

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Tuesday – February 22, 2005
Police Station Community Room
7:00 p.m.

Chair Person Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the agenda.

Present: Select Board Persons Hal Haberman, John Papale, Kathleen Grady and William Scibelli.

Also Present: Interim Town Administrator Norman Thidemann.

Absent: Select Person Brian Ashe.

Acceptance of Minutes:

February 7, 2005 Regular and Executive Session minutes were accepted as presented.

Visitor Comments and Questions:

None.

Fibertech Application:

Gary Muisus of Fibertech Networks explained their application to install fiber cable in Longmeadow. Town Counsel has reviewed the application and all was in order. After several routine questions were asked by the Board, Select Person Grady moved the motion to approve, seconded by Select Person Scibelli and the motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Wheelmeadow Brook Project (WBP)

Select Person Scibelli spoke about the WBP as did Select Person Grady who was present at the Water and Sewer Commission meeting. It was moved by Select Person Scibelli and seconded by Select Person Grady, and voted unanimously to send WBP to the Capital Planning Committee.

New Business:

Choosing a Select Board Chair Person

Chair Person Haberman spoke about choosing a new Chair of the Select Board and setting a policy before the May election. The Board took the issue under advisement.

Minutes Taking for Select Board Meetings

After some discussion it was decided by consensus to have the new Town Manager resolve the issue of Select Board meeting minutes.

Joint Meeting with School Committee

It was the consensus of the Board to schedule a joint Select Board/School Committee meeting after Town Manager Robin Crosbie assumed her duties. Meeting should take place second or third week of March.

Regional Selectmen's Meeting

The Region Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2005 in Hampden. Items to be discussed at the meeting include regional purchasing and regional trash bid.

Consent Agenda:

The request to close Longmeadow Street for the “Winterfest” and the Fire Department reserve fund request were unanimously approved.

By-Laws Committee Review (BLRC):

Dean Rogeness, Chair of the By-Laws Review Committee presented the Committee’s report and explained the purpose of the Committee. Mr. Rogeness noted that all the changes are posted on the Town’s web page and they are on file in the Town Clerk’s office and in the Library. Mr. Rogeness also noted that the Committee plans to hold a public meeting on the changes. Select Person Grady asked the BLRC Chair if the changes will be sent to Town Attorney? Select Person Grady also had some comments and concerns regarding the inclusion of a list of department heads and that the budget process needs to include the Town Manager, who now is responsible for budget preparation. Select Person Grady also commented that she felt that the proposed appointed committee selection process is more complicated than it needs to be. This same concern was echoed by Chair Person Haberman.

Dean Rogeness suggested that the Select Board appoint a spokesperson to channel questions to the BLRC. The Chair Person appointed Select Persons Grady and Scibelli to serve as liaisons to the BLRC.

Chair Person Haberman thanked Mr. Rogeness and the Committee for their service to the Town.

Verizon Cell Water Tower Lease:

After a brief explanation of the contract by Town Counsel the Select Board voted to sign the lease to rent space on the Water Tower to Verizon. Motion on the above by Select Person Grady and seconded by Select Person Scibelli and voted unanimously.

Interim Town Administrator’s Report:

Norman Thidemann thanked the Select Board for their support during the past year. Mr. Thidemann also thanked the entire Town staff especially Administrative Assistant Cynthia French and former Town Administrator Susan Wright.

The Select Board each thanked Mr. Thidemann for his service to the Town.

Correspondence:

None mentioned.

Executive Session:

None.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Thidemann
Interim Town Administrator