**Minutes/ Board of Selectmen Meeting**
**Tuesday, April 6, 2004**
**Police Station Community Room**
**7:00 p.m.**

Chairman Brian Ashe opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
**Present:** Selectmen Brian Ashe, Hal Haberman and John J. Papale
**Also Present:** Norman Thidemann, Int. Town Administrator and the press and private citizens.
**Acceptance of Minutes:**
The minutes of the March 15, 2004 Regular Meeting**,** the March 15, 2004 Executive Session and the March 31, Special Meeting with the Appropriations Committee and the School Committee.
**Visitor Comment and Question Period:**
Eleanor Stolar presented information on Fluoride in the Town's drinking water. Ms. Stolar noted that every office in Town Hall purchased bottled water. Ms. Stolar asked the Selectmen to request that the Board of Health hold a public hearing on the fluoride issue before the Annual Town Meeting in May. Chairman Ashe said it was important to hear both sides of the issue. The board asked Norman Thidemann to contact the Board of Health to request that the they schedule a hearing as proposed by Ms. Stolar. Dr. Papale asked Ms. Stolar when the opponents of fluoride would accept the previous town meeting votes that affirmed fluoride in the drinking water. Ms. Stolar responded by citing the information that she presented to the Selectmen that questioned the use of fluoride.

**7:15 p.m. Transfer of Liquor License Hearing – "Out of Bounds"**
Chairman Ashe opened the Liquor License hearing for "Out of Bounds" at 7:15 p.m. Atty Kenneth Albano represented "Out of Bounds" at the hearing. David O'Brien, the operator of "Out of Bounds" was also present. Atty Albano attested to the "character" and "ability" of David O'Brien to operate "Out of Bounds". Applicant requested that the license allow them to stay open until 12:00 midnight. Atty Albano noted "that the later hours are not intended to turn "Out of Bounds" into a "bar". Public hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m. The Board unanimously approved the transfer of the license to Mr. O'Brien with a closing time of 12:00 Midnight with the stipulation that the license for the Longmeadow Country Club also has a closing time of 12:00 midnight.

**Old Business:**
*FY05 Budget Update:* The Board voted unanimously to confirm an earlier vote (at the March 31, 2004 Appropriations meeting) to place a proposition 2 ½ Override Question on the May ballot, in the amount of $768,297.00. It was reiterated by the chair that the purpose of placing the question on the ballot was to give the citizens a "choice". Each of the Selectmen commented that they were in favor of the override, especially after conferring with the Appropriations Committee and hearing the plan as presented by Appropriations Committee Chair Steve Marantz.
The Selectmen met with Paul Pasterczyk and Norm Thidemann to discuss balancing the proposed Fiscal 2005 budget to bring it into line with the Appropriations committee

recommendations. The Town Accountant and the Town Administrator presented a proposed list of cuts which was amended and approved by the selectmen as follows:
BOS Cuts to Reach Goal of $63,000

| | |
|---|---|
| Line 04 BOS, TA | - $6,000 |
| Line 05 BOS, A/A | +$1500 |
| Line 13 Telephones | - $1,000 |
| Line 18 Assess's Exp | -$1,000 |
| Line 31 IT Expense | - $2,000 |
| Line 49 Pol. Ch. Contr. | - $3,690 |
| Line 56 Pol Trng | - $1,000 |
| Line 60 Pol. Uniform Allow. | - $ 600 |
| Line 89 Highway Supt. | - $3,175 |
| Line 97 Snow & Ice | - $20,000 |
| Line 111-Yard Wst Exp. | - $2,690 |
| Line 140 P & Rec. OST | - $ 500 |
| Line 62 Pol. Cruiser (Buy In Spring) | -$25,800 |

The total of the cuts was $65,955.00.

The Selectmen unanimously approved the amended budget and the proposed warrant for the Annual Town Meeting.

*Vehicles Assignment Update:* The Board agreed to hold the Vehicles Assignment proposal until after Town Meeting.
*Dunn Road Meeting Update:* The Chairman commented on the meeting he had with the residents of Dunn Road. Selectman Haberman noted that Dunn Road would use all of the Chapter 90 money allocated to the town. Selectman Papale was not in favor of accepting Dunn Road and he further stated, "Dunn road needed to be linked to all the other roads in town needing repairs". Selectmen Haberman said that he wants to do something for the Dunn Road residents, but not spend all the Chapter 90 money on Dunn Road only.

**New Business:**
*Formal Dog Complaint:* The Selectmen noted that the dog complaint was taken care of by the Police Department.
*Surplus Property Declarations:* The Selectmen voted to declare as "surplus" the items listed in the memo from the Park Superintendent and the list provided by the Acting Highway Superintendent.
*C.90 Street/Sidewalk List Approval:* Then Board accepted the Chapter 90 list, reserving a final decision until a later Selectmen's meeting.
*Schedule Captain's Interviews:* The Captain's interviews are scheduled for the May 3, 2004 Selectmen's meeting.
*Re-Schedule Traffic Committee Meeting:* The Traffic Safety Committee meeting has been tentatively been re-scheduled for May 25, 2004.
*Sign Audit Letter and Set Insurance Rates:* Paul Pasterczyk presented the proposed insurance rates to the Selectmen. The Selectmen unanimously approved the rates. Mr.

Pasterczyk also presented the annual letter to engage the auditors, which was accepted by the Selectmen.
*Request to Support Fire Department Grant Application*: The Selectmen voted to unanimously support the Grant application prepared by the Fire Chief to purchase communications equipment that would enable each of the major town department's to communicate with each other during emergencies. The match required is expected to be $29,000.00.

**Town Administrator Report:**
The Interim Town Administrator reported on the following:
*Bark Haul Road/Route 5 "Rest Area";* We have worked out a memo of understanding with the Park and Recreation Dept. and the DPW to provide for joint clean up of the so-called rest area at the intersection of Bark Haul Rd. and Rt. 5. This was the result of a resident, who has been cleaning the area, bringing the issue to our attention.
*Tax Bill Printing Error;* Met with Louise and Victor to discuss a printing issue on the 4th quarter real estate tax bills. About half of the bills were printed with a due date of February 2, 2004 instead of May 3, 2004. As the problem was detected and corrected, about half of the bills will have the correct due date. The bills with the incorrect date will have an insert informing the taxpayer of the correct date.

**Correspondence:**
*Longmeadow Newcomers Club Invitation:* The invitation was noted, but unfortunatly the Selectmen will not be able to attend because that is the regular meeting night.
*Longmeadow Days Memorial Service:* Selectman Haberman will represent the Board at the memorial service on Sunday May 23, 2004.
*Longmeadow Days Parade:* Selectman Haberman will represent the board at the Longmeadow Days parade on Saturday, May 22, 2004.

The Selectmen (and School Committee) adjourned their meetings at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Thidemann, Int. Town Administrator