

1
2
3
4
5

**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

June 8, 2009

6 The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Monday June 8, 2009 at Salem Town Hall, 33
7 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

8
9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Arthur E. Barnes III, Vice-Chairman Michael J. Lyons, Secretary
10 Elizabeth A. Roth Selectman Everett P. McBride (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), Selectman Patrick
11 Hargreaves (arrived at 6:20 p.m.) and Mr. J. Sistare (Town Manager).

12
13 **CALL TO ORDER**

14 Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. in the Conference Room on the upper
15 level of Town Hall to conduct the Interview Session for the Depot Intersection Redevelopment
16 Committee. The Board proceeded to interview the candidates for the Depot Redevelopment
17 Committee.

18
19 The first candidate to be interviewed was David Beshara, who applied as an abutter
20 representative in the depot. Mr. Beshara made an opening statement stating he was not in favor
21 of all the plans and was eager to get going on the project. Mr. Beshara stated that the
22 consideration of every abutter is necessary. Each Selectman asked one question of Mr. Beshara
23 and all were satisfied with the response.

24
25 The next candidate to be interviewed was Larry Belair, who applied as an at large representative.
26 Mr. Belair made an opening statement stating he had 35 years of land acquisition experience and
27 has no ownership interest in the depot area. Mr. Belair further stated he knows many businesses
28 and land owners in the area. Mr. Belair further stated that the key is that it takes courage of
29 community leaders to go to the people with a real plan and financials. Mr. Belair stated that
30 unfortunately he is not available for meetings in February or March. Each Selectman asked one
31 question of Mr. Belair and all were satisfied with the response.

32
33 The next candidate to be interviewed was Mary Frances LaBrecque who applied as an abutter
34 representative. Ms. LaBrecque made an opening statement stating that she had lived in the depot
35 area for 38 years and is looking for a downtown walking district. Ms. LaBrecque further stated
36 that she would be able to represent the residential district in the depot and that she would like to
37 see a genuine character of retail, offices, and apartments with a consistent focus. Each
38 Selectman asked one question of Ms. LaBrecque and all were satisfied with the response.

39
40 The next candidate to be interviewed was Jim Desjardins who applied as an abutter
41 representative. Mr. Desjardins made an opening statement stating he was concerned about the
42 history of the depot area and concerns about his business, Daisy's Cleaners. When asked by
43 Chairman Barnes what historic area would you want to preserve, Mr. Desjardins replied that
44 there were none left. Mr. Desjardins asked what was doing to take place in the Daisy Cleaners
45 area.

1 The next candidate to be interviewed was Al Raymond who applied as an abutter representative.
2 Mr. Raymond made an opening statement stated that he was the owner of a business on Route 28
3 for 16 years, which is now located in the depot area. Mr. Raymond further stated that he now
4 owns a business in the heart of Salem and wants to protect it. Each Selectman asked a question
5 and Mr. Raymond and all were satisfied with his response.
6

7 The next candidate to be interested was Mark Gross of MHF Design, who applied as an abutter
8 representative. Mr. Gross made an opening statement stating that he has owned MHF Design
9 since the 1980s. Mr. Gross further stated that his interest is that he knows the depot. He wanted
10 to work to move the process along and that property owners should have a say in what goes on in
11 the depot. He further stated that it is important for businesses to be able to maintain their
12 business at the depot location. Mr. Gross stated he is looking for pedestrian access in the depot.
13 Each Selectman asked a question of Mr. Gross and all were satisfied with his response.
14

15 **Selectman Hargreaves made a motion to appoint candidates.**

16 **Selectman McBride seconded the motion.**
17

18 Discussion: There was discussion about tabling any decision to appoint candidates until next
19 Monday to allow the other two candidates could be interviewed.
20

21 Selectman Hargreaves withdrew his motion and Selectman McBride withdrew his second.
22

23 **Motion by Selectman Hargreaves to moved to table decision on appointments until next**
24 **Monday. Selectman McBride seconded the motion.**
25

26 **VOTE: 5-0-0**

27 **Motion passed by unanimous vote.**
28

29 Chairman Barnes recessed the meeting to the Knightly Meeting Room at 7:15 p.m.
30

31 Chairman Barnes began by reconvening the meeting at 7:15 p.m., apologizing for the delayed
32 start to the meeting. He joined the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the Board
33 and Town staff.
34

35 **1. Meeting Minutes**

36 **MOTION:** by Selectman Roth

37 *Move to accept the sealed minutes of the Non-Public session on June 1, 2009*

38 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

39 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

40 **The motion carried unanimously.**
41

42 **2. Chairman Comments**

43 Chairman Barnes made no comments.
44

45 **3. Linda Harvey – AARP Tax-Aid Program**

46 Mr. Sistare introduced Linda Harvey who provided some background information on the AARP

1 Tax-Aid Program which has been run in Salem for a number of years. She acknowledged the
2 volunteers who participated in running the program this year, introducing Mr. Frank Rawa,
3 coordinator of the program with the IRS. Mr. Rawa provided statistics and information on the
4 program both nationally and locally. He then handed out certificates of appreciation from the
5 IRS to the following town staff that assisted and supported the program:

- 6 • Kathy Walton (Human Services)
- 7 • Patti Drelick (Ingram Senior Center)
- 8 • Alison Baker (Kelley Library)

9 Chairman Barnes called a five minute recess to allow the Board to personally thank the
10 volunteers. When Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order again he invited Ms. Patti
11 Drelick to the podium and she spoke about an additional program the volunteers are also
12 involved in, which takes place in May of each year and which helps seniors apply for a rebate
13 on the Education part of their property taxes.

14 15 **4. Workshop Session with Budget Committee**

16 Chairman Barnes introduced the workshop, explaining why the Board of Selectmen had invited the
17 Budget Committee to participate. Present were Chairman Peter Rayno, Stephen Campbell, Ann
18 Marie David, Attorney Bernard Campbell (School Board Representative), Secretary Russell
19 Frederick.

20
21 He then introduced the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. Peter Rayno, who in turn
22 introduced his Committee members.

23
24 The first topic introduced by Chairman Barnes for Budget Committee comment was the
25 proposed State Senate and House of Representatives budgets and the effect on the town of any
26 reduction in state aid. Chairman Barnes acknowledged the need for spending money on road
27 maintenance on the town side and the need to spend money on buildings on the school side.

28
29 Mr. Rayno pointed out that the town will need to continue to act responsibly in the current
30 economic climate which might involve exercising even more fiscal restraint than before. Several
31 of the workshop participants recognized that there will be difficult decisions to be made in order
32 to obtain money for such things as maintaining the town infrastructure, and they did not rule out
33 the possibility of cutting staff. Most agreed that they would prefer not to raise property taxes to
34 fund any additional necessary expenditure.

35
36 Mr. Campbell pointed out the town will need to make some fundamental changes regardless of
37 the condition of the economy. The workshop participants agreed that they will need to look at
38 every line in the budget and every member of staff to find the money needed for essential items
39 like road maintenance without raising taxes. They also agreed that roads and public safety were
40 essential areas to maintain. There were suggestions from several members for providing cost
41 savings to the town, including a discussion on changes to police cruisers.

42
43 In response to a query from Ms. David, Mr. Sistare provided a status report on the work using
44 Road Stabilization funds scheduled for Route 28.

1 There was a brief discussion on salaries and benefits which led to a discussion on further short
2 and long term strategies which could be used to cut costs in the current economic climate. Mr.
3 Rayno suggested the town take a zero based budget approach.

4
5 Budget Committee secretary Mr. Russell Frederick joined the meeting and was introduced by
6 Mr. Rayno.

7
8 Selectman Lyons pointed out there was a need for a Capital Improvement Plan which could be
9 adhered to.

10
11 Mr. Rayno extended the thanks of the Budget Committee members for the opportunity to share
12 their thoughts with the Board of Selectmen and stated they would welcome the opportunity for
13 further joint meetings prior to the budget season.

14 15 **5. Public Works Director**

16 Mr. Sistare introduced the first topic which Mr. R. Russell, Director of Public Works would
17 cover with the Board, handing over to Mr. Russell for further information.

18 19 *a) Discuss Fees for Electronic Debris Disposal*

20 Mr. Russell referred to the information in the Board's packets on the disposal of electronic debris
21 and explained how he had come up with the proposed standard fee of \$5.00 for all types of
22 electronics. He also suggested residents could pay the fees at Town Hall and could do so in
23 advance.

24 25 *Discussion:*

26 Selectman Hargreaves suggested that if residents purchase coupons or stickers in advance they
27 should not expire. Mr. Sistare clarified for the Board that it should be relatively easy to
28 implement the new system but it would be necessary to have a public hearing to amend the
29 ordinance. Mr. Russell also suggested that coupons or stickers should be transferable. Mr.
30 Sistare asked the Board to consider whether they would like the committee which will be
31 charged with looking at curbside pickup to review any policy the Board adopts with regard to the
32 disposal of electronic debris. Selectman Roth suggested the Board implement the new policy
33 prior to the change over from analog to digital television and the Board discussed the
34 practicalities of doing so.

35 36 *b) Establish Committee for Curbside Pickup*

37 Mr. Sistare reviewed the Board's prior agreement with respect to moving forward on curbside
38 pickup and highlighted some of the points in the information provided to the Board regarding the
39 Municipal Solid Waste Committee (MSWC) and the charge of the new committee.

40 41 *Discussion:*

42 Selectman McBride suggested wording the ordinance with regard to fees for solid waste such
43 that fees could be increased without the need for public hearings and Mr. Sistare agreed this
44 could be achieved. In response to a query from Selectman Hargreaves, Mr. Russell stated he was
45 optimistic about the scope of the work which could be achieved by the MSWC. Mr. Sistare

1 pointed out there was a huge cost to the town for solid waste disposal. The Board discussed the
2 make up of the committee and the deadline for receipt of recommendations from the committee.

3
4 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

5 *Move that the Board of Selectmen move forward with the formation of the Municipal Solid*
6 *Waste Committee (MSWC) to consist of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen or his*
7 *designee, the Chairman of the Municipal Budget Committee or his designee, six residents to*
8 *be appointed by the Board of Selectmen and ex officio Director of Public Works or his*
9 *designee and further that the MSWC make their final report to the Board of Selectmen no*
10 *later than April 15, 2010*

11 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

12 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

13 **The motion carried unanimously.**

14
15 *c) Water Meter Reading Billing Process*

16 Mr. Sistare introduced the topic and handed over to Mr. Russell who updated the Board on the
17 status of the water meter validation project and the water meter reading billing process, referring
18 the Board to information contained in their packets. He pointed out that he felt it would be
19 preferable to send a certified letter to residents prior to cutting off their water if staff is unable to
20 make contact directly with the residents. He requested that the Board review the information and
21 vote to approve the new process.

22
23 *Discussion:*

24 Selectman Lyons clarified that they currently use the system being reviewed. The Board agreed
25 that the flow chart of the process provided by Mr. Russell be amended to show information of
26 the person responsible for each part in the process for accountability purposes. Mr. Sistare
27 pointed out the wording of the Municipal Code in response to a query from Selectman McBride.
28 Selectman Hargreaves suggested ensuring the costs for un-metered accounts are reviewed and
29 updated in §304-10 of the Municipal Code. There was a brief discussion regarding un-metered
30 accounts. Selectman Roth suggested ensuring the wording on the flow chart and in the
31 Municipal Code be consistent with regard to reference to town staff responsibilities.

32 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

33 *Move to table approval of the Water Meter Reading Billing Process until the Board receives*
34 *the agreed amendments*

35 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

36 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

37 **The motion carried unanimously.**

38
39 *d) National Grid Hazardous Tree Program*

40 Mr. Sistare introduced the topic and Mr. Russell explained this was an update to a prior
41 presentation given by National Grid to the Board of Selectmen. He also reviewed the process
42 and the dates for the next phase in the program for the benefit of the Board and the public.

43
44 Selectman Hargreaves thanked Mr. Russell on behalf of a resident for the repair to his lawn. He
45 also informed Mr. Russell of a large pot hole on Taylor Street which Mr. Russell said his
46 department would take care of.

6. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Sistare had nothing to report.

7. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence

Selectman Lyons thanked the Town Manager and staff for the information they have provided at recent meetings. He also stated he felt the announcement by the Conservation Commission regarding the public gardens was a good thing for the community.

Selectman McBride made some points about roads.

Selectman Hargreaves thanked Mr. Dennis Burke and Merrill Excavating for their help with the stump removal at Hedgehog Park. He mentioned the Field of Dreams summer concerts. In addition he stated he wanted to ensure the other members of the Board had received a copy of a recent letter he had received from a resident relating to Shore Drive, and Mr. Sistare informed him that he had met with the resident and the matter had been resolved.

In response to a query from Chairman Barnes, Mr. Sistare provided a status report on the response to the DES he is currently working on relating to an alternative water source.

The Board discussed the schedule for future meetings as follows:

- June 15, 2009 – Interview Session, 6:00 p.m. and non-meeting meeting
- June 22, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- July 13, 2009 – Meeting with Legislative Representatives

Following discussion, the Board agreed that a non public session to discuss the issues raised by the Budget Committee was not necessary. Mr. Sistare requested the Board provide him with formal guidance on the budget by the July 13th meeting at the latest.

8. Old Business/Table Pending

There was no old business tabled or pending.

• Additions and/or Requests by Public or Board by Vote

There were none.

• Upcoming Meetings

- June 15, 2009 (Interview Session)
- June 22, 2009 (Regular meeting)
- July 13, 2009 (Meeting with Legislative Representatives)

• Upcoming Events

There were none mentioned.

MOTION: by Selectman Lyons

Move to adjourn

SECOND: Selectman Hargreaves

VOTE: 5-0-0

The motion carried unanimously.

1 Without further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

2

3 Notes/Minutes Taken by: Sandra Maxwell

4

5 Approved: Board of Selectmen

6

7 Date: June 22, 2009