

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2001

Present: Chairman Kirsten D. Roopenian and John C. Drobinski, Selectmen.

The statutory requirement for notice having been met, the meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks – Community Preservation Act

Present: Nancy Bryant, SuAsCo.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Roopenian wished to comment on an incorrect news article regarding the Board's position on the Community Preservation Act, as follows. She stated the Board is fully behind it, and the Town Manager did not speak against it, but presented both sides of the issue to the study committee in order to make an informed decision. The study group is comprised of members of the Town's staff and boards in addition to citizens. As a quorum of the Board was in attendance at this duly posted meeting, the Board voted to support the Community Preservation Act at the 3% surcharge for consideration at the 2001 Annual Town Election and Town Meeting. Signatures are currently being obtained in order to place this matter on the March Annual Town Election ballot. To avoid misunderstanding, a letter will be sent to the newspaper to clarify this action.

Town Manager Valente limited her remarks to the very inaccurate headlines, stating what actually occurred at the meeting was a very positive process.

Selectman Drobinski concurred with Chairman Roopenian's remarks, and opined that, to the people attending that meeting, the "pros" outweigh the "cons" on this matter. He described the Act as an opportunity to do something about preserving open recreation space, create affordable housing, and historic preservation.

Ms. Nancy Bryant, SuAsCo, complimented the Town of Sudbury on pursuing the Community Preservation Act. On another matter, she stated the SuAsCo Watershed Community Council has requested a contribution of \$2,000 from the Town to assist in creating a new organization as it transcends community boundaries and will address many timely issues. All 36 towns in the Watershed communities are being approached for contributions.

Trustees of Town Donations

Present: Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector; Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager.

The Board reviewed the Second Quarter Financial Reports for the Town Trust Funds, as presented in a memo, dated January 16, 2001, from Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director//Treasurer-Collector. All account balances are as of December 31, 2001.

Ms. Kerry Speidel, Finance Director, stated there has been minimal activity in the second quarter. She stated approximately \$10,000 has been disbursed, though \$86,000 had been authorized.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: Acting as Trustees of Town Donations, to accept the Second Quarter FY01 Report on Town Trust Funds prepared by Town Treasurer/Co-Trustee Kerry A. Speidel.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of December 15, 2000, and the regular and executive session minutes of January 8, 2001, as drafted, subject to the concurrence of Selectman O'Brien, who is absent.

Council on Aging Donations

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept \$117.10 in miscellaneous donations, to be deposited into the Van Donation Account, and to authorize the Council on Aging to expend said funds for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Council on Aging vans.

Community Policing Grant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept, on behalf of the Town and the Police Department, a FY01 Community Policing Grant of \$23,750 from the Mass. Executive Office of Public Safety.

2001 Group Health Insurance – Adjustment of Rate

Present: Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To set an amended premium rate of \$117/month, effective March 1, 2001, for First Seniority subscribers under the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care program, due to new information received in a communication, dated January 17, 2001, from Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager.

Minuteman Regional High School – FY02 Assessment

Present: Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager; Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director.

The Board reviewed a memo, dated January 18, 2001, from Town Manager Valente, presenting background information on determining a form of assessment from Minuteman Regional High School for FY2002. The Board also reviewed a letter, dated January 4, 2001, from Jeffrey W. Stulin, Chairman, Minuteman School Committee, requesting approval of the assessment from the Board; and a memo, dated January 19, 2001, from Kerry A. Speidel, Finance Director, stating the Finance Committee voted unanimously (8-0) in favor of the proposed temporary assessment method.

After discussion, it was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the form of temporary assessment for Minuteman Regional High School for FY02 as presented in the above communications.

Town Forum – 247th Session

At 8:00 p.m. Chairman Roopenian convened the 247th Session of the Town Forum. She announced tonight's session would feature reports from Town department heads, as well as a Build-Out Analysis for Sudbury presented by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

Wayne Walker, Assistant Town Manager, stated he has corrected inconsistencies in some personnel practices and policies, where the personnel handbook may not agree with the personnel plan. He also stated the RFP for the Facilities Study has been issued, with seven responses received by the deadline date. He indicated a consultant should be selected within the next few weeks. Mr. Walker stated a comparative supervisory salary study will soon be underway. He concluded by stating contract negotiations with various groups are progressing nicely, and resolution is expected soon.

Kerry Speidel, Finance Director/Treasurer-Collector, stated a new financial advisor, David Eisenthal, Unibank, has been hired to work with the Town. The Town's bond rating was upgraded to AAA. She stated the FY02 budget process is underway. Ms. Speidel stated the Treasurer's Office will be working on tax title collections, at an estimated value of \$600,000.

Maureen Hafner, Director of Assessing, stated revaluations are currently being performed on Commercial and Industrial properties and exempt properties. She stated they have been working on Town Meeting articles, including some involving senior citizen exemptions. Much information will be posted on the Town's web site.

Michael Dunne, Fire Chief, stated due to some personnel being out on disability, there has been overtime payment for dispatch duties. Their old ambulance helped the department cover all calls while the newer vehicle was in Ohio for six weeks being repainted. Chief Dunne stated the first thermal imaging camera was received this week, paid for with funds raised. Two more are on order, paid partially with State funds and partially by fundraising donations. He concluded by stating a State grant in the amount of \$30,899 will be used for protective gear for firefighters which will help augment their supplies.

Kathleen Middleton, Town Clerk, stated 6,700 census forms were mailed out to residents in December and January. Residents may now indicate their Veteran (Military) status, and that information can be forwarded to the Veterans' Agent. Dog licensing is now underway. She expressed appreciation for senior assistants who help process the large volume of paperwork for dog licensing. Regarding the Town Election, Ms. Middleton stated there are sixteen open positions and ten people have taken out papers. She encouraged residents to consider running for office, with a February 2, 2001 deadline to take out papers.

Peter Lembo, Police Chief, stated officers have been training at length to use the department's new computer. It takes at least a year to become fully trained. New firearms and holsters were purchased this year. All officers are firearms qualified. Chief Lembo debunked many unsubstantiated reports of area crime, noting there has been little crime this year, and noted further all reports are checked out. He stated a grant has been received to assist in assessing traffic patterns and problem areas.

Jack Hepting, Building Inspector, stated last year netted 600 building permits, 80 of which were for new construction. He complimented Clay Allen on his efficient duties as Zoning Enforcement Agent, Art Richard for keeping all buildings maintained, and Carol Duff for her creative use of funds in getting Town buildings renovated and refreshed for the benefit of Town employees. Mr. Hepting stated construction on the Flynn Building elevator is expected to begin in the spring. He stated the Assistant Building Inspector is Jim Kelly, a local builder, who is studying to become licensed.

Jody Kablack, Town Planner, reported the Planning Board has a new secretary as Kate Rader has retired. She stated the proposed Zoning Bylaw will likely be printed in the Town Meeting Warrant. The Master Plan should be printed in its final form in the next few weeks. Plans for small subdivisions have been submitted as well as the Marrone Comprehensive Permit.

MAPC Build-Out Analysis for Sudbury. Present were Michael Fleming, SuAsCo Watershed Basin Team Leader; John Schneider, MetroWest Growth Management; Mark Racicot, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC); Aide from Senator Susan Fargo's office. Various handouts were distributed.

Mr. Michael Fleming briefly discussed the Community Preservation Act, growth issues, watersheds and the preservation of natural resources. He asked attendees to consider what they liked about Sudbury, what they wished to preserve, and what make Sudbury the community it is. He accompanied his comments with a slide presentation and later build-out maps and analyses residents could examine closely. Mr. Fleming presented the Board with a notebook, Building Vibrant Communities including a CD-Rom.

Mr. Mark Racicot, MAPC, stated the build-out analysis provides a baseline for communities by demonstrating development as it could occur if no changes are made in current zoning, and includes projections of the numbers of residents, households, public school students, and water use. He briefly pointed out areas on the maps as he discussed them.

Discussion followed, as presenters responded to questions from staff and citizens. The Board thanked all participants for their time and efforts on behalf of the Town.

Reports and presentations concluded at 9:35 p.m. Chairman Roopenian declared Town Forum closed. Refreshments were served to those present.

Annual Town Meeting Action

Due to Selectman O'Brien's absence, the Board agreed to hold this matter until the special January 29 Selectmen's meeting, following the Marrone Comprehensive Permit presentation.

Reinsurance Coverage – American Stop Loss

The Board reviewed a memo, dated January 19, 2001, from Wayne R. Walker, Assistant Town Manager, presenting analysis and recommendation submitted by the Town's health care consultant, Group Benefits Strategies, with regard to the purchase of reinsurance coverage for 2001. Town Manager Valente stated the low bidder was American Stop Loss (ASL) at an increase of 19%, while the next lowest bidder reflected an increase of 216%. She recommended the Board accept the bid from ASL.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the recommendation of the Assistant Town Manager for the purchase of reinsurance coverage from American Stop Loss Insurance Brokerage Services, Inc., using Life Investors Insurance Company of North America at a cost of \$254,123 for 2001, and to authorize execution of said action.

Teachers Early Retirement Law

Town Manager Valente reported the Board of Selectmen from the Town of Canton has voted to seek a state ruling whether the Teachers Early Retirement Law violates the anti-unfunded mandates provision of

Proposition 2 ½. This request has been endorsed by the Mass. Municipal Assn. The Canton Board of Selectmen is inviting all cities and towns to formally join their effort. Ms. Valente asked the Board to review a communication from the MMA on this matter and consider becoming part of the appeal. Discussion followed.

The Board agreed with the concept, but withheld full concurrence until the full Board could be present, and until the MMA had determined the best way to do a group request from the many cities and towns interested in joining in this effort.

Haynes Meadow and Carding Mill Houses

Town Manager Valente reported she had received reports from the Sudbury Housing Authority as to their interest in these properties as affordable housing in Town. She indicated neither house would be of interest to the Sudbury Housing Authority. Isolation and proximity to water were concerns as affordable housing would typically be used by a family with young children. The SHA offered some repair suggestions, housing management ideas, and other useful suggestions.

Bushey House

Town Manager Valente stated letters have gone out to all persons who had previously expressed interest in the Bushey House, with one week's time to respond. She felt one week was sufficient before proceeding with the Board's recommendation to demolish the structure.

Marrone Comprehensive Permit

Town Manager Valente distributed copies of handwritten notes prepared by the Town Planner at the staff meeting on January 11, 2001 with Alan Marrone, Applicant, and David Wallace, Attorney, on this matter, as well as response from Mr. Wallace. Discussion followed. Ms. Valente passed along the Town Planner's suggestion to invite the Zoning Board of Appeals to the January 29 public meeting on this permit. Selectman Drobinski opined the ZBA may not attend.

LSRHS School Committee Letter

Town Manager Valente asked the Board to review a draft letter to the LSRHS School Committee requesting that lines of communication be maintained with Town staff and Town Manager in order to stay on schedule for completion of various tasks on the building project. The Board approved the draft letter. Discussion followed with regard to staff involvement, engineering companies, and site plan review.

Town of Wayland and Septage Facility

Town Manager Valente reported the Town of Wayland is concerned with liens from the Septage Facility. A joint meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2001, at 8:15 a.m. with the Septage Facility. Ms. Valente suggested a representative from this Board attend. It has been suggested each Town research their records back to 1983 to determine taxes and payments made with regard to this matter.

Hop Brook Protection Assn.

Town Manager Valente asked the Board about the progress of the letter on behalf of the HBPA. Mr. Frank Lyons is going to Washington D.C and wanted to take a copy of the letter with him. Selectman Drobinski stated he would forward a copy of the letter, when completed, to Ms. Valente.

Executive Session

At 10:35 p.m. it was on motion by roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining, contract negotiation and litigation matters. (Chairman Roopenian, aye, Selectman Drobinski, aye).

Chairman Roopenian announced that public session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk