

Minutes
Select Board Special Meeting
Wednesday March 18, 2009
7:00 pm

Chair Person Paul Santaniello called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Also Present (as signed in): E. Stolar; Park and Recreation Bari Thomas; Counsel on Aging P. Camerota; Counsel on Aging C. Camerota; Finance Committee R. Wojcik; D. Nadeau; Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners.

Announcements – Chair Person Paul Santaniello attended the Red Cross Home Town Hero Breakfast and congratulated Longmeadow’s Bobi (Roberta) Steingart for being an honoree.

7:04 Visitor Comment and Question Period

- Ms. Altman questioned the rumor that the Select Board decided to renew Town Manager Robin Crosbie’s employment contract for three years and feels strongly that it should only be a one year contract.
- Ms. Stolar urged the Select Board to vote for a one year contract due to the current economy.
- Ms. Nadeau responded to comments that Select Person Robert Barkett made at the meeting Monday evening in regards to consolidating Town buildings. She stated that the Greenwood Center has received several renovations over the last few years and serves both “old and young alike”. She then made several cost saving suggestions for the Select Board to consider.
- Mr. Wojcik responded to a statement made at the meeting Monday evening regarding the Finance Committee being an advisory group only. He stated that the Finance Committee is a group that represents the Town voters and is advisory to them. He added that the Finance Committee will lend advice to anyone who will listen. Select Person Robert Barkett requested explanation of that statement, Mr. Wojcik added anyone that will listen, regarding fiscal policy, including any Town Committee or Board and the School Committee.
- Chief Madison addressed the Select Board stating that Town Manager Robin Crosbie was very respected by her employees especially those who report directly to her.

Old Business

1. ***Vote on Water and Sewer Rates – 7:15*** – After little discussion, Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to set a single water and sewer rate at \$2.11 and \$2.50 respectively, to maintain the existing cap on the sewer and to begin a \$5.00 administrative fee semi-annually for the water and sewer reserve funds. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
2. ***Vote on the Budget – 7:16 pm*** - Chair Person Paul Santaniello had a conversation this afternoon with School Committee Chair Christine Swanson regarding the budget. He shared a proposal with the members of the Board outlining adjustments in the budget to help the schools avoid hurtful lay offs in the Middle Schools and help them balance their budget. The plan consists of moving \$150,000 from the Capital Budget for painting of Center School, in hopes that funding from CPA will complete that project. Select Person Robert Barkett is not

comfortable with shifting those funds as it is “one time money” and that there are no guarantees that CPA will fund the painting of the school. Select Person Kathleen Grady agrees with him about using one-time funds for salaries but suggests that attrition could make up for these funds in the next budget. Select Person Robert Barkett does not agree with voting on an unbalanced budget. Select Persons Brian Ashe and William Scibelli both agree that if the funds are available to save the jobs now, then it should be done. Select Person William Scibelli added that he would like a contingency on the vote that the schools must turn back a minimum of \$124,422 to the Town in order to balance their budget. The Board agreed that they would meet after the School Committee meeting on Monday if necessary to amend their budget. Chair Person Paul Santaniello added that the snow and ice deficit article can be reduced by \$60,000; there are approximately \$125,000 in turn backs from 2009. These changes plus \$138,000 for the SPED deficit from Free Cash at the Town Meeting would balance the Schools Budget and personnel at the Middle School could be restored. Finance Committee member Richard Liasse added that layoffs are not a true savings as there are unemployment expenses and other costs attached to them. After much discussion, Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to amend the Town Manager’s presented balanced budget by increasing the School funding by \$267,679. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 4:1. Select Person Robert Barkett voted NO.

3. ***Vote on the Capital Planning Budget – 7:48 pm*** - After much discussion Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to approve the Capital Budget with the following amendments: to remove under Table Two Water and Sewer \$95,000 for hydrant funding and \$80,000 for valve replacement; to remove Project SD-2: Center School Exterior Upgrade from the first tier of projects and add the following projects from the second tier: ADM-1: Capital Reserve, Project F-1 Town wide communication system [this will complete that project], Project P&R-2 Greenwood Camp Shed Upgrade, Projects DPW-3 GDS – Pickup with plow; and to add Project SD-11 Williams School Cafeteria Tables from tier three. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 4:0:1. Robert Barkett abstained.
4. ***Vote on Town Manager’s Contract 8:04 pm***—Chair Person Paul Santaniello read a summary of the reviews of the Select Board Members. It was unanimously agreed that the Town Manager is professional in the performance of her daily duties, has created clearly defined goals for her department heads, has established priorities, and that she and the department heads have a clear understanding of expectations and goals. The Work Plans that were developed this year allow for anyone, whether it is the Select Board or a citizen, to view what work each department does, the timeline for those tasks, and the work flow for each of our town departments. The majority of the members believe that the Town Manager needs to improve communications with the Select Board. Select Person Kathleen Grady shared some other accomplishments of the Town Manager, including a thorough review of the water and sewer rate structure and capital plan, completion of the DEP settlement requirements, refurbishing of the Community House exterior, development of the Grounds/Field Maintenance Plans, service on the School Building Committee, and development of a process and screening committee for hiring a new Police Chief. After some discussion Select Person William Scibelli made a motion that the employment agreement as negotiated with Robin Crosbie and the Town of Longmeadow terminate on June 30, 2012. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Select Person William Scibelli stated that language needed to be added per an email he received, Town Manager Robin Crosbie will see to that. Select Person

Robert Barkett stated that he will not support a three year contract at this time because of the review system used. He acknowledged that he had volunteered to assist in developing a new system and then did not do it because of his work on the School Building Committee. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 3:2. Select Persons William Scibelli, Brian Ashe and Kathy Grady voted YES. Select Persons Paul Santaniello and Robert Barkett voted NO.

New Business

- 1. *Appoint Registrar - 8:11 pm*** – After little discussion, Select Person Robert Barkett made a motion to appoint Stephen Kennedy as Democratic Registrar. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2. *Set Annual Town Meeting Warrant - 8:12 pm***- The Select Board reviewed the Warrant and discussed several of the articles. Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the Town Meeting Warrant as amended and outlined by Town Manager Robin Crosbie. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried 4:0:1. Select Person Robert Barkett abstained. The following items were amended: Delete Fund FY09 deficit under Standard Articles, reduce snow and ice deficit to \$140,000. Under Other Articles: add Maple Road under water and sewer, use the January 7th version of the Water Use Restriction By-law, delete fund OPEB, amend by-law violation to \$100 for second and subsequent (from the long range plan), amend the sidewalk clearing to 12 hours and delete language remove six hours after dawn, reduce the CPA surcharge to .25. (Select Person Paul Santaniello made a motion to reduce the CPA surcharge to .25. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.), to place on hold removal of rubbish containers.

Consent Agenda- 8:46 pm – *One Day Liquor License Wolf Swamp PTO* - Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Paul Santaniello called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report – None this evening.

Select Board Reports / Correspondence / Comments

Select Person Kathleen Grady announced that the Council on Aging will be holding an Open House on April 15th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

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 -YES. The Select Board closed the Regular Meeting and entered into Executive Session. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Wieners