

**Minutes**  
**Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Monday, June 2, 2003**  
**Police Station Community Room**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Selectman Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Selectmen Brian Ashe, Hal Haberman and John Papale.

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Susan Wright.

**Re-organization of the Board:** Mr. Haberman welcomed new Board member John Papale. Mr. Haberman made a motion to appoint Mr. Ashe as Chairman of the Board, which was seconded and then voted affirmatively. Mr. Ashe noted that long time member Gerard Nolet had helped prepare him well for his turn at serving as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the thanked him for his many years of service.

Mr. Ashe assigned Selectman to serve as representatives to the various unions. Mr. Haberman will remain with the two Police Unions, Mr. Ashe will take on the Firefighter Union and Dr. Papale will take on the DPW and Clerical Unions.

**Visitor Comment and Question Period:** There were several members of the public that wished to address the Board.

Mrs. Susan Altman of Williams Street read a statement opposing the idea of calling a Special Town Meeting to reconsider spending that had been voted at the Annual Town Meeting. It was explained to Mrs. Altman that a petition calling for a Special Town Meeting, once presented to the Board of Selectmen with the appropriate number of signatures, must be acted upon by the Board of Selectmen by calling a the requested meeting within 45 days. Dr. Papale also added that neither the School Committee nor the Board of Selectmen had taken a position on the petition that was to be presented.

Mrs. Iris Linsen of Clairmont Street presented the Board of Selectmen with a petition calling for a Special Town Meeting to consider an article to add \$300,000, or a greater or lesser sum, to the FY04 School Department budget. She noted the petition had been an effort of private citizens, not the School Committee, and that approximately 260 signatures had been obtained. The intent of the petition was to restore funding for kindergarten aids and restore the elementary and middle school music programs. She indicated that the petitioners wanted to hold the Special Town Meeting as soon as possible in order maximize the number of residents that could attend before leaving town for summer vacations.

Mrs. Melinda Lee of 295 Pinewood Drive asked the Board to consider holding the meeting as soon as possible as it would benefit all involved to know sooner, rather than later, how much money the School Department would have to work with in FY04.

Mr. Joseph Occhiuti of 23 Hawthorne Street addressed the Board stating that he felt it was unfortunate that individuals had to do the work to address the deficiencies in the school budget when these issues should have been addressed by the School Committee.

After receiving the petition and hearing the comments, the Board then deliberated on the possible dates for the meeting. The Board tried to make it clear to the public that the law required that the Board of Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting within 45 days of receiving a petition signed by

at least 200 registered voters. While the signatures had not yet been certified, it was noted that it was highly likely that there were at least 200 "good" signatures. Ms. Wright commented that should the petition article pass affirmatively at the Special Town Meeting, it would result in approximately ten positions being saved at the school. Holding the meeting prior to June 24, 2003, the last day of school, would be cost beneficial to the town as successful passage of the article might result in fewer people being eligible for unemployment after June 24, 2003. It was noted that the town is self insured for unemployment and therefore pays dollar for dollar for all employees on unemployment.

After much deliberation, the Board voted to hold the Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 23, 2003 and to allow up until Friday, June 6 at noon for any other petition articles to be received. The Board reserved further discussion about the Special Town Meeting for later in the agenda.

**Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer/Collector Donna Hunsinger with Clark Rowell, Bond Counsel, Ropes and Gray:** The Board met with Ms. Hunsinger and Mr. Rowell to execute a renewal note for \$11 million dollars in short term borrowing. It will be renewed annually until the town is scheduled to start receiving reimbursement from the state on the Wolf Swamp/Blueberry Hill School projects. The Bond Anticipation Note was sold to Quick and Reilly in the amount of \$11 million dollars at an interest rate of 2.75%, which was considered quite favorable to the town.

“VOTED: That all action taken by the Town Treasurer in advertising for public sale of the \$11,000,000 Bond Anticipation Note (School Bonds) (the “Note”) of the Town, issued in anticipation of bonds authorized pursuant to Chapter 44, Sections 7 (3) and 7(3A), of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended and supplemented, and by a vote of the Town duly adopted under Article 11 of the Warrant at the Special Town Meeting held on October 19, 1999, as amended under Article 21 of the Warrant at the 2001 Annual Town Meeting, that the Town voted to exempt the bonds from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½, so called under Ballot Question at the 2001 Annual Town Election, all as further described in Exhibit A attached hereto, which by reference thereto is hereby incorporated in and made a part of this vote and the minutes of this meeting, and in connection therewith, the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement and Notice of Sale, and a final Official Statement, be and hereby is ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted;

That the Note has been dated as of June 12, 2003, shall mature on June 1, 2005, shall be subject to the provisions of this vote, is in such form, of such denominations and contains such other details as the Town Treasurer and a majority of the Board of Selectmen has determined and approved by their execution of the Note;

That the Note shall not be subject to redemption prior to its stated maturity date;

That the Note has originally been issued by means of a book-entry system evidencing ownership and transfer of the Note; and in the event of failure or termination of the book-entry system, U.S. Bank National Association, in Boston, Massachusetts, shall issue replacement notes in the form of fully registered certificates and shall act as Note Registrar, Transfer Agent and Paying Agent therefore;

That the Note bears interest, payable on December 1, 2003 and semi-annually thereafter on June 1 and December 1, and is hereby sold and awarded as follows:

<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Note Denomination</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Premium</u>
Quick & Reilly	R-1	\$11,000,000	2.75%	\$320,210.00

That the Town Treasurer be, and hereby is, authorized to execute and deliver a Material Events Disclosure Certificate generally as described in the official statement relating to the Note and to incorporate by reference thereto in the Note such Certificate both in such form as the signatories may approve by their execution thereof, and the obligation of the Town contained in such certificate is hereby approved and confirmed;

That the Board of Selectmen, the Treasurer and the Town Clerk be and hereby are, and each of them severally is, authorized to take such action, and to execute and deliver such certificates, receipts, or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing vote; and

That the Town Treasurer is hereby authorized to prepare and deliver the Note to the aforesaid purchaser or purchasers or order against payment in full of the agreed purchase price.”

#### **Old Business:**

**1. Ratify Longmeadow Association of Municipal Employees (L.A.M.E.) contract:** The Board voted unanimously to ratify the DPW Union contract as had been tentatively agreed to by all parties. The cost of living adjustment given to the union follows the other town department unions – FY03 –2% retroactive to January 1, 2003, FY04 1.5% July 1, 2003 and 1.5% January 1, 2004 and FY05 1.5% July 1, 2004 and 1.5% January 2005.

#### **New Business:**

**1. Street and Sidewalk Recommendations:** The Board approved the list of streets and sidewalks proposed for improvement this year using C.90 funds. Ten streets were proposed for an estimated cost of \$136,815 and sidewalks replacements/improvements were slated for an estimated cost of \$148,480. This will leave some C.90 funds for Ely Way as well as a contingency budget.

**2. FY04 Insurance:** The Board accepted the FY04 insurance proposal from MIIA our current carrier for Property and Casualty and Workers Compensation. The proposal from MIIA was \$272,746 which is \$12,377 below the current year. Another proposal was received from Metrogard in the amount of \$373,460.

**3. Prudential Fund Issue:** The Board reviewed a recommendation from Town Accountant Paul Pasterczyk related to the need liquidate stocks acquired by the town during the administration of a Deferred Compensation Plan. In the early 1990’s the Town of Longmeadow offered a Deferred Compensation Plan with the investment vehicle offered through Prudential. In December of 2001 Prudential demutualized, going from a mutual life insurance company to a stock company. The

employee investments benefited from a stock issuance during the demutalization. While the assets are in the Town of Longmeadow's name, the truly belong to the participating current and past participants. Mr. Pasterczyk recommends liquidating the stocks and distributing the proceeds equitably among the participants. He has engaged the services of Jay L. Leib from Smith Barney to liquidate the stocks. The Board voted on behalf of the Town to authorize Paul Pasterczyk to sell the stocks and sign the associated paperwork allowing the sale to go forward.

**4. Special Town Meeting:** The Board once again took up the matter of the Special Town Meeting. The Board had considerable discussion about whether or not to add an article requesting some of the funds to restore cuts made by the Board of Selectmen in the FY04 budget. The two priorities of the Board were to add funds back into the budget to eliminate the need for the Department Head furloughs and to add back in the hours, which were eliminated for various departmental clerical and other staff. Ms. Wright presented information regarding the costs associated with adding funds to cover the furloughs - \$19,358 and how much would be necessary to add back in the hours eliminated for various departmental staff - \$85,406. After much discussion, the Board decided to submit an article that would restore funding for the Departments Heads and avoid the furloughs. The deciding factor for the Board was the fact that the School Committee had not required the same of their administrative staff and to do so for the Town Department Heads was unequitable. It was decided to word the article in such a way as to allow a Department Head to use the funds for their furlough toward maintaining other department employees hours if the Department Head voluntarily wanted to take the furlough.

**Town Administrator Report:** The Board reviewed various items that were for information purposes. A few items required action from the Board. The Recycling Center Coordinator – it was decided that no member of the Board of Selectmen was interested in participating the interviews for this position and that it would be left to the Assistant Superintendent and members of the Recycling Commission. Regarding the upcoming retirement of Harry Reynolds, the Board decided to reopen discussions with the School Department about the possible merger of building maintenance functions. Mr. Reynolds had been serving as Building Superintendent for Town Buildings in addition to his duties as Park and Recreation Superintendent and Tree Warden. Regarding the Long Range Planning Committee, it was noted that Mr. Nolet had been a member of the Committee, which provided a direct link to the Board of Selectmen. It was decided that Dr. Papale would serve as the Representative from the Board of Selectmen. It was also decided that Mr. Nolet would be asked to remain a member of the committee.

**Correspondence:**

1. *Letter from Debora Green and Edward Ballis re: Budget cuts at the School Department.* The letter was duly noted by the Board.
2. *Letter from Ernest Blake re: Parking on Viscount Road by students.* The letter was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee.
3. *Letter from Stanley D. Komack re: Parking on Viscount Road by students.* The letter was referred to the Traffic Safety Committee.
4. *Email from Elliot Allen regarding Laurel St. between Forest Glen and Converse.* It was noted that this stretch of road is slated for repairs this summer/fall. Mr. Allen will be notified.
5. *Letter from Edward Bauchiero regarding Turner Park to Secretary of the Commonwealth:* It was noted and forwarded to Town Counsel.

6. *East Longmeadow Fourth of July Parade:* No members of the Board are going to participate in the parade.

7. *WMECO Breakfast for June 17, 2003:* No members of the Board will be attending the breakfast although members of the Fire and Police are planning to attend for the presentation regarding emergencies during summer months.

8. *United Way Day of Caring:* The Town will not be participating in this volunteer event.

Seeing no further business, the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and pending litigation, not to return to open session. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Ashe	yes
Mr. Haberman	yes
Dr. Papale	yes

The open portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wright  
Town Administrator