

SELECTMEN'S MINUTES December 7, 1999

Present: Herman Kabakoff, F. Dore' Hunter, William Shupert, Peter Ashton
Wayne Friedrichs, and the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager.
(The meeting was televised)

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS

GREG NIEMYSKI APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING BOARD

WAYNE FRIEDRICHS - Moves to appoint Mr. Niemyski as an Associate Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 6/30/2000. TREY SHUPERT - Second.
UNANIMOUS VOTE

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

LITTLE LEAGUE -

Mr. Coppelino was present to discuss their meeting last week with town representatives. They discussed the 2A/27 field improvements. They are looking to make a show case field at this location.

Laura Sikalis- Representing the Recreation Commission said that during the review of available playing fields, the 2A/27 field was found as not good for soccer. It is a much-needed space for the ball players. She reminded them that the field is and will still be town owned and that the Recreation Director will still schedule the field.

Little League currently is at capacity and if they got one new field with lights that would help the overcapacity for now.

Mr. Coppelino said they would like to light the two fields, add parking, and put in a concession stand. They would not have any light shining on the road or abutters. He said the benefits and improvements would be raised by them and made as a gift it to the Town. We would have the capital improvements at no cost to the Town. They do not plan after three years to continue to solicit businesses for field advertising. They will abide by all Town regulations regarding signs.

They are requesting that the Board sign off on the project so they can begin to raise the funds.

Herman asked about the sign advertising at the field. He noted that the Town is reviewing a policy that might exclude these signs. Herman asked about the concession

Jim Gallagher Esterbrook Road resident. He wanted to know how the process to select funding for one parcel or another was developed. He asked about a fire station being located there. Herman answered that we have a consultant that is studying this at this moment. We are however tied to a time frame in a 61 A parcel. 120 days is what we have and we have used 60 already.

Bob Piro – he is very concerned about the traffic, he walks his horses on that street. He feels that it is an ideal area for Police/Fire station. He also asked how a parcel with wetlands could be built into a shopping Center; he did not know how that would be allowed to be made into a parking lot.

Dore' said that he was not in favor of a joint Police /Fire station on that site.

Graham Knowland said that property was under 61A and we should take more time to review it. Dore'; said that we need to take the vote now to be able meet the deadlines.

Herman reminded them that the Board would still have the final decision on the site plan, he said they do not intend to use Esterbrook Road in the plans presented to the Board.

Peter suggested that although the Board from a fiscal point would not probably be able to vote to fund this project, he suggested we delay our decision until January 4th meeting to give the neighbors a chance to examine ways to keep the land open.

Wayne said that this offer is for 75 percent of the entire parcel.

Eleanor Burns thanked them for the delay so that they could continue to review this issue. She was concerned about the Esterbrook traffic and the gate to the Colonial lot as they use it all the time.

PETER ASHTON - Moved to delay the decision until January 4th – TREY SHUPERT –
Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

PROPOSED SKATE PARK

Herman asked for an update. Don said that the board asked to have this reviewed in 60 days at the November 9th meeting. They are now looking at South Acton because it is manned 24 hours a day by fire fighters. We looked into the insurance and other parks and it looks like we should try to locate it in South Acton. Herman noted that the group said that the walk from the high school to the South Acton site would be just fine.

NOVEMBER 15 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING- Wayne said he was confused about Article 1 at the November 15th meeting. He would like to hear what the avoided cost is as proposed as 5.5 minus 3.8 million. Herman read from the Sewer Bylaw regarding avoided costs.

Dore' said the 5.5 number that the school engineer gave could still be reviewed the issue is not closed and could be reviewed at the school.

Peter said that there is another item in avoided costs which is if the school were to build their own system, we would have had to pay interest instead of an interest free loan.

Dore' asked that staff capture the paper work on that issue so that they can review.

Charlie Kadlec will be submitting an article to revisit this bylaw as he feels the Avoided Costs is flawed beyond repair.

SEWER ACTION COMMITTEE

Dore' said the SAC will be meeting Thursday. They need to look at their direction. They are a sub-committee of the Board of Selectmen. His concept is that the SAC was formed as Advisory group to move a sewer project forward. He said the communications task force would need to be involved in traffic issues. He thinks that the rest of the SAC needs to be redirected. When the RFP, Supervisor, etc. Is acted on they will need to look beyond to what is our next sewer project. He feels we have to continue and begin to look at the rest of the Town and look at what will be needed to move forward. He wanted to begin this while we still have a seasoned group in place.

Trey said that he agrees with Dore' comments. He said he is interested in the next phases. Recruiting new members for West Acton and getting them up to speed. We need to set up an Enterprise Fund and suggested the splintering off a special subcommittee to look at how they would establish a Sewer Enterprise

Wayne said that he supported the recruitment of new members to serve on the SAC.

Herman wanted to look at establishing Sewer Commissioners and town wide plan.

RE-ENGINEERING

Dore' said he attended the CTAC2 Committee meeting. It is going forward with a sub-committee and expects to have general government as the other half and he suggested we invite Water District to participate. Herman said CTAC2 purpose is to work in conjunction with the municipal piece. He recalls the discussion at ALG that we have several qualified people to recruit. He said we should recruit and let the sub-committee know our choice. Dore' said that he as well as John and Don should sit in on this committee.

Don said that they had discussed the former members of the Wide Area Network and hoped that Sam Swartz would again serve as well as Tess Summers and Frank Widmayer. Dore' noted that Frank's participation would be very helpful as he added a lot to the previous meetings.

Peter raised the issue of the shared services task force. Schools and Water District have agreed to participate, and wanted to go forward and appoint people from the

Board and staff. Herman and Peter would like to like to serve. He also requested that John Murray be involved.

CONSERVATION TRUST

The request is that the Town put a proposal before Town meeting for the purchase of the 234 acres on Carlisle Road. The cost would be between 4.3 and 4.8 million as currently envisioned. He will sell us 164 acres retain 70 and donate 42. DORE' HUNTER - Moved to put an article on the Town Meeting for the purchase of the 164 Acres. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Herman cautioned that we still need to run this through our model before we advocate. We will need to see what this will save us or cost us.

FY2000 TAXATION

Don said we are here because we have a process in place that plans budgets and revenues at much as 18 months in advance. The actual revenues we were expecting for FY2000 final numbers have come in higher than what we planned on last year during the ALG Process.

John gave a presentation on the process and options available with regard to additional monies. The decisions are up to the Regional School Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The Selectmen will need to either call a STM, issue actual Tax Bills and/or to determine how to handle excess lottery monies.

Dore' would like to hear from the School Committee and he wanted to know what there recommendations would be.

MaryAnne Ashton said that the School Committee met and feels Chapter 70 is earmarked for education. We (School Committee and Board) in fact sent a letter to the Governor about the need for the funds for education. They feel that the money received should go to education. They do not feel it is in the best interests to ask for a Special Town meeting in January. She wanted the \$150,000 of earmarked monies for education to come from the Lottery funds.

The School Committee is committed to continue partnering with the Fincom, and Selectmen to see this happen.

John Prendiville – The Finance Committee feels the process is in control. The State is now giving us money but taking it away in Chapter 90 funds. They do not want a Special Town Meeting. The Regional piece is out of control they feel. They think the best thing to do after looking at tax rates is to give the money back to citizens in this FY99 period.

Peter asked if the Chapter 70 numbers are firm. The number that is estimated is the transportation number. He also asked what they think the Chapter 70 monies would be next year. Bill Ryan states that they could increase and continue with minimum aid, but really can't say.

Dore' applauds the School Committee's action. He thinks that we should not go to a Special Town Meeting. He will not support a motion to approve a meeting. He feels that the \$150,000 of lottery should go to into free cash.

Herman asked if we put the money into free cash could it be spend next year, John said it would be available for the 2001 budget.

Wayne said that he is thankful for the School Committees position.

TREY SHUPERT - Moved - That we pass these monies back to the citizens and move the \$150,000 into Free Cash from the Lottery Money. DORE' HUNTER – Second.
UNANIMOUS VOTE.

MaryAnne asked about earmarking of money for education. Herman said he would discuss it again at ALG Meeting, but he feels the sense of the Board is to make sure that money goes to schools for next fiscal year at April Town Meeting

Dore' felt we should send letter to our Senator and Representative to let them know we need to discuss how these monies are sent to us as well as the late date we receive them. He suggested that the criteria for how Chapter 70 funds can be used should be established

Charlie Kadlec commended the Boards for not calling a Special Town Meeting. He felt that it is not the time to earmark monies for next year's budget.

Walter Foster – strongly urge them and School Committee to look at the ways we receive monies.

Herman said he is sad that we can't put the \$150,000 as tax relief. But will vote to put the money in to Free Cash.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT – IAN BLIZARD

Peter will attend.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT - MATTHEW PAJAK

Herman will attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

Trey attended a luncheon last week regarding creating a rail trail from Ice House to Nara. He said the rail is not considered abandoned at this time, but we could petition for it to be abandoned

There were several crossings required to get to NARA. A feasibility study is needed and he asked that we put on the ATM to have an appropriation for this project.

TREY SHUPERT Moved to put an article on the Annual Meeting for feasibility study for the trail. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Wayne spoke about the Town Manager's salary increase.

Wayne also said that the CAC is not changing its direction.

Dore' wanted the minutes to come up in a timely from Conservation Commission.

Peter asked about the filing of minutes of the Finance Committee.

Peter asked about the signage for Indian Village. He also wanted to revisit the cases of reengineering and he did not want us to drop the ball. This will be handled on next agenda. Herman asked that we have the BOS calendar before the next meeting.

Sally Fink was congratulated in her new Job, our new person will be Mike Weiner.

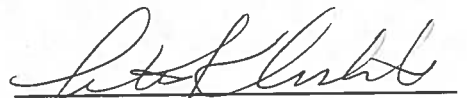
CONSENT AGENDA

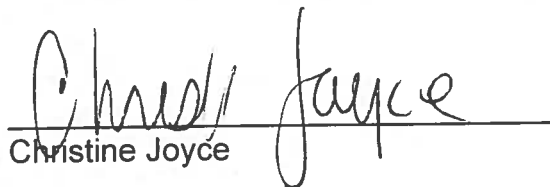
None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Fire in Worcester – We have sent people as part of a task force to Worcester to cover stations.

We have begun the searching for Police Chief. The consultant will be interviewing the Board. There will be a public forum on the 13th for citizens to come in and tell the consultants what they think is important in a new Chief.


Clerk
1/4/00
Date


Christine Joyce

December 3, 1999

TO: Board of Selectmen

FROM: Herman Kabakoff, Chairman

SUBJECT: Selectmen's Report

AGENDA
DECEMBER 7, 1999
7:30 P.M. - Room 204

I. CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

1. **7:32 GREG NIEMYSKI – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** – Enclosed please find Mr. Niemyski's Volunteer Application and recommendation from the VCC for appointment as an Associate Member of the Planning Board with a term to expire June 30, 2000.

III. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

2. **LITTLE LEAGUE** – Mr. Coppolino will be in to address the Board regarding Little League Plans at the 2A/27 Field.
3. **DIDUCA LAND** – Enclosed please find the 61A Notice and staff comment for review.
4. **PROPOSED SKATE PARK** – Status Update.
5. **NOVEMBER 15 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – ARTICLE ONE** – Board discussion of ramifications of this vote.
6. **SEWER ACTION COMMITTEE** – Board discussion of the future of the SAC.
7. **RE-ENGINEERING** – Board discussion of how the municipal side will handle the corollary of the School's CTAC2.
8. **CONSERVATION TRUST** – Enclosed please find a request from the Conservation Trust for an Annual Town Meeting Article.
9. **FY2000 TAXATION** – Enclosed please find memo from staff for Board disquisition.
10. **EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR – IAN M. BLIZARD** – Enclosed please find an invitation to attend Mr. Blizard's Court of Honor on January 29, 2000 for Board assignment.
11. **EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR – MATTHEW J. PAJAK** – Enclosed please find an invitation to attend Mr. Pajak's Court of Honor on January 29, 2000 for Board assignment.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

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.

Dec. 21

January 4, 2000

January 18, 2000

February 1, 2000

FY 2000 GOALS

1. Resolve the Audubon Hill problem/issues (Shupert)
2. Establish or reconstitute a Computer Advisory Committee for Municipal issues (Hunter)
3. Review the structure and organization of the ALG and establish a definite, periodic meeting schedule (Kabakoff)
4. Develop a comprehensive Beaver Nuisance policy (Friedrichs)
5. Improve communication among the various boards, particularly Fincom, SC and BOS. This seems to have been lacking to some extent during the last year (especially ALG process) (Kabakoff)
6. Continue to search all alternatives for a viable sewer solution that is timely and fiscally workable (Hunter/Shupert)
7. Form a task force to investigate ways of achieving greater coordination, efficiency and utilization of resources between the schools and the town (Ashton)
8. Continue the work of the Senior Tax Relief task force and also investigate ways of assisting others who may need tax relief (Ashton/Hunter)
9. Develop early on an ALG plan and budget; i.e. have general agreement on budgetary parameters by October/November before formal budgets are developed. Continue to update, refine and modify as needed the five year budgetary plans which we initiated this year (Kabakoff)
10. Work with the Planning Board to implement the goals, objectives and strategies of the Master Plan update (Ashton/Shupert)
11. Conclude the work of the Kelley's Corner working group and bring to the Planning Board a final set of recommendations (Ashton)