

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 27, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chm. Woods called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The following persons were present: Chair Julie Woods, Vice Chair Kevin Kuros, Clerk Michael Potaski, Sel. Jim Dwyer, Sel. Dan Stack, Town Manager Jill Myers and BOS Assistant Tracy Leavitt.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:** Senator Moore. On behalf of Reps. Callahan and Kujawski presented DPW Supt. Larry Bombara with a resolution to congratulate him on being named one of the Top Ten Leaders of the Year by the American Public Works Association. Ms. Marsha Bergeron of 86 Hecla Street addressed the Board in opposition of Ms. Deborah North's request. Mr. Lou Fraga of 164 Hecla Street also addressed the Board in opposition to Ms. North's request.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS/SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS:**

**One Day Entertainment License: Phoenix Festival of Music and Art:** Ms. Susan Franz provided the Board with an update of the event organized to benefit the Friends of the Bernat Mill Fire Fund. Ms. DiPrete informed the Board that she met with Ms. Franz to review everything necessary for the event. Ms. Franz stated that the expected attendance is 2,000-5,000 people.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to approve the one day entertainment license. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Road Race to Benefit Bernat Fire Recovery:** Ms. Liz Abate informed the Board of a road race she is planning at West Hill Dam on September 15, 2007, to benefit the Bernat Fire Recovery.

**Review of Town Meeting Norms with Town Moderator Harold Klei:** Mr. Klei provided the Board with a few suggestions he feels will improve Town Meeting. Chm. Woods asked Mr. Klei if he would be amenable to participating in future joint meetings with the BOS, School Committee and the Finance Committee. Mr. Klei stated he would be willing to participate.

***ACTION ITEM: Provide the Moderator with a copy of the meeting minutes from August 1, 2007 when approved.***

Finance Committee Chair Ed Maharay addressed the Board regarding Mr. Klei's suggestions. He stated that he agrees that the Town should go back to its prior practice of printing and mailing the warrants and suggested a request for a reserve fund transfer to do so. Mr. Maharay noted the timeline for FinComm's review and recommendations.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT:** Ms. Myers reviewed her written report. Ms. Myers stated that the fire investigation at the Bernat Mill is ongoing, however, the demolition has ceased because insurance adjusters have been on-site.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BOS/Town Manager Goals:** After deliberation of which goals to recommend as the top five for the Town Manager, the Board agreed to use Sel. Dwyer's list as follows:

1. Develop and document a flexible multi-year budget forecast model.
2. Develop a "step by step" permitting and licensing process.
3. Develop a short and long-range capital improvement plan.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 27, 2007**

4. Establish goals for all department heads and conduct a formal annual performance review for each.
5. Create a staffing plan for town agencies except the School Department.

Ms. Myers noted that she would like to refine the goal statements and seek input from department heads as they will provide assurance that the suggested goals will be met. The Board agreed to have the Town Manager revise the wording of the goals and present for adoption at the next meeting.

***ACTION ITEM: Type the 5 Town Manager goals for Ms. Myers to review and provide to the Board for action at their next meeting.***

Chm. Woods asked the Board if they would like to put forth any BOS goals for consideration at their next meeting. The Board agreed that the most important goal is the budget and budget process as well as document storage. Ms. Myers informed the Board that they are currently looking at an off-site climate controlled storage company and that Finance Director Genereux could speak on that matter. The Board agreed they need to initiate a 5 year water and sewer plan.

Update on Expedited Permitting (43D) and Designated Site (Rte. 16/146): Director of Planning and Economic Development Megan DiPrete stated that many people believe expedited permitting means someone will be on a fast track, when really it actually is a good government tool of well established regulations where all the rules are on the table and everybody commits upfront to move expeditiously through a reasonable permitting process. Ms. DiPrete informed the Board that currently two meetings are scheduled and possibly more with the Consultant, Attorney Mark Bobrowski. The meetings will allow the Planning and Zoning Boards to increase their knowledge of regulations and prepare for new permitting processes. Ms. DiPrete stated one of the requirements of the statute is to assess our current permitting requirements and process. She informed the BOS that she has been working with Town Clerk Joe Kaplan to compile amendments voted to the zoning bylaws which are about 98% completed. Ms. DiPrete has also been working with the Chairman of the Bylaw Review Committee to make sure there are no gaps. The end result will be to have one solid book of our zoning bylaws. Ms. DiPrete informed the Board that an Economic Development Strategy had been done for the town. She went on to say that right now is a great opportunity for the Town to do master planning on a comprehensive level. Ms. DiPrete noted that the final element is computerized permitting. She informed the Board that she has met with three different vendors and work is being done on a regional level that will provide recommendations for permitting software. Ms. DiPrete spoke in regard to fees and informed the Board that some of the fees are competitive, while others are a real benefit to any significant developer. Att. Bobrowski has recommended that we update those fees that are low. Sel. Kuros asked Ms. DiPrete if she has had any conversation with the Bernat Mill owners to see if they might be interested in seeking a similar designation to help with the rebuilding. Ms. DiPrete informed the BOS that there is really an admirable partnership going on between the Bernat Mill owners, the MA Office of Business Development and the Town of Uxbridge on what might happen. Ms. Myers noted that Mr. Rob Cherrier stopped by the office and provided confirmation of payment for the LLC he has filed, but no submittal on the designated 43 D project has been made. She noted that staff hoped the zoning bylaw amendments for the expedited permitting process would be approved at the Fall Town Meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Fall Annual Town Meeting: Review of Draft Warrant (Warrant closes 9/21): Ms. Myers informed the Board that the warrant will close on 9/21/07 which is 60 days prior to Town Meeting per the Town Charter. Sel. Kuros made suggested that the BOS sponsor an article for a recall provision that he

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 27, 2007**

brought up a few years ago. The Board agreed to discuss that at their next meeting. Sel. Dwyer noted that the Town Manager may want to change the order of Articles I, J and K regarding codification.

**MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack, to meet on 9/17 to finalize the warrant. The motion passed unanimously.**

Group Insurance Commission (GIC) – Update from Information Session: Finance Director David Genereux provided a memorandum in the Board’s meeting packet. He noted that the law to expand the GIC to municipalities was signed by the Governor in late July. The GIC began holding informational sessions in mid-August, for which he attended. Mr. Genereux noted that time is of the essence to consider participation in FY2009 - we must notify the GIC by 10/1/07 to be on board for 7/1/08. He discussed the potential costs savings, how MGL Chapter 32B, section 19 (coalition bargaining) relates to collective bargaining and the agreement between the town and the new public employees committee (“PEC”), versus the IAC as we have used in the past for changes to health benefit plans/providers. The coalition of the PEC is made up of the school and town unions weighted vote by number of union members in a unit. He elaborated that the potential savings for FY09 necessitated the requested action by the BOS. Comparing the GIC plans for the current year to the Town – noting not all of the same providers – would potentially save the Town \$ 957,479.91, and potential savings to the employees and retirees as well. He noted the limitations to the GIC as the Town would only control the employee contribution, no say as a Town in offerings or co-pays meaning no longer negotiate benefit plans, and that the Town may only opt out in three year intervals. He presented the Board with a motion to initiate the process with the unions to consider the GIC option. Mr. Genereux said the vote only commits the Town to moving forward in the process and that if they choose to join the GIC; an agreement would be signed by the BOS and new PEC.

**MSDV by Sel. Kuros, seconded by Sel. Stack, that the Board of Selectmen accept M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 19 as amended for the purpose of transferring all subscribers for whom the Town provides health insurance to the Group Insurance Commission pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 19e and further to authorize the Town Manager to: notice forthwith the initial meeting of a Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 19 (e); bargain with such Public Employee Committee for the purposes of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 19 (e); enter into an agreement with such Public Employee Committee for the purpose of M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 19 (e); and take all such other steps as are reasonably related to the transfer of all subscribers to the Group Insurance Commission. The motion passed unanimously.**

Proposed Snow Plowing Policy for Private Street: The Board reviewed the Town of Shrewsbury’s policy with DPW Superintendent Bombara, as well as the current listing of private streets plowed by the Town. DPW Supt. Larry Bombara noted that this could be a possible savings of \$6,000 or more. Mr. Bombara agrees with the concept of Shrewsbury’s policy but understands that some things may need to be revised – with implementation dates added. Mr. Bombara feels this should have been implemented years ago. Sel. Potaski asked if after a developer completes the project and turns it over to the homeowner or condominium association, do we substitute the homeowner for the developer? Chm. Woods added to Sel. Potaski’s question asking if it could possibly be a revenue generator. Mr. Bombara said he feels it is not a good idea. Asst. DPW Supt. Irving Priest mentioned that this policy could be a mechanism to move the developers to get the streets completed and accepted. Ms. DiPrete stated that the policy is very sound and most of it does not need re-invention. Chm. Woods asked Mr.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 27, 2007**

Bombara for his recommendation. He responded by telling the Board that if this is something they are interested in, the policy can be revised. The Board agreed unanimously that they are all interested in proceeding. Chm. Woods asked Mr. Bombara to document existing conditions and consider possibly including the clean-up of sand on the policy. Mr. Bombara responded by saying he is not sure if he can afford to take on additional services with reductions to his department.

***ACTION ITEM: Continue discussion on 9/10.***

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 6/4, 6/11, 8/1 and 8/13 Regular Sessions:

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to accept the minutes from 6/4/07 with the correction. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSDV by Sel. Potaski, seconded by Sel. Dwyer, to accept the minutes from 6/11/07 with inclusion of firefighter's names. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSDV by Sel. Dwyer, seconded by Sel. Stack, to accept the minutes from 8/1/07 with additions as outlined by Sel. Dwyer. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSDV by Sel. Potaski, seconded by Sel. Dwyer to accept the minutes from 8/13/07 as presented. The motion passed 4-0. ( Sel. Stack was not present)**

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from 8/13 Executive Session: The Board agreed to review in Executive Session.

Review Letter to School Committee: The Board reviewed the School Committee letter. Ms. Myers noted a correction noted that not all municipal union contracts were due to expire in FY08, but it was accurate for the School collective bargaining contracts.

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to accept the letter with the changes and send. The motion passed unanimously.**

Review Letter to Capital Planning Committee: The Board agreed to insert the information from the Charter relating to Article 3, Section 2, indicating the Board's authority.

**MSDV by Sel. Potaski, seconded by Sel. Stack, to approve and send the letter. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chm. Woods spoke regarding the Blanchard Committee and informed the Board that she would like them to review a draft letter at their next meeting. She reminded the Board that on two occasions, the Chairman of the committee made it clear that they had fulfilled their charge and should be dismissed. She stated that the letter will be to ask the committee if they wish to be disbanded and also offer all members an opportunity to weigh in on the warrant article pertaining to the future of the Blanchard building.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
August 27, 2007**

Sel. Potaski reminded the Board of Selectmen that they owe Mr. Fortner a response to his request. Chm. Woods apologized for not being prepared to do so and hopes to address this at the Board's next meeting. Sel. Potaski then asked Ms. Myers if she or anyone has responded to the public records request relating to the Rosenfeld property. Ms. Myers noted that staff had provided an estimate to prepare the documents, but had not heard if the resident wished to move forward or view the documents. Sel. Kuros asked the Town Manger for an update to be provided at the next meeting regarding document/records storage.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MSDV by Sel. Stack seconded by Sel. Poatski, to enter into executive session # 3. RCV:  
Woods- aye, Stack – aye, Kuros – aye, Potaski – aye, Dwyer – aye.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** at 11:00 p.m.,

**MSDV by Sel. Stack, seconded by Sel. Potaski, to adjourn. The motion passed  
unanimously.**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Tracy Leavitt, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen*

Minutes approved by Board of Selectmen:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Julie A. Woods

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sel. James F. Dwyer

\_\_\_\_\_  
V. Chairman Kevin J. Kuros

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sel. Dan Stack

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk Michael Potaski

MSDV: Moved, Seconded, Discussed & Voted  
RCV: Roll Call Vote