

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday September 4, 2007**  
**Police Station Community Room**  
**7:00 pm**

Chair Person Hal Haberman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Select Board Persons Hal Haberman, Paul Santaniello, William Scibelli, Kathleen Grady and Brian Ashe.

**Also Present (as signed in):** Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; A. Wray; E. Welker Audit Committee; J. Idelson; B. Thomas Director Parks and Recreation; P. Pasterczyk Finance Director; J. Brennan Park Board. G. Bruns, A. Grant

**School Committee Members:** G. Weigand Chair; R. Aseltine; B. Barkett; C. Swanson; J. Duquette; M. Vogel and J. Hart Superintendent of Schools.

**Announcements:**

- The Regional Collection Day for household hazardous waste will be held on Saturday, September 8, 2007 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Minnechaug Regional High School Parking Lot by appointment only.

**7:03 pm Acceptance of Minutes:**

- Select Person Kathleen Grady made a motion to accept the August 13, 2007 Regular Meeting notes with one correction. Select Person Paul Santaniello seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**7:01 pm Visitor Comment / Question Period** – None this evening.

**7:07 pm School Committee Applicant Interviews** – The Select Board and School Committee interviewed the following applicants: Gwendolyn Bruns, Alex Grant, Janine Idelson and Armand Wray. The interview process was paused at 7:49 pm for the Public Hearing and resumed at 7:53 pm. The interviews were completed at 8:25 pm. The Select Board will announce the appointment at the next meeting.

**8:25 pm Audit Committee Priorities** - Mr. Ernest Welker, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, presented the Select Board with a detailed report of work priorities, outlined by the Audit Committee, for FY2008. The priorities included: pension benefits, health benefits, internal controls / procedures and the budget presentation format. Town Manger Robin Crosbie shared that in the corporate world having the finances to hire an individual to oversee internal controls is a non issue, while with municipalities; it is just not the case. It will be a matter of setting priorities. Select Person Kathleen Grady stated that hiring an individual to take on this responsibility is just not realistic with the current budget restraints. Select Person Kathleen Grady and Select Person Paul Santaniello both strongly believe that the Audit Committee need not concern itself with any budget issues, such as the budget format. Select Person

Paul Santaniello stated that the Charter mandates the budget as the sole responsibility of the Town Manager. Select Person William Scibelli stated that he is not opposed to receiving information from anyone regarding any issues. He added that just because information is received, does not mean that the Select Board is required to act on it. Mr. Welker added that the Select Board has no control over what the Audit Committee feels needs to be addressed. Select Person Kathleen Grady agreed and added that the Audit Committee does not go down to the department level, it reports to the Select Board, who appoints it. Town Manager Robin Crosbie added that he Finance Director [Paul Pasterczyk] is required to do his job first; he is not a go-fer for the Audit Committee and is in no way required to gather information for them while it impedes his ability to do his job. Mr. Welker agreed that the Audit Committee does not have the power to require anything from Mr. Pasterczyk but request information. Select Person William Scibelli added that the Audit Committee is free to gather any information they need themselves if Mr. Pasterczyk is unable to.

**7:45 pm WMECO Petition Hearing – 588 Longmeadow Street** – Chair Person Hal Haberman opened the Petition Hearing at 7:49 pm. Mr. Leroy Thomas from Western Mass Electric and Mr. and Mrs. Leichthammer of Longmeadow Street were present for the hearing. Mr. Leichthammer had a concern that another raised structure would be constructed in front of his property. Mr. Thomas stated that an existing structure would be used. Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to accept the installation of conduit and cable on Longmeadow Street to supply electrical service feeding the pump station on private property; starting 100’ south of center line on Greenacre Avenue and 40’ east of center line on Longmeadow Street; of a concrete encased duct line and cable 165’ west to private property. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

- 1. FY08 Budget Strategies – 9:26 pm-** Finance Director, Paul Pasterczyk, presented the Select Board with Budget projections for FY08 and FY09. The Select Board, as well as some members of the School Committee, discussed options to offset the \$2.5 million deficit. After much discussion Chair Person Hal Haberman decided that the Select Board should wait to hear what the Budget Strategies Committee’s decision is before having any further discussion.
- 2. Discussion – Pavilion at Bliss and Grant Application- 8:49 pm-** Parks and Recreation Director, Bari Thomas, presented the Select Board with details regarding a grant application to construct a pavilion at Bliss Road in place of the clay tennis courts there presently. She shared with the Select Board a survey that was conducted while the Parks and Recreation Department was in the process of developing their “Master Plan”. Tennis as a whole was not perceived as popular; therefore, she feels strongly that the courts will not be missed. The grant application includes a plan to increase parking, which was a concern of Select Person Paul Santaniello. After some discussion Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to approve the application for the grant for the purpose of construction of a pavilion at Bliss Road. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried 4:1. H. Haberman- YES; W. Scibelli- YES; K. Grady- YES; B. Ashe- YES; P. Santaniello - NO. The Select Board made it clear that this vote approves the application for the grant; it in no way ties them to approval of a pavilion at this time.

**New Business:**

**1. *Make Appointments to Boards/Committees- 7:06 pm-***

- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint Paul Smith to the Audit Committee for a three year term. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint Ann Cowen and Donald Holland to the Cable Advisory Committee as Associate Members. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint Patricia Welch to the Cultural Council for a three year term. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint Betsy Port to the Historical Commission for a three year term. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to appoint John Taylor for a three year term and Kolajo Afolabi as an Associate for a one year term to the Recycling Commission. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- Select Person William Scibelli made a motion to reappoint James Jones to the Tree Committee for a three year term. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**2. *Set Date for Fall Special Town Meeting- 9:20 pm*** – Chair Person Hal Haberman has a conflict with the November date. A new date will be set at the next meeting.

**4. *Review of Gifts (1)Conservation Land, (2) Irrigation System, (3) Memorial 9:11 pm-*** The Select Board reviewed the gifts with Town Manager Robin Crosbie as specified in the Acceptance of Gifts and Donations Policy. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will accept the gifts.

**7:04 pm Consent Agenda**

- **Resolution to Support the *Mass Recycles Paper! Campaign*** – Select Person Brian Ashe made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

**Select Board Reports** – None at this time.

**7:36 pm Town Manager's Report** –

- Town Manager Robin Crosbie reported that she and Mike Wrabel, Department of Public Works Director, went to various sites to see the progress of ongoing Capital Projects. They also visited the schools as they prepared for the start of school. The custodians and maintenance crew did a great job; the schools looked fantastic.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie reported that the ten wheel dump truck has been delivered to the highway department.

- She also reported that the concrete sidewalk at Greenwood Center is underway and is expected to be complete by the end of this week; work is underway on sidewalks on Edgewood, and the north end of Cross Street will be started this year.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie reported that the tennis courts repairs are done at Blinn and Greenwood.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie reported that crosswalk painting will begin this week on Williams and Bliss roads.
- Town Manager Robin Crosbie has been updating job descriptions based on Charter changes.
- The Charter Transition Team held a meeting last week. A final report on the Charter Transition will be forthcoming to the Select Board.

**Executive Session** – None scheduled this evening.

Select Person Kathleen Grady made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person Brian Ashe seconded the motion. Chair Person Hal Haberman called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners  
Recording Secretary