

Minutes
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2003
Police Station Community Room
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Nolet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Gerard Nolet and Brian Ashe

Also Present: Town Administrator Susan Wright.

Absent: Selectman Hal Haberman

Acceptance of Minutes for the April 22, 2003 meeting was postponed until the next meeting.

Visitor Comment and Questions: Diane Nadeau was present to ask about why she saw DPW trucks doing work at Turner Park this past weekend. She stated she was concerned as to why, in these times of fiscal crisis, would we be having employees work non-essential overtime. Mr. Nolet explained that the work at Turner Park was being done under the direction of the Park Department and that it was less expensive for the town to use its own equipment and own employees to do the work rather than hire outside contractors. Even at overtime rates, it is less expensive than paying prevailing wage. As to why the employees were working on the weekend, it was explained that they were needed on DPW tasks throughout the week.

Annual Town Meeting Preparations: Present for a review of the warrant and preparations for Annual Town Meeting were: Louise Lines, Town Clerk/Treasurer/ Collector; Paul Pasterczyk, Town Accountant; Steven Marantz, Chair of Appropriations; Tom Herrala, Moderator; and David Martel, Town Counsel. Each article was run through and potential questions were discussed. There was discussion about what might happen if the School Committee's desired budget figure passes and the budget is out of balance. There was also discussion that a secret ballot might be requested and the procedures for this were spelled out by Ms. Lines. The need for additional rooms was also discussed and it was noted that the cafeteria and auditorium will be wired and available in addition to the gymnasium.

ACT Team Representatives: Laura Bertelli and Paul Santinello, members of the ACT Team, which is the Longmeadow High School Accreditation ACTion Team, were present to review for the Board of Selectmen their findings. The goals of ACT are preserving the LHS accreditation, maintaining high quality teachers and small class sizes and satisfying short-term equipment and supply needs. While the long-range goal of the School Committee is a renovation of the High School, this group is focusing on short-term goals that can preserve the High School accreditation. Mr. Nolet thanked them for "stepping up to the plate" and volunteering their time for this important effort.

Old Business:

1. School Department Furloughs: The Board noted that no response had been received from the School Committee on the issue of town-wide administrative furloughs. The Selectmen had specifically requested a response by the date of this meeting.

New Business:

1. One Day Liquor License: The Board approved a one-day liquor license for Stewart Creelman for the Springfield Symphony Orchestra to hold a dinner at Bay Path College on June 13, 2003.

2. Gasoline Contract: The Board awarded the contract for gasoline for FY04 to East River Energy for the price of \$0.0395 per gallon to be added to the Daily New Haven Low Spot Market Price in addition to state tax. This was the low bid, having been obtained through the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Cooperative Fuel Co-op Bid.

3. Request to Close Street from Center School: The Board approved closing Longmeadow Street on may 30, 2003 from 9:00 to 3:00 to allow the Center School to hold its annual Field Day.

Town Administrator Report: The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report. Most of the items were information. Action was taken on the following:

Vacancy in the Treasurer/Collector/Clerks Office: The Board approved filling the position of collector's Clerk as it is included in the FY04 budget and it is an essential position.

Tree Warden Position: The Board approved allowing the Park Commissioners to include the duties of Tree Warden in the position description for the new Park and Recreation Superintendent.

Venti Property: Ms. Wright informed the Board that Town Counsel said that Mrs. Venti and her attorney may decide not to continue with the appeal and that we would know for certain in a few weeks. Meanwhile, Ms. Wright has had various town officials review the condition of the property.

Leaf Program: The Board discussed an idea proposed by the Supt. of Streets for a user fee funded bag collection program to take the place of the bulk leaf collection program in the fall. The Board agreed the proposed program had merit and will continue to explore this as a better option than having the leaf disposal site available without any town-wide pick-up. The details of this program will continue to be explored for the fall.

Correspondence:

Letter from Mayor Albano regarding meeting about Emergency Preparedness: A member of the Board of Selectmen was invited to attend a meeting on May 20 at 11:00 A.M. Mr. Ashe volunteered to attend.

The Board then voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining issues and ongoing litigation. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Nolet yes
Mr. Ashe yes

It was noted that the Board would not return to open session. The open portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wright
Town Administrator