

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Monday June 5, 2006
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm

Chair Person John Papale called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Select Board Persons John Papale, Kathleen Grady, Brian Ashe, William Scibelli and Hal Haberman.

Also Present (AS SIGNED IN): Town Manager Robin Crosbie; J. Nolet Finance Committee; J. Occhiuti

Announcements:

1. Annual Town Election Tomorrow – Polls Open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
2. Annual Vacancy Interviews June 12th beginning at 5:30 pm

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting notes were accepted as presented.

7:05 p.m. Visitor Comment/Question Period –

- Mr. Joe Occhiuti requested an update on any information regarding the Twin Hills Country Club and also asked if the Select Board has the power and authority to reinstitute the leaf pick up in Longmeadow. He suggested that perhaps the revenue generated from the new trash program can be used to reinstitute leaf pick up. He also thanked John Papale for his years of service on the Select Board.
- Jerry Nolet from the Finance Committee and liaison to the Select Board, wished to brief the Select Board on the status of the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund. Currently there is approximately a \$49,000 balance. He believes about \$26,000 will be returned to the General Fund after all requests have been granted. He thanked Paul Pasterczyk for supporting and assisting the Finance Committee. He also thanked John Papale for his service on the Select Board. Chair Person John Papale informed Mr. Nolet that his attendance at the Select Board meetings has been appreciated.
- On behalf of the Select Board, Select Person Hal Haberman presented Chair Person John Papale with a Certificate of Recognition thanking him for everything he has done for the Town of Longmeadow.

7:15 p.m. Verizon/WMECO Joint Petition Hearing – *Frank Smith Road Conduit* – Chair Person John Papale opened the hearing for the petition for joint pole location on Frank Smith Road. Mr. Andrew Hufnagel, the Right of Way Manager for Verizon, attended the meeting to show the Select Board the plans and answer any questions they may have. After some discussion Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the petition to bring the necessary utilities to the wireless facility being constructed at pole 208-21 to the Water Tower on land owned by the Town. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to close the hearing. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:23 pm Old Business

Retiree Request to Enroll in Health Insurance- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to vote to grant the request for the non participating retiree to enroll and to approve spouse to enroll in plan at full cost plus administrative fees. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:35 pm New Business:

1. Appoint Hearing Officer- Select Person Hal Haberman suggested waiting until after the elections before voting on this issue. Everyone agreed. The item will be placed under old business.
2. Fluoridation Levels in Water Supply – Chair Person John Papale asked that this item be placed on the agenda, so the Select Board could consider reducing the fluoride in the water supply while maintaining effective levels. Beverly Hirshhorn from the Board of Health presented the Select Board with a memo stating that she wanted to pursue this matter in greater depth with her contact at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

7:41 pm Consent Agenda:

1. *Approve Contract for Water Main Design and Construction Oversight-* Vote to approve the Engineering Agreement for York Drive and Greenacre Avenue water main replacement for an amount totaling \$64,000.
 2. *Approve Sale of Tax Title Land –* Vote to approve execution of the deed on this parcel of land.
 3. *Approve Block Parties (Woodside Neighborhood, Pinewood Hills)*
 4. *Approve Closing of Street for Montessori Annual “Family Fun” Event*
- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the four items on the consent agenda. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:43 pm Correspondence

- Select Person Kathleen Grady mentioned a letter sent by Amy Jaffe Barzach, Co-Founder / Co-Executive Director for the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds to Town Manager Robin Crosbie. Ms. Jaffe Barzach stated that her organization has never worked with a more talented or more responsive parks professional than Mike McCarty.
- Select Person Kathleen Grady also mentioned that Purchasing Coordinator, Chad Thompson, has saved the Town an estimated \$46,270 to date!
- Select Person Kathleen Grady also wanted to inform the residents that the grading on Dunn Road has started.

Select Board Reports – None at this time.

7:46 pm Town Manager’s Report –

- On May 16th several Town employees attended a seminar on Sexual Harassment; these meetings will be held annually.
- On May 19th the *First Annual Clean up Day* was held. In the Community House the attic was started and many items of interest were found. These items will be up for auction in the spring. Many of the old records in the basement of the Town Hall were shredded. Town Manager Robin Crosbie believes it could take about three years to get everything cleaned out.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie attended about eight hours of National Incident Management Systems training. (NIMS)
- She informed the Select Board that the cite hearing for the transfer station was approved by the Board of Health.

7:50 pm Chair Person John Papale wished to share some observations with the Select Board and residents of Longmeadow, as this is his last meeting as Chair.

- The Charter changed the way the Town is governed, and has helped it run more effectively. Chair Person John Papale has sat on three (3), five (5) and seven (7) member committees / boards in Longmeadow over the past several years. He feels strongly that the Board should consider lowering the members of the School Committee to a five (5) member board.
- He was very happy with the addition of Dr. Kathleen Grady and William Scibelli at the last election. They have contributed a tremendous work attitude and he feels that the Town benefited at the last election by bringing them onto the board.
- Chair Person John Papale mentioned the change in appointing Finance Committee members and requests reconsidering the current way. Currently the Finance Committee is appointed by the Finance Director, Finance Committee Chair and the Moderator.
- Chair Person John Papale feels it is important **not** to have term limits at a local level. The need for institutional memory and experience is critical to the proper functioning and continuity of the boards.
- He feels that moving the Town elections to November would save the Town money on a spring election.
- Regarding a preliminary election process; if there is *not* a preliminary election when three or more candidates are running for the same position, it is possible to have a winner who never receives a majority vote. Chair Person John Papale felt this needed to be taken into consideration before doing away with the Preliminary Election process.
- He wants to remind residents to appreciate the enormous amount of time elected officials put in the work they do for the Town.

Executive Session – None Scheduled

Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person John Papale called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary

