

**IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2008**

Present: Chairman John C. Drobinski, Vice Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Selectman William J. Keller, Jr. and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened in Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. in the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 322 Concord Road, to discuss land acquisition and collective bargaining.

At 7:30 p.m., it was voted to suspend the Executive Session to convene the regular Selectmen's Meeting in Lower Town Hall.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Drobinski opened the meeting by congratulating the New England Patriots on their great victory and wished them good luck in the Super Bowl. He further acknowledged that the Budget season is in full swing and suggested that everyone try to watch the taped budget sessions and to call or email the Selectmen's Office if there are any questions to be clarified. In addition, he stated that the Governor's budget would be released shortly and we would soon know the amount of Local Aid the Governor is recommending be distributed to the cities and towns.

In addition, Chairman Drobinski reminded listeners that February 5th is the Presidential Primary and that everyone should make an effort to exercise his or her right to vote – either in person or via Absentee Ballot if you will be away at that time.

Mr. Drobinski announced an exciting piece of late-breaking news: the Town and the Knox Trail Council have reached agreement to preserve the Boy Scout reservation property here in Sudbury. This places a Conservation Restriction on over 300 acres which will be entirely funded with Conservation Preservation Act money with no increase in taxes. Phase I consists of 160 acres, which equates to about 33 house lots that will not be constructed and will cost the Town about \$5 million in CPA funds. The Town will also be applying for a \$500,000 grant from the State. Phase II consists of approximately 145 acres or about 12 house lots and the price is still being negotiated. The Board and Town staff is very excited as this has been an on-going effort for a number of years and will preserve Nobscot Mountain and Tippling Rock. He opined that this is a tremendous asset for the Town – a significant piece of land. He congratulated the Town Manager and staff for bringing this to fruition for current and future generations to enjoy.

Selectman Keller agreed that it is a great accomplishment, and pointed out that, as an expenditure of Community Preservation Act funds, it is still subject to Town Meeting vote. From his years on the Planning Board, he stated he knows how long the community has been concerned about preserving this parcel.

Vice Chairman O'Brien concurred and he praised Town staff, including Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack, for bringing the Boy Scout Council back to the table many times to secure this effort and have reached a wonderful goal.

Chairman Drobinski reiterated that this acquisition is subject to Town Meeting vote and urged the community to come out to vote support of this important article whereby 300+ acres can be preserved from possible development. He opined that this is something very positive for the Town and surrounding communities.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Presentation – FY09 Budget

Present: Pascal Cleve, CIPC Chair, and Andrea Terkelsen, Finance Director

Pascal Cleve addressed the Board and explained the purpose of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) budget, including what it entails, the purpose and types of purchases that qualify under the Committee. Following is a summary of the CIPC presentation:

The CIPC budget handles items with single-year cost assets over \$10,000 and multi-year cost assets of more than \$100,000. Assets with a short useful life are part of individual department's operating budget.

CIPC prepares a five-year plan; assets over \$100,000 are acquired through Lease/Purchase.

The FY09 Budget was prepared in two formats: 1% below FY08 = \$380,307 and 2% above FY08 = \$394,950; the CIPC held three hearings regarding the budget: 11/28/07, 11/29/07 and 12/18/07.

The list of approved, finalized projects and their amounts follow:

Town Hall Painting (carpentry work, prep and painting)	\$ 30,000
Various bldg. improvements (including \$15,000 from Police Sta. windows) *	62,500
Flynn Bldg. Computer Room HVAC	17,000
Fire Headquarters upstairs bathroom floor drainage work	10,000
Fire Station Design Study (remodeling to accommodate female firefighters (bathrooms/bedrooms)	
Pitched roof construction Rte. 117 Station	11,400
DPW Leases (at non-override level)	75,000
or Library – self checkout & security system (multi-year implementation) – at override level	
DPW (approx. 60 pcs. of equipment with 10-15 yrs of useful life with a plan to replace 4 or 5 units/year	129,400
Park & Recreation (various items involving the swimming pool)	15,000
Treasurer's Office (tax collection software lease)	15,000

* Due to the uncertainty of the new Police Station project, the CIPC decided to move the \$15,000 window replacement request to the "Various bldg. improve." category

Town Forum – Youth Commission

Present: Susan Ciaffi, Youth Commission Chair, Greg Bochicchio and Kevin Matthews, members, and Jessica Bendel, Youth Coordinator

At 8:20 p.m, Chairman Drobinski recognized the Youth Commission members and Susan Ciaffi, Chair of the Youth Commission, who introduced herself and her associates. Two other members, Libby Hampton and Jo-ellen Samojla, were not able to attend. Ms. Ciaffi stated she has served on the Commission for seven years and has been Chair for the past five years. Susan conveyed that the Commission is beginning to focus in a new direction and much of the Commission's recent success in meeting goals has been through Jessica Bendel, the Youth Coordinator. Jessica is energetic and involved and has enabled many new programs since arriving in 2005, including the very successful Youth Action Committee (YAC).

Chairman Drobinski explained that Jessica is “home grown” and that it’s nice to see her involved in home town activities. Ms. Ciaffi stated she feels that the Youth Commission and Youth Coordinator are well kept secrets within the Town, but both have done a great deal to benefit the community and its youth.

Ms. Ciaffi also shared that the Commission is working to revamp the Commission’s Mission Statement. She was encouraged to work on refining the proposed changes and submitting them to the Town Manager and Board for review and possible vote at another meeting. Susan stressed that they would like to broaden their scope to do more with parents, addressing issues such as Internet safety and MySpace, and making parents aware of other activities affecting Sudbury youth. One proposed activity is a workshop for parents of sixth graders to outline and consider what they might expect when moving into a new school.

Greg Bochicchio commended Susan and Jessica for their leadership and involvement and announced a new Sudbury Youth Awards program being developed. There will be three award areas: Education Awareness, Citizenship and Volunteerism with other categories to be added later as the program progresses.

Selectman Keller suggested that they consider making more than one award in each category – perhaps five or six - and further opined that involving this activity in Sudbury Day might be a good thought. Vice Chairman O’Brien offered that perhaps Town Meeting might be a suitable venue for recognizing these award recipients.

The Board enthusiastically supported the proposed program and suggested that perhaps Citibank and The Sudbury Foundation might be interested in lending support, if cash prizes and Savings Bond awards were given.

Vice Chairman O’Brien suggested that a winner of a \$100 check is good advertising for a program. Also, with their many great things happening, the Commission should contact the press and perhaps do a press release during the summer months – once potential winning candidates are chosen. He further reminded them that Channel 8 is a good advertising mechanism.

In conclusion, the Board thanked the Commission for its comprehensive presentation and wished them well with their new initiatives.

Appointment – Agricultural Commission

Chairman Drobinski welcomed Nicholas Clayton, candidate for the Agricultural Commission, to the meeting at 8:40 and thanked him for volunteering. Mr. Clayton shared with the Board a little of his personal background – that he and his wife moved here four years ago not knowing much about the agricultural history of the Town. However, from the beginning, he loved Sudbury’s open space and rural nature. He stated that he met Meghan Taylor (a prior Agricultural Comm. member) who fueled his interest in farming and agriculture in the Community. When Ms. Taylor moved away, she suggested he apply for appointment. For recreation, he stated that he and his wife keep five chickens as pets, which is as close as he comes to farming.

Vice Chairman O’Brien informed Mr. Clayton that through the Conservation Commission there are Community Gardens in Sudbury, and he may wish to get on the list to join this venture.

Mr. O’Brien further stated that the Agricultural Commission deals with larger industrial type farms of which there are four or five located in the community. He asked if any are of particular interest to him. Mr. Clayton stated that the Commission and agriculture are important to him and the Town. One of his

major concerns is toxicity in spraying, and he would like to make sure this issue is addressed. He also reported that he has attended a few Agricultural Commission meetings and is interested in becoming a member and working to see that farming – in either large or small scale – continues in Sudbury.

Mr. O'Brien recalled that Mr. Clayton raised the point of open space. He asked Mr. Clayton if he has given much consideration to the matter since his home is located close to the path of the potential Rail Trail and the Agricultural Commission has an interest from that point of view. Mr. Clayton responded that he is not yet fully versed with the Rail Trail proposal. From the little he has heard at the Agricultural Commission meetings, the situation needs to be addressed as neighbors and how they can co-exist as the plans move forward.

Chairman Drobinski pointed out that when it comes to pesticides and herbicides they must, by law, be used in accordance with their directions and, therefore, co-existence should not be a problem. He thanked Mr. Clayton for coming before the Board and for his willingness to volunteer.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Nicholas P. Clayton, 8 Pine Ridge Road, to the Agricultural Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2009, to fill the unexpired term of Meghan Taylor, whose resignation was accepted on November 13, 2007, as requested in a memo dated December 6, 2007, from Laura Abrams, Chair of the Agricultural Commission.

Site Plan Decisions – Omnipoint Communications, Inc.

The Director of Planning and Community Development Jody Kablack stated in a memo read into the meeting that Decisions for both Omnipoint Communications, Inc. site plans have been prepared as all necessary issues have been addressed, and the applicant is comfortable with the conditions of the Decisions.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Site Plan Decision on the petition of Omnipoint Communications, Inc. #SP07-004 for 16 Great Road, Assessors Map B07, Parcel Lot 050, owned by St. John's Evangelical, zoned Single Residential, in accordance with Town of Sudbury Zoning Bylaw Art. IX, Section 6370, Minor Site Plan Review, for installation of wireless services.

And it was further

VOTED: To approve the Site Plan Decision on the petition of Omnipoint Communications, Inc. #SP07-005 for 104 Wayside Inn Road, Assessors Map L02, Parcel Lot 002, owned by Wayside Inn Corp., zoned Single Residential, in accordance with Town of Sudbury Zoning Bylaw Art. IX, Section 6370, Minor Site Plan Review, for installation of wireless services.

Town Manager Valente read a memo into the record from the Sudbury Historical Commission stating that, if the structural integrity of the church is not compromised and auxiliary equipment is hidden behind historically appropriate coverage, the Commission does not have a problem with the Omnipoint petition.

Appointment – Ponds and Waterways Committee

Chairman Drobinski welcomed Michael Dufault to the meeting. Mr. Dufault introduced himself to the Board and outlined his background in biology and sports, stating he believes this would fit well with the requirements of the Ponds and Waterways Committee. He stated he has lived in Sudbury for the past four years with his wife Tammie who volunteers on the Budget Review Task Force. He has attended recent Ponds and Waterways meetings, has familiarized himself with past meeting minutes and looks forward to being appointed and volunteering on the Ponds and Waterways Committee.

Mr. Dufault opined that there is a wealth of information on the Town's website that outlines that past and present work of the Committee. He said it appears that the Committee may be a little behind the Master Plan; however, they have already done a tremendous amount of work.

Selectman Keller stated that he appreciates the positive comments regarding the Committee; a comment seconded by Vice Chairman O'Brien.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Michael R. Dufault, 84 Silver Hill Road, to the Ponds and Waterways Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2008, to fill the unexpired term of Richard Davison, whose resignation was accepted in September 11, 2007, as requested in a memo dated January 9, 2008, from Susan J. Crane, Chair of the Ponds and Waterways Committee.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular and executive session minutes of January 8, 2008.

The Sudbury Foundation – Fairbank Senior Center Grant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept, on behalf of the Town, a grant in the amount of \$12,000 from The Sudbury Foundation, as outlined in a letter dated January 8, 2008, from Marilyn Martino, Executive Director, for continued support of the Senior Volunteer Coordinator position at the Fairbank Senior Center, to be expended under the direction of the Council on Aging Director, and to send a letter of appreciation to the Foundation.

Resignations – Election Workers

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignations of two Election Officers: Virginia Trocchi, 6051 Seagull Lane, Lakeland, FL and Margaret L. Tristan, 12 King Philip Road, and sending a letter of appreciation for their service to the community.

One Day Liquor Permit – Buffet Way Catering

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant a one-day permit to Daniel P. Mauro, d/b/a Buffet Way Catering, 31 Curtis Avenue, Marlborough to sell beer and wine only, on January 26, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. –midnight at the Clarion Carriage House Inn, 738 Boston Post Road, to accommodate a private party subject to appropriately trained staff and liquor liability insurance coverage.

Election Warrant Signing

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve and sign the Presidential Primary Election Warrant for Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

Sale of Alcoholic Beverages During Polling Hours

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To grant permission to holders of package store, restaurant and club alcoholic beverages licenses to sell alcoholic beverages during the polling hours of the Presidential Primary on February 5, the Annual Town Election on March 31, the State Primary on September 16 and the State/Presidential Election on November 4, 2008, in accordance with M.G.L. c.138, s.33.

Conservation Restriction – Maple Avenue

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve acceptance of a Conservation Restriction granted in perpetuity in accordance with M.G.L. c.40, s.8C by Maple Avenue Meadows, LLC, on a 19.6 a. portion of the 28.76 a. property off Maple Avenue, Sudbury, as requested by the Conservation Commission and Town Counsel's Office.

Town Meeting Action

The Board reviewed a draft list dated January 17, 2008, of all articles and reports to be accepted for inclusion in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Town Manager Valente stated it is important, first of all, to accept the articles but not necessarily the order in which they are presented. It has been prepared based on past submission practices and followed the Town's history of listing petition articles at the end. She noted that Town Counsel has reviewed the articles and all are approved for context.

Ms. Valente pointed out that Article 17 is an Omnibus Article, encompassing most of the revolving funds. She pointed out that the bundling of these articles merely reduces the total number of similar and annually-repetitive articles. Chairman Drobinski pointed out that anyone wishing to do so can request that one or more of them may be held out for discussion on Town Meeting floor.

Vice Chairman O'Brien asked if the Board could see reports on Articles 21(Amend Bylaws, Art. V, Public Safety, boating regulations); Article 22 (Amend Bylaws, Art. V, Public Safety, Trench Excavating Permit); Article 23 (Amend Bylaws – Fire hydrant Access) and the three petition articles – Article 37 (Create

a Maple Avenue Historic District; Article 38 (Senior Property Tax Relief) and Article 39 (Amend Bylaws – Art. I, s.1-Term of Moderator) - as the articles are presently numbered.

Selectman Keller opined that the revolving articles should be kept together as should the money articles.

The following revisions to the draft list of articles were recommended by the Board:

- #16 - Senior Tax Deferral – should become #20
- #17 - Town/School Revolving Fund (omnibus article) - should become #16
- #19 - Fire Department Revolving Fund – should be added to the “cc” list

All other items should remain where listed and be renumbered up or down according to the revisions noted above.

Town Manager Valente asked the Board to advise staff if they decide later that any other articles should be included in the Omnibus Article.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the articles submitted for the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented and renumbered this evening, and to designate the articles for placement on the Consent Calendar as presented; and it was further

VOTED: To support the following positions on articles presented for the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as renumbered above: Articles #7 Fire Ambulance, #12 Chapter 90, #13 Real Estate Exemption, #15 Special Act – 111F Insurance Proceeds, #16 Omnibus Revolving Fund, #17 DPW Revolving Mining Fund, #19 ZBA Revolving Fund and CPC articles #25, #26, #27, #28, #29, #30, #31 and #35 will be supported by the Board.

Positions were not taken on the following articles, and they were designated to be held for further discussion at the Board’s next meeting on February 26, 2008:

- #3 - FY09 Budget
- #6 - Capital Budget (CIPC)
- #8 - Transfer Station Enterprise Fund
- #9 - Pool Enterprise Fund
- #11- Stabilization Fund
- #14 - Collective Bargaining Funding
- #18 - Fire Dept. Revolving
- #20 - Senior Tax Deferral
- #21 - Amend Bylaw (Boating Regulations)
- #22 - Amend Bylaw (Trench Excavating Permit)
- #23 - Amend Bylaw (Fire Hydrant)
- #24 - Amend Bylaw (Farming Preservation)
- #32, 33, 34 & 36 (awaiting real dollar amts.)
- #37 - Maple Avenue Historic District
- #38 - Senior Property Tax Relief
- #39 - Amend Town Moderator term

The Board will be report at Town Meeting on Articles #2 (FY08 Budget Adjustments), #4 (Renovate Police Station); #5 (Construct Police Station) and #10 (Unpaid Bills). They further requested that David Levington be invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss Article 20 (Senior Tax Deferral).

Annual Town Meeting Discussion

At 8:45, Chairman Drobinski welcomed petitioners representing articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

Article #39 - Amend Bylaws Art. 1, s.1 – Town Meetings - Term of Moderator

Mark Kablack, 46 Poplar St., is a petitioner who seeks to amend the Moderator's term from one to three years. He stated that back in time the moderator was literally appointed at Town Meeting and the term expired at the end of said meeting. In recent history, the Moderator is elected for a one-year term at the Annual Town Election. Mr. Kablack stated that the law changed back in 1943, giving cities and towns the option of appointing moderators for either one or three-year terms. He proposes that Sudbury modernize the current Bylaw and increase the term to three years. He further pointed out that the Moderator is the only elected official with a one-year term of office. It is a procedural change not controversial issue and needs to be voted by majority vote. If the vote is successful, next year, 2009, would be the first instance of a three-year term. He opines that the expanded term will not chill competition as it is usually a non-contested race, nor will it prevent or limit the pool of applicants. Moderators usually serve for many successive terms, and it requires a skill set that improves with time.

Vice Chairman O'Brien questioned Mr. Kablack as to the process should the term become vacant for any reason during the three-years. He replied that in an emergency the Town Clerk could serve as interim moderator, and the term would need to be filled at the next Annual Town Election.

The Board agrees with the proposal, believes that it makes sense and that the time is right for the change.

Article #37 – Maple Avenue Historic District –

Cheryl Salatino, 14 Maple Avenue represented "determined petitioners" who previously submitted a petition article (which was subsequently withdrawn) to designate Maple Avenue as a scenic road. She said the wording remains the same.

Chairman Drobinski reminded everyone that when the article was previously submitted there was on-going litigation with a Maple Avenue developer, which was the reason for withdrawing the article. Mr. Drobinski stated that he now supports this article. Ms. Salatino conveyed that there is a lot of area history to present at Town Meeting.

Selectman Keller said he sees no reason not to support it, and he requested an advance copy of what the neighbors will present at Town Meeting. Ms. Salatino informed the Board that the Historic District Commission (HDC) has named this area The George Pitt Tavern Historic District, which will add interest to the Town Meeting presentation.

Mr. Keller also asked if there were any remaining issues with the developer of Maple Avenue and suggested sending any available material to the developer and residents in the area. Vice Chairman O'Brien

recommended that Mr. Salatino work with the Planning Board regarding improvements to the map and work being planned for area walkways.

Chairman Drobinski also noted that Linda Hawes, Chair of the HDC, stated that the Commission supports this article. He thanked Ms. Salatino for her presentation.

Article #38 – Senior Property Tax Relief -

Ralph Tyler, One Deacon Lane, gave a PowerPoint presentation to support the Senior Property Tax Relief petition article. He began by pointing out that the average tax bill in 1988 was less than \$2,000 and has risen through 2007 to over \$10,000. He continues to be concerned with the escalating tax projection which, he believes, has caused a migration of seniors in their early 50s from the Town. He believes something besides a tax deferral needs to be done for seniors. He opined that Sudbury is a fabulous community for young families because of the excellent schools; however, they leave once school years are passed - subsidized for years by seniors, who are receiving fewer benefits and have a reduced income because of retirement.

Mr. Tyler conveyed that the average median tax bill in Massachusetts a year or so ago was about \$2,700 while Sudbury was approximately \$8,000, roughly three times the average.

He suggested some possible approaches - one of which is to go to the General Court - the Legislature - and say at least we should be able to key one of these State exemptions to the fact our property is far different than the median property tax.

Secondly, he believes we should be able to modify the residential exemption based on the average property tax burden as opposed to the State median. Mr. Tyler feels it is right, fair and proper and he believes the Board of Selectmen should embrace this concept. He opines that Sudbury should be allowed the 40% exception that is given to other cities and Towns in the Commonwealth.

Chairman Drobinski affirmed that he wants to see seniors remain in Town and he is open to suggestions on how to make this work. Further, he would like to see more venues like Frost Farm. Mr. Tyler stated he would like to see PTERC brought back again rather than abandoned. He opined that it represents a lack of commitment by the Board and believes that the current deferral program is doing a disservice to Sudbury's residents. He went on to say that Frost Farm has the consequence of bringing more children into Town.

Vice Chairman O'Brien opined that he believes some of these ideas are good, but there are no numbers to back them up.

Selectman Keller responded, saying he feels the first two ideas are very interesting and that perhaps this information should be communicated to Rep. Tom Conroy when he comes before the Board later this evening. **NOTE:** Rep. Conroy was not able to attend this meeting and is rescheduled for the next meeting.

Farming Preservation Bylaw

Chairman Drobinski welcomed Laura Abrams, Chair of the Agricultural Commission, to the meeting to present her proposed Bylaw amendment which was submitted by the Agricultural Commission.

Ms. Abrams handed out a reworded article which has been approved by Town Counsel. There have been a few changes to her earlier version: they have removed the word “recreational” under the definition of “Farms”; removed Section 4 on Precedence. In the new Section 4 (Disclosure Notification), she will change the Bylaw notification area to the Town Clerk’s Office as opposed to the term “Town Hall”.

Selectman Keller asked if size or historical reference was considered in the “Definitions” section. Ms. Abrams stated they do not specify such nor do other towns. She went on to say that the Right to Farm Bylaw goes back to the early ‘90s. Changes have been made which suit Sudbury’s need to better preserve what’s here. This is a Preservation Bylaw - reinforcing Sudbury’s position on maintaining its farms. The Commission is not putting in any penalties for real estate agents not informing new residents of a farm that might be located nearby as it would be too cumbersome to enforce.

Selectman Keller asked Ms. Abrams if the Commission is trying to remedy any specific situations. She stated they are not, only trying to be proactive in preserving what is already here. She further reported the Commission is actually working with someone who may want to put in a CSA farm and people who may want to buy shares in such a farm. Thus, there may actually be more active agriculture in Town.

Vice Chairman O’Brien asked what determines a farm as opposed to recreational use of animals. Ms. Abrams stated they are working with the Planning Board and the Board of Health to determine how many units (numbers of animals per acre) make up a farm. However, nothing has been determined as yet, and the Zoning Board oversees these situations right now.

Mr. O’Brien further questioned, under Section 5 (Disputes), what is the trigger when a situation becomes an Agricultural Commission issue. Ms. Abrams stated that the Commission has no enforcement authority; they are only facilitators. The Zoning Bylaw would be the driving force.

