

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Monday – December 4, 2006
Police Station Community Room
7:00 pm

Chair Person Brian Ashe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Also Present: Town Manager Robin Crosbie; Recording Secretary Stacy Wieners; Audit Committee P. Adornato; E. Stolar and D. Leslie.

Announcements:

- 2007 recycling calendars will be delivered with The Reminder the week of December 18th.
- The Police Benefit Association Christmas Tree Sale is going on in the Longmeadow Fire Station parking lot.

7:02 pm Acceptance of Minutes

- Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2006 Regular Meeting Notes with corrections. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:03 pm Visitor Comment/Question Period (10 minutes)- Eleanor Stolar requested in writing the statement Town Counsel made regarding Article 16. She also inquired as to why the Select Board felt the need to have Town Counsel address it. Select Person Kathleen Grady will provide Ms. Stolar with the information she requested.

7:16 pm Tax Classification Hearing – Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to open the Tax Classification Hearing. Dennis Kennedy, a member of the Board of Assessors, shared with the Select Board the Board of Assessors opinion; that the Town should adopt a Single Tax Rate. The Board of Assessors stated that 90% of the property value in Town is held by homeowners while only 4% is Commercial, Industrial or another class. Shifting the Tax Rate, according to the Board of Assessors will not generate a lot of revenue. Town Accountant Paul Pasterczyk agrees. Select Person Paul Santaniello believes that commercial property has a higher value over residential properties. He feels strongly that there is a difference between the two and that they should not be treated equally. David Leslie addressed the Select Board on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, supporting a single tax rate. He wanted to remind the Select Board that business in Town do not send children to school or use the Parks and Recreation facilities. Select Person Kathleen Grady pointed out that she does not either. After much discussion, Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion that each property class maintains 100% of its full value tax share by adopting a factor of “1”. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote

and the motion passed 3:2. (B. Ashe – yes, W. Scibelli – yes, H. Haberman – yes, K. Grady – no, P. Santaniello – no)

Select Person William Scibelli made a motion not to grant a discount to Open Space; that a residential exemption shift up to twenty percent (20%) of the average assessed value of owner occupied parcels to non-owner occupied parcels in the residential class not be adopted; and that a small commercial exemption that lowers the burden by up to ten percent (10%) of the value of commercial parcels not be adopted. Select Person Hal Haberman seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

7:40 pm District Vacancy Applicant Interview: Crystal Diamond was not present at the meeting. The Select Board interviewed Hunter (Carsten) Golden. They will vote at the next Select Board meeting.

7:48 pm Old Business: Select Person Paul Santaniello requested that Chair Person Brian Ashe call an Executive Session meeting with the Finance and School Committees. This will allow an open discussion regarding contract negotiations in order to figure out where the Boards stand with their budgets.

New Business:

- 1. Building Demolition Committee Appointments – 7:14 pm** - Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to appoint Janice Dickstein, Daniel O'Malley, Kathleen Berube and Craig Carr to the Building Demolition Committee. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion and the topic was opened for discussion. Select Person Kathleen Grady has a concern with the appointment of Kathleen Berube because of her involvement with the Falmouth Road issue. Although other members of the Select Board agree with her concern, the fact is that she will be required to abstain from any discussions or votes pertaining to that issue; as will any other member of the board where a conflict of interest may arise. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion was passed 4:1. (B. Ashe – yes, W. Scibelli-yes, H. Haberman –yes, K. Grady – no, P. Santaniello –yes)
- 2. Holiday Waste- 7:50 pm** – Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to allow one extra bag per household for the weeks of December 26 and January 2, 2007. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. Select Person William Scibelli wanted to make it clear that the extra bag is a regular barrel or plastic trash bag, NOT a Town bag.
- 3. Request for 4-Way Stop Sign – 7:55 pm** – Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion as recommended by the Chief of Police, the Longmeadow Safety Officer, Town Manger and three hundred (300) residents to install stop signs at the following intersections: Blueberry Hill Road traveling North and South at Lawrence Drive and Tanglewood Drive; Lawrence Drive traveling East at Blueberry Hill Road and Tanglewood Drive traveling East at Blueberry Hill Road. Select Person Kathleen Grady seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Eagle Scout Function – 7:12 pm**-Chair Person Brian Ashe stated that at the very least a letter and certificate will be sent if a member of the Select Board is unable to attend the Eagle Scout function. Select Person Paul Santaniello will do his best to attend the function.

5. MIIA Luncheon Voting Delegate – 7:13 pm- Select Person Kathleen Grady nominated Select Person William Scibelli to vote on behalf of the Select Board at the Luncheon. The remaining members agreed.

6. Discussion – Bulk Leaf Pickup – 7:58 pm- Town Manager Robin Crosbie reiterated that no funds are available in the budget to reinstate the bulk leaf pickup program in Town. A budget could be developed that would be contingent on an override. Select Person William Scibelli wants to explore alternatives available such as hiring a private contractor on behalf of the Town that could perhaps be contracted on a per house basis. Select Person Paul Santaniello suggested, if there is an override at the next Town Meeting, to add Bulk Leaf pickup as a menu item. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will look into alternatives for bulk leaf pickup.

7. Discussion – Executive Strategy Sub-Committee – 8:11 pm –Most of the Select Board agrees that the creation of an Executive Strategy Sub-Committee may not be a good idea at this time. Chair Person Brian Ashe feels that fifteen people at a meeting tends to slow the process down. No vote is needed for this decision. Town Manager Robin Crosbie will inform the School Committee and the Finance Committee of the Select Boards discussion.

Consent Agenda: None at this time.

8:25 pm Correspondence- None at this time.

8:25 pm Select Board Reports

Members of the Select Board along with Town Manger Robin Crosbie and other Town officials toured Glenbrook and Center Schools. An architect may have some options to change some doors to windows instead of the expense of replacing every door in the schools.

8:26 pm Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Robin Crosbie reported that of the seventeen Tax foreclosure Properties in Town, only five parcels remain. She informed the Board that the Town has hired a Senior Mechanic and a Superintendent of Water and Waste Water. Both positions were in the budget.

The new sweeper is in the garage at the Department of Public Works and the other trucks are on order and in process of being built. Town Manager Robin Crosbie announced that residents may now pay their tax bill online for a small fee. Last week Town Manager Robin Crosbie and Superintendent of Schools, Jahn Hart, developed an RFP defining the scope of services for security in the schools.

Executive Session – None Scheduled

Select Person Hal Haberman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Select Person William Scibelli seconded the motion. Chair Person Brian Ashe called a vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Wieners
Recording Secretary