

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Budget Hearing /**  
**Select Board Regular Meeting**  
**Monday March 16, 2009**  
**6:00 pm**

Chair Person Paul Santaniello called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Present:** Select Board Persons Paul Santaniello, William Scibelli, Robert Barkett and Kathleen Grady.

**Absent:** Brian Ashe

**Also Present (as signed in):** School Committee C. Swanson; E. Stolar; C. Freedman; J. Occhiuti;  
Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners.

**Announcements** – Longmeadow Select Board is accepting nominations for its annual “Citizen of the Year” award. Letters of nomination should be sent to the Select Board, 20 Williams Street, by April 2, 2009.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the March 9, 2009 Special Meeting minutes as presented. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 3:0. Select Person Robert Barkett abstained.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the March 9, 2009 Executive Meeting minutes as presented. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 3:0. Select Person Robert Barkett abstained.

**6:01 pm Budget Hearing**

Chair Person Paul Santaniello called the hearing to order at 6:01 pm and opened the floor for public comment.

- Ms. Stolar asked if the budget presented included salary increases. She added that more information needs to be available to the residents regarding employee salaries.
- Mr. Barowsky reported to the Select Board, as requested at the last meeting, the results of the Finance Committee vote on the budget presented. The Finance Committee voted against recommending the budget as presented. They feel that the Town needs to increase their portion of the cuts, as well as not to use the \$318k but to leave it in the Operational Stabilization Fund for FY2011. The Select Board discussed their decision.
- Ms. Swanson, Chair of the School Committee, shared information regarding a meeting held earlier in the day. The School Committee feels that because the States assumptions have changed the allocation of funds needs to be re-examined. The School Committee realizes that cuts must be made, however; the reduction in staff at the Middle School will have a direct negative effect on the students and have a large impact in general. They are asking that the boards work together, collectively and creatively to figure out a way to save those specific staffing cuts. The School Committee understands that other cuts in the High School and the Elementary (due to enrollment numbers) school will stand.
- Mr. Nolet reminded the Select Board that the Finance Committee can only make recommendations to the Select Board and that they [the Select Board] have ultimate decision making power. He also shared his thoughts regarding the budget.

- Mr. Wojcik shared his thoughts regarding comments made this evening about the budget.
- Mr. Freedman suggested using residents to assist the Town by providing services free of charge that they specialize in.
- Mr. Occhiuti congratulated the Select Board on the “open forum” format for the evening. He challenged the Board to find the original problem that caused the Town to be in the situation that it is in now. He also shared his thoughts on the budget.

Select Person William Scibelli stated that the main topic of conversation this evening surrounded approximately 1% of the \$51 million budget.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:44 pm.

**New Business- *Vote on Town Manager’s Contract*** – Moved to Wednesday’s meeting.

**Old Business**

1. ***Water and Sewer Discussion – 7:24*** - The Select Board reviewed and discussed the updated Water and Sewer rate structure proposal. Financial Director Paul Pasterczyk was present to address any concerns and answer any questions. Curt Freedman had no objections to the proposed rate structure. Select Person William Scibelli shared that there are three items that overlap the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget: water meter replacement, hydrant replacement and valve replacement. He recommended eliminating those line items in the Capital Budget and moving those funds into the reserve fund for Water and Sewer. The Select Board will review the proposal and will vote at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Visitor Comment and Question** – None this evening.

**Consent Agenda** - None this evening.

**Town Manager Report** – None this evening.

**Select Board Reports / Correspondence / Comments**

- Select Person Kathleen Grady mentioned an article in the March 2009 edition of **TheBeacon** (pg 11) titled *Mass Innovations* that highlights Town Manager Robin Crosbie’s approach to tracking departmental projects and responsibilities. Chair Person Paul Santaniello congratulated her and the Department heads for those work plans and for being recognized for a job well done.
- Select Person Kathleen Grady stated that she summarized the information regarding take home vehicles and posted it on “Longmeadow Buzz”. She added that there are two finalists selected for the Police Chief position and an announcement will be coming soon.
- Select Person Robert Barkett announced that the School Building Committee has selected the OPM. The contract has been sent to the MSBA for approval. The fee for the work to be done is not to exceed \$200,000 as stated in the contract.
- Select Person William Scibelli congratulated the Longmeadow High School Hockey Team for making Longmeadow proud!

Chair Person Paul Santaniello made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose Contract Negotiations not to return to open session. A roll call vote: K. Grady – YES; P. Santaniello- YES; W. Scibelli-YES; R. Barkett - YES. B. Ashe -Absent. The Select

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4/9/2009- Accepted as Presented.

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Board closed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners