

Minutes
Select Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday January 22, 2008
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm

Chair Person Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Select Board Persons Hal Haberman, Paul Santaniello and Kathleen Grady.

Select Person William Scibelli arrived at 7:03 pm.

Select Person Brian Ashe arrived at 7:44 pm.

Also Present (as signed in): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; S. Scriver Sr.; G. Nolet; J. Occhiuti; S. Altman; K. Taylor; B. Brooks and C. Freedman.

Announcements:

- The Presidential Primary will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2008. The Polls will be open for ALL precincts at the Community House from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm.
- The Longmeadow Select Board is accepting nominations for its annual “Citizen of the Year” award.
- There will be a public forum Wednesday January 23, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Greenwood Center. The topic will be Town Finances. All are welcome to attend.

Acceptance of Minutes

- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the Thursday January 3, 2008 Special Meeting Notes as presented. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person Kathleen Grady made a motion to accept the Monday January 7, 2007 Regular Meeting Notes with corrections. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Select Person William Scibelli arrived to the meeting.

7:03 pm Visitor Comment and Questions

- The owner operator of Friendly’s located at the Longmeadow Shops, S. Scriver, addressed the Select Board regarding his water bill for the restaurant. He requested clarification regarding the rebates. Mr. Scriver is hopeful that the Select Board is considering alternative solutions as he feels strongly that the announced plan is unfair.
- Mrs. S. Altman read a statement to the Select Board expressing her dissatisfaction with the announced rebate program.
- Mr. C. Freedman read a statement to the Select Board regarding the announced rebate program and stated that he feels it is not fair and asked that the previous action be reconsidered.

There were several more unhappy residents in attendance wishing to address the Select Board

regarding the resolution to the water and sewer issue. Chair Person Hal Haberman stated that if time allowed, he would continue visitor comment and question period after the scheduled items on the agenda.

7:18 pm State Representative Mary Rogeness – State Representative Mary Rogeness informed the Select Board that a bill she is sponsoring would return more than \$400 million to municipalities as a one time payment to make up for the lottery money the state diverted in 2003. She requested that the Select Board write a letter to surrounding communities and to other State Representatives supporting that bill. She also added that in meeting with other communities she represents, there is an interest in attending a regional Select Board Meeting.

The Select Board had a brief discussion with State Representative Mary Rogeness regarding some other topics in local aid.

7:34 pm Vacancy Applicant Interviews –The following individuals were interviewed for Town Boards and Committees. The Select Board will make appointments at the next Regular Meeting.

Bruce Leshine - Audit Committee; Historic District Commission

Ray McCarthy – Audit Committee

Stephen Bennett – Zoning Board of Appeals

Donald Munson – Zoning Board of Appeals

James Wheeler – Conservation Commission; Historical Commission

Select Person Brian Ashe arrived to the meeting at 7:44 pm

7:45 pm Dean Rogeness – Pension Review Report - The Pension Review Task Force members (Peter Landon, Dean Rogeness, Larry Starr, Edward Steiger and Ernest Welker) made a detailed power point presentation to the Select Board. They strongly recommend that the Hampden County Regional Board of Retirement should join and appoint PRIM as the sole investment manager of the Hampden County Regional Board of Retirement Systems pension assets. After some discussion Select Person Paul Santaniello requested that the Hampden County Regional Board of Retirement board members be invited to a Select Board meeting to plead their case. They will be invited to attend the February meeting. Select Person Kathleen Grady invited the members of the Task Force to make their presentation at the Regional Select Board Meeting, they accepted and will attend. (Date of the Regional Select Board Meeting is to be announced.)

8:00 pm Iron Chef Liquor License Application Hearing –Mr. Michael Chen was present at the meeting with his attorney. The Select Board reviewed the application and asked Mr. Chen some questions. Select Person Paul Santaniello has a concern with the fact that Iron Chef has been allowing customers to bring alcohol into the restaurant for the last several years. Mr. Chen stated that he was unaware it was illegal to allow that and added; as soon as he was made aware he submitted his application. Select person William Scibelli made a motion to grant the Liquor License to M.C.C.S.,LLC; D.B.A.. Iron Chef Asian Cuisine, Owner / Manager Michael Chen; under the condition that alcohol cease being served when food is no longer served and that all servers be TIPPS certified with proof of that certification provided to the Select Board. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote. The motion carried 4:1. Select Person Paul Santaniello voted NO.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business

1. ***Designate Representative for Williams Middle School Principal Search*** – After a brief discussion Select Person Kathleen Grady suggested publishing the information and appointing an individual at the next meeting from those who express an interest and are qualified. Everyone agreed; the topic will be discussed at the next meeting.
2. ***Revise Objects on Tree Belt Policy*** – Select Person Paul Santaniello read the bi laws to the other members of the board. After some discussion the Select Board agreed that they needed some clarification from Town Counsel. Town Manger Robin Crosbie will contact Town Counsel for his opinion and the matter will be taken up at a later meeting.

7:56 pm Consent Agenda – Sign Presidential Primary Warrant- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The Select Board signed the Primary Warrant.

Correspondence, Select Board Reports ,Town Manager’s Report – were passed over this evening to accommodate residents wishing to discuss water and sewer bills.

9:20 pm Select Person Kathleen Grady left the meeting.

9:20 pm

Because several residents were unable to speak during visitor comment and question time; Chair Person Hal Haberman allowed some time at the end of the meeting.

- B. Brooks addressed the Select Board regarding his water and sewer bill and required explanation of the rebate program.
- J. Occhiuti stated that this needs to be a lesson learned and suggested that the Select Board rectify it in the simplest way.
- G. Nolet stated that the release of the rebate program was not clear and how it was perceived by the public was a gross misunderstanding. He stated that the only way the Select Board can make this go away is to grant full rebates on both water and sewer.

Select Person Paul Santaniello made a motion to schedule a Special Town Meeting for as soon as possible therefore a vote can be taken and the rebates can be paid back to the residents sooner rather than later. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

- The discussion continued. Chair Person Hal Haberman and Select Person Paul Santaniello requested from Town Manager Robin Crosbie, some new figures with the scenario that the residents be given a refund on the water bills [in addition to the sewer rebate] in the amount of the difference of the bill total and what the total would be with the new rate [\$1.70] for the 1/3 of the residents that were mostly effected as a result of the rate change. The conversation

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will continue at the next regular meeting.

Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried 4:0. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary