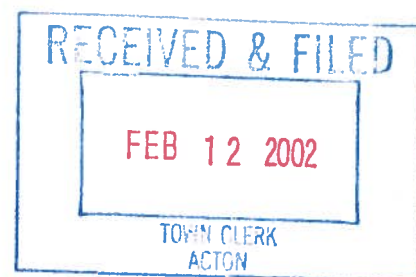


**Selectmen's Minutes**  
**January 14, 2002**  
7:00 P.M.



Present: Peter Ashton, Trey Shupert, F. Dore' Hunter, Pam Harting-Barrat, Walter Foster, Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. Meeting was televised.

**CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

Candidate for State Representative – Ron Lamothe introduced himself to the Board.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS**

None this meeting

**SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

**Citizen's Petition** –The two petitions would repeal the PUD and PCRC and has been sent to counsel for review. Trey volunteered to serve on a study committee over the next few weeks to study these petitions. The committee should consist of members of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and interested citizens. Dore' wanted a technical memo which would identify potential problems. Walter asked about process. He too wanted planning to review and asked how we educate ourselves and what led to these petitions. Pam wanted a legal opinion on the effects of these proposed petitions. Charlie Kadlec suggested taskforce include those that turned in the petition.

**Economic Development Committee** –DORE' HUNTER – Moved to authorize Pam to replace Trey on EDC. WALTER FOSTER. UNANIMOUS VOTE. Peter asked for a memo updating the goals and objectives of the EDC and scheduling of an oversight meeting with EDC.

**Towne School Building** – The task force has met and feel housing is the best use of this building. Dore' felt it was compatible with the project and thinks that affordable housing is important and he notes that school may wish to have this revisited at Town Meeting. Walter said that if the school wants this back they better speak now. He felt that it did not need to go back to Town meeting, as this is the decision of the Taskforce authorized by the voters.

Jonathan Chinitz felt it should not go back to town meeting. noted that Mass Housing could pay for the feasibility study for this building and at no cost to the Town.

Betty McManus – She spoke to the State, they are excited and feel they may support us in this project.

DORE' HUNTER – Moved that the Board approve affordable housing as its first priority for the reuse of the Towne School building by the municipality upon the cessation of its functioning as a school. And that the Acton Community Housing Corporation (ACHC) is hereby authorized to investigate, with the assistance of the Town's staff, the feasibility of developing the Towne School as affordable housing. Further that ACHC is authorized to

seek financial and other assistance from the Mass. Housing Partnership Fund in connection with this authorization and to make a recommendation to the Board within 60-90 days of the commencement of this study. TREY SHUPERT – Second. Unanimous Vote.

**Budget Discussion** – PETER ASHTON - Move to cut 2,000 out of the cell phone budget, and to cut 1,500 from the Parking ticket Collection line.

Peter spoke about IT's taking money from consultant's budget if his employee request was granted. He was convinced that we could use the funds from AT& T Cable. John reported that Atty. Solomon thinks we need to open and operate government channel. Dore' noted that the school has approached us for sharing IT and how they will interact.

**Hazardous Waste Day** – A fee structure was discussed and then the budget could be reduced.

We might save money by having one contractor with the school's regarding GASB34.

Peter spoke about the budgets for energy and felt that are too high and has suggested some cuts to the Manager and will await his response.

Dore' wanted the Town Manager to convince him why we need a new engine this year. Peter agreed and Trey and Pam also needed to be convinced.

Hazmat trailer – Dore' was leery about it being stored outside and wanted more information.

Trench Rescue Equipment– He felt the sewer project has been completed and did not think they would use it and again, was questioning another trailer being outside. Staff noted that the pipes still needed to be laid from the street to the homes.

Painting town hall every 5 years. Dore' felt we could make paint last one more year. DORE' HUNTER – Moved to wait one more year to paint. TREY SHUPERT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Dore' asked about the Elm Street playground and if we could take the benches and fencing down until we can fix it. He does not want to leave a safety hazard.

Trey had a question on town hall copiers. Why don't we lease?

NARA Exit Lighting- It was decided to continue to rent this year.

Patrol rifles to keep up with replacement cycle. He suggested that we cut it back the 3 rifles or 16,000

Walter asked about the SUV for the Fire Chief is his current car really dead. He does not think we needed to replace it.

IT positions he felt that we needed just one and hire a web designer as consultant.

Fire - Phasing in safety and survival gear, and cut in half and add another quarter. He felt we could share until we phase them in.

Reverse 911 is something would be able to look at closer, as it is expensive.

Interior lights at NARA he felt we should phase in. He also spoke about Elm Street lights.

The Board felt that the Conservation Booklet should be self-supporting.

Exercise Class COA – Walter asked about having a fee or donation for the classes.

Peter asked about Storm Water and regional approach. Dore' felt we could spend \$5-10 thousand to print handouts and educational items.

Financial Software Replacement was discussed. DORE' HUNTER – Moved to put in computer software \$12,000 self-funding – PAM HARTING-BARRAT. Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Street Acceptance Documents TREY SHUPERT - Moved to put on warrant PAM HARTING-BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

Route 2 CAC Discussion –A notice to residents and businesses will be prepared and sent as a formal notice for the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Community Preservation Act Discussion- A Draft was in the packet this weekend. Subcommittee advised the Board to determine whether to put on for Spring and it needs a level of discussion about the surcharge level as well as whether or not to have exemptions. Trey noted he is comfortable with 1.5% with two exemptions or 1% with one exemption.

Jean Schoch – AHA – She feels that it is a possible way to get affordable housing and the expense is according to what you own. It will put in money and act as an economic stimulate.

Charlie wanted some numbers to it.

Trey asked if it had a minimum percentage surcharge and could we change it to take it off for one year? He said the article would have to be put on Town Meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS -**

ALG Meeting –Peter noted that the plan provided tonight was an updated plan. They spoke about the use of Free Cash. Fin Com said that they suggest 1.1 million in use. This could require cuts in Municipal Budget below last year's appropriated budget.

Announcement of a presentation to Fincom on SPED by Nancy Klob on Tuesday; the Selectmen are invited

Makaha – letter sent to invite in to explain violations.

Pam complained that the commuter lot needs extra sand and salt.

Dore' noted that the Goals should be reviewed

## CONSENT AGENDA

TREY SHUPERT – Approved. DORE' HUNTER- Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

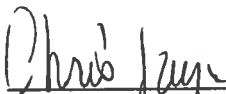
## TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

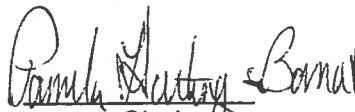
Don spoke about the MMA meeting this past weekend in Boston.

MIA – Observations are that worker comp and health and property were impacted by the events of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None Required

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Joyce  
Recording Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk  
2/4/02  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

January 11, 2002

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Peter Ashton, Chairman

SUBJECT: Selectmen's Report

**January 14, 2002**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.**

**I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS**

1. None Scheduled.

**III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

1. **CITIZENS' PETITIONS FOR ZONING ARTICLES** – Enclosed please find two (2) Citizens' Petitions, along with Staff comment, for Board consideration.

2. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) REPRESENTATION** – The Board will need to take action regarding representation on the EDC, per the enclosed memo.

3. **TOWNE SCHOOL BUILDING** – Enclosed please find correspondence in the subject regard, for Board consideration.

4. **BUDGET DISCUSSION** – Chairman Ashton has asked that the Board initiate budget discussions.

5. **STREET ACCEPTANCE DOCUMENTS** – Enclosed please find materials from the Engineering Department for Board acceptance and signature.

6. **ROUTE 2 CAC DISCUSSION**

7. **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT DISCUSSION**

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**IV CONSENT AGENDA**

9. **ACCEPT MINUTES** – Enclosed please find Minutes of December 4, 2001, for Board approval.

10. **ACCEPT GIFT**- Enclosed please find a request from the West Acton Citizens Library to accept a gift made to the Library, for Board approval.

11. **ACCEPT GIFT** – Enclosed please find a request from Planning to accept a sidewalk contribution in conjunction with Conquest Way, for Board approval.
12. **BETSY BALL FUND REQUEST** – Enclosed please find a confidential request for funds from the Betsy Ball Fund submitted by staff, for Board approval.
13. **SITE PLAN SPECIAL PERMIT – 2/23/01-375 AMENDED – 180-182 Great Road-**  
Enclosed please find a decision in the subject regard for action.

## **V. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

## **VI EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Enclosed please find additional correspondence that is strictly informational and requires no Board action.

### **FUTURE AGENDAS**

To facilitate scheduling for interested parties, the following items are scheduled for discussion on future agendas. This IS NOT a complete Agenda.

**Mtgs. Begin at 7:00 P.M.**

**NOTE THAT THE BOARD NOW MEETS ON MONDAY'S**

- January 28
- Feb 11
- Feb 25
- March 11
- March 25

### **GOALS 2001-2002**

1. Resolution of on-going Labor Negotiations (Peter/Trey)
2. Improve Communication with Town Boards (Peter)
3. Towne Building Reuse (Walter/Dore')
4. ALG process be used for purpose of Budget Planning for FY '02 (Peter/Trey)
5. Residential and Commercial Growth (Walter/Trey/Pam)
6. Open Space and Recreation Plan (Peter/Walter)
7. Health Insurance Trust Agreement (Peter)
8. HDC Bylaw Review (Dore'/Peter)
9. Decision on Pentamation Accounting System (Dore'/Pam)
10. Process Planning for "Life after NESWC" (Pam)

### **FY 2000 GOALS carried forward**

11. Public Safety Facility (Dore'/Trey)
12. Determine future of Vallencourt House - 17 Woodbury Lane.
13. Provide looking at salary levels in the organization, include liaison with Personnel Board (Trey /Peter)