

SELECT BOARD MINUTES August 10, 2009

Present: Select Board members Bill Perlman, Tom Ulrich and Dave DeHerdt

More than 50 residents

Meeting called to order 7:07 pm.

Town Website – Charlie Heath from Town Websites discussed with the Board the possibility of developing a web site for the town. He would do the work and maintain it for 2 years at no cost to the town. Discussion occurred regarding the specifics of creating one and maintaining it. Juliet Jacobson volunteered to chair a web site design committee. Harry Keramidas and Paul Swem also volunteered to be on the committee. The Board would like to have a 5 member committee.

Heating Fuel Oil – Mary Fitz-Gibbon, chair of the Sewer Commissioners, discussed with the Board the heating fuel oil contract. Because the sewer plant did not reach the 90% minimum usage per the contract, the town is being charged last year's oil price. Once we reach the 90% threshold, the town will receive the FY10 bid price. The town hall and library reached the 90% mark for the gallons that they bid. Mary will discuss this issue further with the sewer commissioners.

Signatures – The Board agreed to have Bill sign as chair, an ethics disclosure form that certifies that Laura Blakesley performs the duties of collector and half of the treasurer.

Fire Department Report – The Board discussed how to implement the pre-employment physical portion of the personnel policies. Dave will attend the fire department meeting to discuss the possibility of paying for them

Minutes – Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the executive session minutes of August 3. Vote was unanimous.

Letter of Reprimand – Town counsel suggested changes to the letter of reprimand. Tom Ulrich had small changes as well.

Public Forum – During the public forum questions were raised regarding the opening of mail and why letters of support for John were not shown to Dave and Tom. Bill said that he told Maryellen that he did not want to see the letters and she took that to mean that they were not to be shown to anyone. Maryellen asked the Board how they wanted the mail handled going forward. Anything addressed to individual Board members will go in their envelopes. Anything else will be the responsibility of the select board chair to open.

John asked Dave if it would have made a difference in the decision if Dave had seen the letters of support. Dave replied that it would not have made a difference, but he would have liked to have seen them because it goes to character.

The question was also asked as to why emails Sgt. Nunez had presented at the executive session were not included in the packet to be released. Dave replied that the emails got mixed in with a different stack of papers. He said that he had authorized Maryellen to release the packet with the emails.

The Board was asked about the DA's request for minutes and emails to investigate possible open meeting law violations. Dave said that he had sent his emails to the DA electronically. Bill said that the remaining emails would be mailed.

Ricki Carroll read a letter requesting the Bill Perlman resign from the select board.

Some residents said that the issues were sexual harassment. Everything else brought up was a smokescreen. Other residents replied that these were allegations that had not been proven. One resident questioned why if these allegations go back to 2005 that nothing had been reported before now.

Mary Link and Cynthia Cranston volunteered to revive the Human Relations Commission to address the issues of sexual harassment and healing.

Executive Session – Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session per MGL Chapter 39, S. 23B to discuss pending litigation. The Board will not reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Bill, aye; Tom, aye; Dave, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator