

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

June 20, 2000

Present: F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Herman Kabakoff, Trey Shupert, Pam Harting-Barrat, and the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager.
(The meeting was televised)

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Chairman Hunter announced Frank Widmayer's appointment as Permanent Police Chief. Dore' noted that Frank competed with over 60 applicants and was one of the four finalist. Frank was chosen because he was the best candidate. Tess Summers will go to work at the schools as their Finance Director. Additionally, we have hired a MIS person who will begin next week; Mark Hald has been our consultant for several years. Don noted that he has already been helpful in getting the mail connection established between Selectman Harting-Barrat and Don's office.

Albert Duskocil, 13 Algonqon Road. Read an Open letter asking the Board to adopt a 45 days before a ballot election is held policy. They feel that they need more time asked that the motion be printed in the warrant. They have over 220 signatures on this Open Letter. They feel it will be in the best interests of the Town for the voters to be educated about this process.

Dore' outlined the problems in adopting this policy. They will discuss this issue this evening.

APPOINTMENTS/HEARINGS

PERSONNEL BOARD OVERSIGHT MEETING

They will be rescheduled

ACTON TOYOTA – CLASS I MODIFICATION – 182 GREAT ROAD

Chairman Hunter spoke about the need for conditions as outlined in Garry Rhodes memo. Mr. Moran has moved forward with regard to constructing the wall and trees as outlined by Garry Rhodes. He will be submitting a site plan for 8-10 bays and they won't be seen from the road. Peter asked the number of vehicles to be on site, Mr., Moran expects 150 small cars and the large equipment will be removed. TREY SHUPERT – Moved to approve the modified Class I at 182 – with conditions listed in the Building Commissioner's Memo. HERMAN KABAKOFF – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS OVERSIGHT MEETING

David Brown and Don Rhude were present to speak with the Board. Dave outlined the process of the Board of Assessor. He feels that we currently have a good mix of people on the Board. They would welcome associate members. They are currently planning for a complete revaluation of the Town. Peter asked that they send a memo to

the Manager about his suggested ideas for new programs to relieve the tax burden on those that qualify. He suggested that they also bring legislation before Pam Resor and Cory Atkins.

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT MEETING

Terra Friedrichs and John Covert were present to outline what they do. They are currently in negotiation with Cablevision for a renewal of their license. They cannot actually deny the contract unless they are really terrible. He felt we have had a good license for the first 15 years. They have strong terms that others do not. The Commission has enforced the neighborhood providing requirement the contract. Media One and Cable are now owned by AT&T. They have negotiated a truly wonderful educational network for the Town. He felt that we should hold our own hearing, as the Attorney feels is the right way to go. John thanked the Town Manager for finding the attorney Solomon to work with the Commission. He has been very helpful and aggressive during this renewal process. John Covert noted that he is on vacation until 24th of July. We will have to opt out of the region and hold a hearing before August 14. John wanted to suggest first Tuesday in August if they wanted him in attendance. Peter concurred and felt we should hold our own hearing. He thinks we want the ability to control the questions. John Covert asked if they could sign the contract tonight. Dore' said they could get three members at a special meeting at a later time to sign the contract when it was fully completed. Dore' said we should get a date that would work for the hearing. If we started early at the August meeting that might work.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - The Board voted to opt out of the regional meeting and empower the Chairman to establish a mutually agreed time for our hearing. TREY SHUPERT – Second . UNANIMOUS VOTE.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – Chairman Hunter reviewed the timeframe for the STM as well issues surrounding the meeting and ballot dates. Fincom wants 30 days at least between the Town meeting and Ballot. Bob Evans has now suggested a Boxborough solution which is a meeting in October and adding it to the National Election on the November 7th ballot. It is technically possible, but once it is called (override) it cannot be called off. His feeling is that the School Committee's request is very valid. He wanted the LWV do the same type of forum that they did with regard to the Carlisle/Robbins Mill presentation. People would want to begin to campaign once the STM vote is taken.

MaryAnn Ashton said they could compromise and have the meeting on the October 30th. They are working to provide the building information we need at the best lowest cost. She felt that if we rushed this too much we could end up spending more money.

Pam wanted to propose a compromise of the STM be held on October 30 and then to hold the ballot November 20, 3 weeks later. She said this gives a three week period and feels that may an in between for the Fincom, board and citizens.