Chairman Drobinski asked for clarification in the last sentence under Section 4 ... commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services..... Ms. Abrams reported that more correctly there should be a comma after the word “operations” to make it reader better.

Ms. Valente requested a change to Section 5 (Resolution of Disputes) by removing the “Zoning Enforcement Officer” designation as there is no agent.

They reminded everyone that the Zoning Bylaws are on the website and will be updated when changes occur.

Selectmen’s Reports

Selectman Keller announced that last week he helped welcome Citibank to Sudbury. They are making every effort to be a good neighbor and generously gave a \$5,000 contribution to S.E.R.F. and \$3,000 to Sudbury Valley Trustees. It was a well-attended grand opening.

In addition, Citibank promised to allow the continuance of the Car Washing fundraisers begun by MacKinnon’s in years past. Mr. Keller opined that Citibank’s presence is a good thing for the Community.

Vice Chairman O’Brien reported that he continues working and sharpening the pencil on the Town Budget along with the Finance Committee and the three cost centers. He stated that public hearings have been on-going with the three cost centers. He also conveyed that he attended last Thursday’s public

presentation by Town Manager Valente wherein she did an excellent job outlining the FY09 Budget situation. The meeting was broadcast on Channel 8.

Mr. O'Brien further reported that he also attended the first meeting of the Concord Planning Board concerning the proposed 350-unit development on the Maynard/Acton/Sudbury town lines. They confirmed receipt of Sudbury's letter and our response and comments to Secretary Bowles of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Controls. It was determined that an Environmental Impact Review is not necessary.

Chairman Drobinski stated that the Town is working very closely with the Town of Concord to protect the best interests of residents in that area.

Vice Chairman O'Brien conveyed there is a lot of development going on in that area. He reported that he attended a staff meeting today with Marcia Rasmussen, the Town Planner in Concord. Also attending were representatives from the developer, the DPW in Acton, and the Town of Maynard. The Traffic Consultant Jeffrey Dirk of Vanasse & Associates, Inc. stated that they reviewing on a more detailed basis the traffic impact on Powermill and Powers Roads and the Rt. 117 intersection. He also reported that the next public hearing will be held in February.

Chairman Drobinski opined that Vanasse & Associates is one of the best traffic consultants in the State, and that all projects going on in that area are being evaluated.

Mr. Drobinski finished by stating that more discussions will be taking place on the financial challenges facing the Town; he suggested that the public attend any upcoming hearings regarding an override or non-override budget hearings.

Town Manager Reports

Town Manager Valente reported that most of the department heads attended the Budget hearing last Thursday night. She appreciated their willingness to participate and provide answers where needed.

She further conveyed that she attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association annual meeting earlier this month. Gov. Patrick spoke and received a nice round of applause when he announced that the State budget would not be balanced on the back of local aid. However, the Lottery is not living up to the amount of money promised to communities, and money has been taken out of General Fund to supplement the Lottery. In the Governor's proposed FY09 budget, he would predicate Lottery money on casino funds – which may or may not happen. Revenue projections need to be looked at very carefully.

Ms. Valente stated there was a very long discussion with members from Cape Cod. Basically, they feel that they are the engine for the tourist industry yet they do not receive much in the way of State aid. They further pointed out that many Cape residents are retired seniors. The situation for a possible resolution was sent to study committee.

In summary, Town Manager Valente reported that she is on the Advisory Committee for MIIA for property and casualty insurance, an organization formed to cover self-insurance. Wayne Walker runs this for the Town of Sudbury and does so very well. The Town receives between \$9,000 and \$10,000 back each year based on safety-minded activities. We need to say thank you to Wayne and the staff working with him for a job well done. The program enhances employee safety and saves dollars as well.

Executive Session

At 10:33 p.m. it was on roll call

VOTED: To resume Executive Session.

Chairman Drobinski, aye, Selectman O'Brien, aye, and Selectman Keller, aye.

Chairman Drobinski announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk