

# **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 4, 2010**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** Chair Paulina Knibbe, Selectmen Lauren Rosenzweig, Mike Gowing, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Recording Secretary Maryjane Kenney

## **ACTON BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

*ROOM 106E (PAST THE AUDITORIUM)*

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 TO 7:30 P.M.**

#### **PROPOSED PIPER LANE RESOLUTION, POTENTIAL LAND NEGOTIATIONS**

Regular session began at 7:30

#### **I. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS: NONE**

#### **II. SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

##### **Budget Discussion:**

In essence if the Waterfall concept goes into effect the Town will see an increase in monies to restore cuts of about \$270K. This would be derived from two sources. From the state there is an additional \$1.4M and the town's share of this "waterfall" would be about \$211K. In addition the town would see an increase from E& D of \$59 K. The town could restore \$270K in services cut.

Selectman Rosenzweig noted that the Schools had been using the incorrect numbers from the State. They re-calculated their numbers from the Governors budget, so now we actually can assume more state aid than previously predicted. Chairman Knibbe stated that the school committee is meeting this evening and they have some items that they are bringing back but will still have a shortfall.

Chairman Knibbe stated that one of the purposes of this evening's meeting is to deal with the unexpended funds from old Warrant articles funds. The Board needs to decide if we want to use some of these funds to restore items to the budget and, if so, which items. Selectman Rosenzweig stated the manager seems to have a handle on necessary expenses and can prioritize these items. The Chair agreed but in terms of how the unexpended items would be repurposed we should come to agreement on that. We could refocus those articles on similar tasks and then ask at Town Meeting if the citizens are in agreement.

##### **\$750K Total**

Cops in Schools	56K
Stow Street Bridge Repair to bridge repair in general	209K
Main Street Improvements to sidewalk fund	90K
Sprinklers in DPW	125K

About \$480K to be expended and \$250K to free cash and any of the above not approved that money would go to free cash.

Or would we take these unexpended funds and not use the funds at all but for example return all the monies to free cash?

Selectman Berry asked what would you (Steve Ledoux) do with free cash? And can we start the three years cycle again if we expend the monies?

The Chair stated that we are comfortable to let the vote go to Town Meeting. If Town Meeting votes it down, it will go to free cash.

Herman Kabakoff, Chair of the Finance Committee, who was in attendance, felt obligated to say there should be a discussion of using a mechanism to let the monies all go to free cash for a year then go back and ask for the monies to be appropriated to the needed items next year.

Steve Ledoux and the Chair will meet with Steve Anderson to have answers to how the articles should read legally if they are to be refocused.

Chairman Knibbe would like to establish a policy that in the future every June the Selectmen get a list and recommendation for all open warrant articles. The item will be placed on the Agenda for Monday night's meeting.

Chairman Knibbe had two warrant articles that she wanted to discuss removing.

1. The Meals tax, she felt it is not the year to implement this as we are doing well with our collections and monies. We will wait to vote on this topic on Monday night so the businesses are involved. Selectman Berry feels that this should not be political. It is a tool that could reduce property tax, it is an alternative and we should give it to TM to vote.
2. The Military Pay should come out of the warrant as it has become a policy. Selectman Rosenzweig seconded and all voted in favor of removing the article from the warrant.

The Board needed to vote in agreement that the Caouette/Simone property is a unique property Selectman Rosenzweig made a motion that the Caouette property is so unique it does not need to be bid. Selectman Berry seconded and all voted aye.

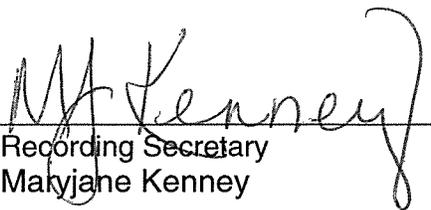
### III. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Knibbe read the consent Agenda. Selectman Gowing held #3. Selectman Rosenzweig moved to approve #2 and #3. Selectman Gowing asked if the contract on #4 was the same as the schools, no change in language. That was correct. Selectman Gowing moved to approve, Selectman Rosenzweig seconded, all consent approved.

**2. ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSE, ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH,  
MARCH 7, 2010**

**3. LEAGUE OF WOMAN VOTERS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS  
LETTER**

**4. COMMERCIAL POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT, HIGHWAY BUILDING**

  
Recording Secretary  
Makjane Kenney

  
Lauren Rosenzweig, Clerk

4/6/10  
Date