmen. The Board needs to meet with some of the larger departments to discuss what types of services will be impacted by the proposed budget cuts. The idea of a furlough for some employees was discussed briefly. The issues of a trash fee, override and other revenue producing ideas were discussed in general terms and no decisions were made.

New Business:

1. Request for Sign by the Unitarian Universalist Church: The Board reviewed a request to place a second sign on the right side of Converse Street, as you travel toward East Longmeadow, under the street light which stands between Lake St. and Park Road-South. The sign would be placed two feet from the pavement. The Board decided to refer the matter for comment to the Safety Officer.

2. Snow and Ice Removal: The Board noted that the Winter Roads budget was almost completely spent. Of the \$100,000 budget, \$96,667 has been spent. The Board voted to incur expenditures in excess of the available appropriation as allowed under MGL. C.44, Section 31D.

3. Substitute Crossing Guard Appointments: The Board took no action on the request.

Town Administrator's Report: The Board reviewed a number of items and took action on the following:

Polling Places: A subcommittee to discuss improving parking for elections will be formed including Louise Lines, the Town Administrator, Mike Kirby, Safety Officer, the Chief of Police and someone from the School Department. The Republican and Democratic Town Committee chairs will be informed of the progress of this subcommittee.

Personnel Policy Review Board: The Board adopted the position descriptions for the Captains in the Police Department and approved the reclassification for the Information Systems Technician position after noting that these actions were recommended by the Personnel Policy Review Board.

MIIA Loss Control Program: The Board agreed to participate in the new MIIA Loss Control Program, which has been designed to help municipalities voluntarily lower their insurance costs. If the town undertakes the prescribed efforts to control insurance losses in FY03 the town will earn credits that will be applied to the cost of insurance in FY04.

Leaf Program: The Board asked the Town Administrator to find out from the Superintendent how much money is left in the leaf program account and what can be done to pick up the leaves in a bulk pick-up rather than bags for at least the approximately 1/3 of the town that did not receive a second pass for bulk collection. The Board stressed that they wanted to investigate the feasibility of at least a bulk pick-up in the parts of town that had not had a second pick-up as well as the feasibility of doing at one complete pass through town in the spring.

No Left Turn at Wolf Swamp School: The Board voted to approve the no left turn at Wolf Swamp School. Specifically the following was voted:

“To amend the town’s traffic by-laws to prohibit left turning traffic, from the east lane of Wolf Swamp Road into the east entrance of Wolf Swamp School, during peak school traffic times of 8:15 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. and 2:15 P.M. to 3:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.”

Correspondence:

Memo from Cindy French regarding Town Report: The Board reviewed a memo from Ms. French seeking permission to order less Town Reports this year, since the Town Report will also be available on the town website. The Board concurred with her suggestion and authorized printing 1000 copies instead of 1500.

Capital Planning Committee: The Board agreed to meet with the Capital Planning Committee at their next meeting.

Regional Selectmen’s Meeting: The Board noted that the next Regional Selectmen’s Meeting would be on February 6, 2003 hosted by the Town of Hampden.

Letter from Remmy Martens, 1053 Frank Smith Road re: mailbox and suggestions on advertising changes in the trash pick-up schedule.

Letter from William Cunningham, resident re: snow bank on corner of Wenonah Place and Greenacre Avenue. Referred to Supt. of Streets to answer letter.

Letter from Timothy Cotz, 7 Porter Lake Drive re: snow plowing. Referred to Supt. of Streets to answer letter.

Letter from Alex Fox, 679 Laurel Street re: leaves: noted by the Board, response will be sent.

Letter from Mark Lantzakis, 45 Whitmun Road re: leaves: noted by the Board, response will be sent.

Email from resident with no name: re: suggestion for leaf program next year. Noted by the Board.

Email from Deborah A. Grogan re: suggestions for the Board of Selectmen on leaves, special education and the school budget. Noted by the Board, response sent via email.

Letter from Mr. Albert Greenfield, 130 Woodside Drive, re: snow plowing. Noted by Board, no response needed.

Letter from the DOR re: Article to freeze taxes for Senior Citizens: Noted by the Board. Town Administrator notes that letter has been shared with main petitioner of the article.

Bulletin from the State re: FY03 Special Education Costs: Town may lose approximately \$40,000 in payments made for students attending out of district placements.

Seeing no further business the Board voted to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining agreements. On a roll call vote:

Mr. Nolet	yes
Mr. Ashe	yes
Mr. Haberman	yes

The Board noted that it would not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wright
Town Administrator