

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Regular Meeting**  
**Monday March 17, 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; Kathleen Grady, William Scibelli, Paul Santaniello and Brian Ashe.

**Also Present (as signed in):** Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; G. Nolet; G. Donnelly; M. Foard; J. Foard; D. & A. Ihcente; L. Gove; J. Scully; K. Phillips; K. Glass; K. Lockhart; School Committee Chair G. Weigand; M. Vahadji; D. Collins and S. Altman.

**Announcements:**

- The last day to obtain nomination papers is March 21<sup>st</sup> for Town Elections. They must be submitted no later than March 25, 2008 at 5:00 pm.
- With mixed emotions Chair Person Hal Haberman announced that he will not be running for re-election.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

- Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to accept the Tuesday February 19, 2008 Regular Meeting Notes as presented. Select Person William Scibelli 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 Wednesday March 12, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**7:04 pm Visitor Comment and Questions**

- Mr. Gerry Nolet thanked Chair Person Hal Haberman for his years of service. He then shared his opinion regarding the state of the current economy and asked the Select Board to deliberate the presented budget with common sense.
- Ms. Michelle Foard addressed the Select Board as the Chair of the Special Education Committee and as a parent of a child with special needs. She shared her thoughts and concerns with the proposed cuts to Special Education in the budget.
- Ms. Susan Altman expressed her dissatisfaction with the proposed budget.
- Mr. Geoff Weigand, Chair of the School Committee, thanked Chair Person Hal Haberman for his years of service. Mr. Weigand wanted to bring to the Select Board's attention contradictions made on the Towns Website (Longmeadow Buzz) and pointed out some contradictions made by Town Manager Robin Crosbie. Town Manager Robin Crosbie responded that it was not her intent to have the Special Education line item adjusted, but to cut from the bottom line; she also added that it was not her intent to criticize and apologized

for the misunderstanding.

- Mr. Robert Aseltine, School Committee Member, addressed the Select Board as a member of the Budget Strategies Committee. He stated that it was the goal of the Budget Strategies Committee to keep the budget at level service to conform to a promise made to the residents of Longmeadow, by the members of that Board and three others, with the override of \$2..51 million. He advised that the Select Board not let time constraints pass a bad budget.

**Old Business** – None at this time.

### **New Business**

1. ***Vote on Sewer Abatement / Action 7:30 pm*** – Select Person William Scibelli made a motion stating that under the Select Board's authority as Water and Sewer Commissioners, that they vote to approve the attached list of Sewer Abatements totaling \$365,591.35. Please place on an Account Payable Warrant dated no later than April 4, 2008 all refunds of \$25.00 or more. Any credit under \$25.00 will be rolled to the next billing cycle. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
2. ***Action on Budget 7:40 pm***- Select Person William Scibelli had several recommendations to present to the Board. There was discussion regarding every motion; Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Financial Officer Paul Pasterczyk explained the purpose of the line items, while Select Person William Scibelli shared his reasoning for the cut or elimination in some cases. Select Person Paul Santaniello requested additional information to further explain some of the Department of Public Works line items. Select Person Kathleen Grady explained her reasons for supporting the requests included in the budget. The Select Board will hold another meeting to continue discussions prior to voting on the budget.
  - Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to reduce line item **Staff-Clerical** under **Department of Administration and Finance** by \$10,000. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Scibelli- YES; Grady - NO; Haberman-YES; Santaniello- YES; Ashe-YES.  
The motion carried 4:1.
  - Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to reduce line item **Staff – Clerical** under **Human Resources** by \$16,759. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Scibelli- YES; Ashe-YES; Haberman-YES; Grady - NO; Santaniello- NO.  
The motion carried 3:2.
  - Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to reduce line item **Assistant Assessor** under **Assessors** by \$21,738. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Ashe-YES; Grady - NO; Haberman-YES; Santaniello - YES; Scibelli- YES.  
The motion carried 4:1.
  - Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to eliminate the line item **Director** under **Planning Board** in the amount of \$50,450. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion

A **Roll Call Vote**: Grady - NO; Santaniello - YES; Ashe-YES; Scibelli- YES; Haberman-YES.  
The motion carried 4:1.

- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to eliminate the line item **Other Property Related Services – Maintenance**, under the **Department of Public Works**, from the proposed budget and that this item is funded by other means. (\$35,000) Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Haberman-YES; Ashe-YES; Scibelli- YES; Santaniello- NO; Grady - NO.  
The motion carried 3:2.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion eliminate the line item **Other Property Related Services– Hydrants** under the **Department of Public Works**, from the proposed budget and that this item is funded by other means. (\$25,000) Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Ashe-YES; Scibelli- YES; Santaniello- NO; Grady - NO; Haberman-YES.  
The motion carried 3:2
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to eliminate the line item **Other Property Related Services – Valves**, under the **Department of Public Works**, from the proposed budget and that this item is funded by other means. (\$50,000) Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Haberman-YES; Ashe-YES; Scibelli- YES; Santaniello- NO; Grady - NO.  
The motion carried 3:2.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to reduce the line item **Other Property Related Services – Meters** under the **Department of Public Works** by \$25,000. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. After some discussion Chair Person Hal Haberman amended the motion to a reduction of \$20,000. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the amended motion.  
A Roll Call Vote: Haberman-YES; Grady - NO; Santaniello - YES; Scibelli- YES; Ashe-YES.  
The amended motion carried 4:1.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion eliminate the line item **Staff – Labor - Sewer** under the **Department of Public Works** from the proposed budget. He inquired if the employee benefits line would decrease automatically if this position is not filled. (It would.) Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
A Roll Call Vote. Grady - NO; Haberman-YES; Santaniello abstained; Ashe –NO; Scibelli-YES. The motion was defeated by a 2:2 tie.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to increase the school funding bottom line by \$188,749. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion.  
Roll Call Vote: Ashe-YES; Grady-NO; Haberman-YES; Scibelli- YES; Santaniello - YES.  
The motion carried 4:1

**7:31 pm Consent Agenda – One-Day Liquor License Application**– Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda pending a review of the Rules and Regulations

regarding the Select Board's Policy allowing alcohol being served on Town property. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence** – None this evening.

**Select Board Reports** – None this evening.

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

Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners  
Recording Secretary