Herman felt it is clear what the citizens in town sentiments. He felt that by the next meeting that they would have over 1,000 signatures asking for the longer period. He suggested moving the STM from 30 to 23rd of October and gives the 30 days.

Peter said that he commends the SC for backing off from the original proposal. Under Herman's suggestion, the time frame is not feasible. He feels we need to call it on the 30th.

Trey expressed concern in the volume of work that the school committee has to do in nine weeks with regard to the feasibility proposal. He asked what would happen if the House version was approved and went forward. MaryAnn said if House is approved it changes who handles SAB. The Governor said it will be assigned to an executive office. He is comfortable with the October 30th date the 20th for ballot. He feels we have to give them all the time they need.

Dore' outlined the proposals before the school committee to prepare for this vote.

Herman noted that we have had the recommendation deferred printed in the warrant in the past. He felt that we could print deferred and be able to make a recommendation/decision later.

Mr. Duskocil said that it is incumbent that the voter get as accurately informed to make an intelligent vote. He again urged the longer time frame of 45 days.

PAM HARTING-BARRAT - Moved to hold the Special Town Meeting on October 30 with ballot vote to follow on November 20th. PETER ASHTON – Second. 4-1 Herman no. MOTION PASSES.

HDC/HISTORICAL COMMISSION – They will discuss the suggested merger at the September meeting. The Chairman plans to hold the appointments on HDC and HC until after the Sept. Meeting.

LONG RANGE PLANNING- Peter outlined his memo about the LRP. He has spoken with the Town Manager and Bart Wendell and thinks the LRP should be folded into the 2020 process with the intent to make it more realistic in dealing with long-range issues. His memo represents his, and Bart's plans to have a early fall meeting of 2020 to out line long range issues that they need to grapple with and then they would hold additional meetings bringing in boards and committees. He feels this should be handled in concert with 2020.

Dore' feels that this is a great idea. He felt we have done a lot of communications in 2020 including the capital plan. He feels it is excellent way to proceed. Herman concurs and commends Peter for well thought out plan. He too feels that 2020 is the right way to handle it. Trey asked if he had a chance to review it with Wayne. Peter had not. Trey supports Peter's plan but suggested we include a few members from Planning and EDC. Pam felt as we look at planning she did not think that EDC was understood and are their goals consistent with the Town's goals. She wanted the Board of Health and Conservation Commission included. They will bring it to the next ALG.

COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS – Chairman Hunter asked that Vanetta Hunter be removed from the re-appointment list at her request. He also noted he would move to hold the HD or HC re-appointments until after the Sept. meeting. Peter asked if we solicited members as outlined in the BYLAW. It was felt that we had not recently done that.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved we appoint all people indicated in memo dated June 2, 2000 with the following exceptions with regret to Mrs. Hunter, and that we do not appoint the people indicated on Historical Commission and Historic District Commission. PETER - Second. It was noted that the HDC and HC members pending re-appointment would function as holdover members until a decision is made in September.

COA HANDY MAN – Don reported that it looks like a good program for our seniors. He would like to tweak it with COA. He is concerned about electrical issues. Dore' asked that the list of permissible activities be established.

Nancy Gerhardt – Liability concerns have been an issue. They have looked into other communities and they don't feel it is an issue. They have four very reliable men to perform the duties.

It is a seniors helping seniors program and they want the seniors to work with the seniors.

PETER ASHTON - Moved to approve. TREY SHUPERT – Second - UNANIMOUS VOTE.

OTHER BUSINESS

Peter wanted to see all cross payments back and forth between the schools and town. He realizes that we are short staffed but would like to see it done.

Herman noted we have sold over 500 memberships to the beach. We need the 800 to break even. Trey said that he felt the number would be 600 in the near future.

Herman asked about the Management Letter. We have five items one being reconciled on timely basis. John explained the letter and Herman's concerns were relieved.

Dan Buckley Appointment – HERMAN KABAKOFF – Moved to appointment Dan Buckley to the Acton Community Housing Corp. for a One-Year Associates position. PAM HARTING-BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Dore' updated the School Building Project.

CTAC2 has produced the technical schedule.

CONSENT

TREY SHUPERT - Moved to approve – PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

none

EXECUTIVE SESSION

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved to go into Executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. PAM HARTING-BARRAT – Second. Clerk Shupert read Roll Call, all Ayes. UNANIMOUS VOTE

William Shupert

Clerk

8/15/00

Date

Christine Joyce

A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Christine Bellin

TOWN CLERK ACTON, MASS.