

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2008

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Teichert called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:01 P.M. in the **Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Offices. Present at the Regular Meeting** (by roll call) Chairman Teichert – Y, Selectman Lyman – Y and Selectman Vispoli – Y. Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski was also present. The meeting was duly posted and cable-cast live.

III. Opening Ceremonies

Chairman Teichert asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Joe Misenti, former Town employee, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Communications/Announcements/Liaison Reports

The Town Manager made the following announcements:

- ~ The Senior Center has received a \$2500 grant from the State Consumer Education Department for energy education for senior citizens.
- ~ The Department of Community Services will continue the Summer Wednesday evening concerts in The Park from 6-8 PM despite the recent rainouts.
- ~ Congratulations to Town Clerk Randy Hanson on her successful re-certification as **a Municipal Clerk through the International Clerk's Association.**
- ~ The State Primary will be held on Tuesday, September 16th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Andover will have two polling places for voting.
- ~ There are vacancies available on several Town committees – interested residents **should contact the Town Manager's office or view the vacancies on the Town's website.**
- ~ The Andover Legislative delegation has been busy this year. There are several items for Andover tied to the State budget bill: Transportation bond: \$600,000 for repair/rehabilitation of town owned bridges, \$10M for construction of sound barriers, \$203,000 to finish sidewalk work on North Main Street. From the Capital Bond, \$500,000 is allocated for a pedestrian safety/vehicle access for the Youth Services/DMS Site and \$600,000 for relocation of the salt storage site. The Environmental Bond Bill has targeted \$500,000 for the Ledge Road Landfill and \$75,000 to increase water supply capabilities at Harold Parker.
- ~ The Emergency/Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan for Andover has been approved. Approval allows Andover to apply for mitigation grants that we qualify for.
- ~ **Tonight's Energy Report has been rescheduled to an upcoming meeting.**
- ~ The **Board of Selectmen's visit to the Melmark School was quite rewarding. It was a great tour of an impressive facility that handles important issues for children with autism.**

Chairman Teichert said Andover has been chosen as a “Hot Pink Community” by the American Cancer Society. In this regard, he requested the stripe down the middle of Main Street from Punchard Ave to Elm Square be painted pink for the American Society Walk for Breast Cancer to be held in October.

IV. Citizens Petitions and Presentations

Mary Carbone, 3 Cyr Circle, addressed the issue of downtown parking and the cost attached. At one meeting the Board approved an increase in parking from 25 cents to 50 cents then new rates were approved at the last meeting. She wonders which vote is binding and suggests parking rates revert to the first vote of 50 cents across the board.

John Pasquale, Whittier Street, shared his downtown observations including work being conducted at TD Banknorth on Sunday mornings and the slippage in progress in the Main Street project. He also questioned if the Board of Selectmen and School Committee will be able to work together this year or if they will need a facilitator.

V. Public Hearing

A. Bay State Gas Company

Selectman Lyman motioned to approve the request of the Bay State Gas Company **to excavate approximately 2,900 feet on Hidden Road to install a 6” PE main** to replace the existing bare steel main. This work will also include connecting the services along the above-mentioned work area to the newly installed main. The request has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Public Works subject to the following conditions: 1) Prior to construction, a street opening permit must be obtained from the DPW; 2) The entire trench shall have a full depth patch upon completion; and 3) During the 2009 paving season, the trench patch shall be milled 6 to 8 feet wide to a depth of 2 inches and repaved. The motion was seconded by Selectman Vispoli and voted 3-0 to approve.

Resident concerns:

Joyce Leary, 32 Hidden Road – how long will the project take? The representative from the Gas Company said the project will take approximately one month and they expect to begin in approximately three weeks.

Steve Root, 35 Hidden Road – asked if someone will coordinate with the School Bus Coordinator as the area for buses to turn around will be diminished. The Town Manager said Safety Officer Edgerly and School Bus Coordinator, Mim McLaughlin, will be notified ahead of time.

Mr. Root also asked how close the new gas lines will be to property lines and if catch basin issues can be addressed at the same time. DPW Director Jack Petkus responded that the gas lines will abut the property lines, however, catch basins cannot be done at this time.

VI. Regular Business of the Board

A. Downtown Banner Poles

Mark Spencer of the Banner Committee and Senior Planner Lisa Schwarz presented a visual display of where the banner poles will be placed downtown just north of Elm Square (between Mobil Station and Library and across by Elm

Green). The banner and footprints will not obstruct visibility of signals nor will they be in the way of pedestrians and will be quite visible at this site. The Board discussed the selection of the site and is fine with the location but would like to see a **“visual” of the actual** design before final approval.

Selectman Lyman motioned to recommend the approval of the location of the placement of the banner poles barring any unforeseen problems; (i.e. engineering/placement of utilities).

Selectman Vispoli requested the motion be amended to include the Banner Committee return with an actual design before final placement approval is granted.

Selectman Lyman motioned to amend her motion to recommend the approval of the location of the placement of the banner poles barring any unforeseen problems; (i.e. engineering/placement of utilities) and the Banner Committee present a visual of the actual design and what the poles will look like before final approval of placement. The motion was seconded by Selectman Vispoli, voted 3-0 and approved.

B. Right of First Refusal – Affordable Unit at Powder Mill Square

Selectman Lyman motioned to vote to waive **the Town’s First Right of Refusal** for the affordable unit under foreclosure at 3 Powder Mill Square, Unit 202C. The motion was seconded by Selectman Vispoli, voted 3-0, and approved.

C. Fire Rescue Strategic Plan

Fire Chief Michael B. Mansfield presented the Andover Fire Rescue Strategic Plan for 2008-2012. The presentation included a Vision Statement, Value Statement, Historical Overview, Strategic Plan, an in-depth look at all aspects of the organization, as well as accomplishments to date. The plan includes the planning objectives for facilities, water supply, apparatus, emergency medical services, health and safety issues, and personnel.

The Chief also discussed the formation of a Fire Station Building Committee to begin the work of addressing the need of replacing/relocating the two sub-stations at West Andover and Ballardvale.

Selectman Vispoli motioned approval to charge the Town Manger to move forward with establishing a Fire Replacement Station Building Committee, consisting of 7 members, and to investigate the opportunities for regionalization. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lyman, voted 3-0 and approved.

D. FY-08 Preliminary Financial Report

Town Accountant Rodney Smith reviewed the highlights in the hand-out distributed of the preliminary financial reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. The Town Accountant said the year finished well, closing time this year was better than in the past, staff has been wonderful and everything reconciled. Mr. Smith also provided a Retirement Board update stating that although PRIT is down 1.38% it is still in the top 20% of the market (this being the worst investment market in 30 years). Andover made a good decision to move the retirement funds to PRIT. Mr. Smith agreed to include an update on Retirement funds in future

reports.

E. **Town Accountant's Re-Appointment**

Selectman Lyman said they are working on one final component and will then be ready to present to the Board.

F. **Future Meeting Dates**

The Board agreed to meet on Monday, September 8 and September 16th; and on Monday, October 6, and October 20, 2008. They will conduct a mid-year review on November 19, 2008.

VII. Sewer Commissioners

Selectman Vispoli motioned to move to Sewer Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lyman, voted 3-0 and approved. Roll call vote: Teichert – Y, Lyman – Y and Vispoli – Y.

The Town Manager and the DPW Director went over the options of paying, option for abatements and deferrals as well as the seven step process which is established by the Department of Revenue and Massachusetts General Law.

Selectman Vispoli motioned to approve the sewer betterment abatement requests as presented. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lyman, voted 3-0 and approved. Roll call vote: Teichert – Y, Lyman – Y and Vispoli – Y.

- ~ John J. King, Jr., 127 Hidden Road – overcharged \$520.96 plus any applicable interest
- ~ **Debra A. O’Leary, 4 Embassy Lane** – 50% abatement for an assessment of \$6,719.79 plus any applicable interest
- ~ Katherine E. and James C. Keith, Jr. – 50% abatement for an assessment of \$9,377.28 plus any applicable interest

All of the requests have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Department of Public Works as outlined in the Water and Sewer Commissioners Policy for Sewer Betterment Abatement Requests.

Selectman Lyman motioned to adjourn from Sewer Commissioners, seconded by Selectman Vispoli, voted 3-0 and approved. Roll call vote: Teichert – Y, Lyman – Y and Vispoli – Y.

VIII. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. **Appointments and Re-appointments**

Selectman Vispoli motioned to approve the following appointments recommended by the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lyman, voted 3-0 and approved.

| DEPARTMENT | POSITION | RATE | EFF. DATE |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| <u>POLICE DEPARTMENT – New Horizons for Youth Program</u> | | | |
| Quincy Torres | Program Assistant – PT | \$15.00/hr. | 9/2/08 |

X. Adjournment

Selectman Lyman motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Vispoli and voted 3-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee DeLorenzo, Recorder