

**Minutes**  
**Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Monday, May 3, 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 April 20, 2004 Regular Meeting were approved as read.

The minutes of the April 20, 2004 Executive Session were approved as read.

The minutes of the April 26, 2004 Special Meeting were approved as read.

**Visitor Comment and Question Period:**

Bruce Randall spoke as a member of the "citizens for Clean Water". Mr. Randall made the point that people in Longmeadow who have to buy bottled water (because of fluoride) are paying money above the true cost of water. Mr. Randall continued to speak about various studies, etc., that favored the elimination of fluoride from the drinking water. Mr. Randall displayed a book entitled "The Fluoride Deception" by Christopher Bryson and suggested that people read the book to be informed on the fluoride issue. Chairman Ashe commented that Town Meeting would make the final decision on the issue.

**7:15 p.m. Historical Society**

The president of the Historical Society, Ms. Eileen La Casse (and other members including; C. Lincoln, J. Gray, [vol. legal counsel], R. Curran, L. Abrams and C. Cunniff) presented plans to the Selectmen for a proposed museum to be built on property behind the library. The proposed building would be used as a town archive as well as a meeting space and resource facility by the School Department. The Historical Society was seeking the approval of the Selectmen so that fund raising could begin. Each of the Selectmen spoke in favor of the plans and commended the Society for their hard work and vision. The Selectmen voted unanimously to send a letter of endorsement.

**Old Business:**

*FY05 Budget Update:* The Town Clerk and Town Attorney met briefly with the Selectmen to review the motions for the Annual Town Meeting.

*Confirm Summer Meeting Schedule:* The summer meeting schedule was unanimously voted as submitted.

**New Business:**

*Leaf enforcement Discussion:* The letter sent by Town Administrator Susan Wright was reviewed and the Interim Town Administrator was asked to submit copies of any letters of enforcement to the Selectmen.

*Authorize Town Accountant to sign MIIA Renewals:* The Board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Accountant to sign the MIIA insurance renewals.

*Planning Board Chairman Request Re:ATM's:* The Selectmen took under advisement the issue of lighting at ATM's in the town.

*Schedule Police Sergeant Interviews:* The Board decided to conduct police sergeant interviews on June 6 and 7 2004.

*Susan Altman Request:* The Board referred the request of Susan Altman to the Town Attorney for a reply. The Board reiterated the policy that all requests for the use of Town Attorney, by individuals, must be approved and referred by the Selectmen.

**Town Administrator Report:**

The Interim Town Administrator reported that the main task in the last several weeks has been the Motions for the Warrant and preparing for Town Meeting. The Interim Town Administrator also suggested that the Board re-organize on the day after the May 18, 2004 election. The Selectmen agreed and accordingly a meeting will be scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Correspondence: None**

**Executive Session:** The Selectmen voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation 8:10 p.m. Roll call vote: Ashe-yes, Haberman-yes and Papale-yes. The Selectmen voted to return to regular session at 8:30 p.m. Roll call vote: Ashe-yes, Haberman-yes and Papale-yes.

**Police Captain Interviews:** The Selectmen interviewed Sgt. John Stankiewicz at 8:30 p.m. and Sgt. Robert Siano at 8:50 p.m. Both officers were asked the same questions by the Selectmen including; "What are your shortcomings", "What would you do if not chosen?" and "How they would handle an order from the Selectmen, even if they did not agree with it". After consulting with the Police Chief, and after considerable discussion it was voted unanimously to appoint Sgt. Robert Siano to the position of Police Captain. In the future Sel. Papale would like to see sick leave records for each candidate for promotion.

The Selectmen adjourned the regular meeting at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Norman Thidemann, Int. Town Administrator