



## TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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## Board of Selectmen

Sandra Biagetti  
Robert Burns  
Thomas A. Wesley  
**Town Administrator**  
Steven A. Sette

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### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Regular Minutes

**Monday August 17, 2015**

The regular Meeting of the Board and Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Biagetti in the Draper Room of Town Hall.

Present: Chair Sandra Biagetti, Selectman Robert Burns, Selectman Thomas A. Wesley, Town Administrator Steven Sette, Videographer Jeffrey Ellis

Chair Biagetti began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

#### Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Joseph Sweet had an issue with the appointment of Meg McElroy to the Conservation Commission due to the recent incidents that were outlined in the *Milford Daily News*, his concern was what if one of these issues occurred while on Town Business, what would be our exposure and what type of message are we sending to young people in town. He had no problem with Ms. McElroy personally, but with the issues he mentioned only.

He also had a question regarding the agenda item dealing with the Hopedale Country Club and a reduction of fees. Mr. Sweet was concerned that if this was done and with the solar farm being rejected by the Zoning Board are we being anti-business?

#### Consent Items

- a) **Approval of Regular Minutes of August 17, 2015**  
MSDV to approve regular minutes of August 17, 2015  
Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

#### Correspondence

None

#### Appointments and Resignations

- a) **Reappointment of Margaret (Meg) McElroy to Conservation Commission term ending June 30, 2018**

The Board at this point addressed the concerns voiced by Mr. Sweet; Mr. Sweet suggested that the Board wait until the court case involving Ms. McElroy be decided before appointing as this may reflect badly on the Board and Town of Hopedale. Selectman Burns discussed Mrs. McElroy and the fine job she did as a member on this Board previously as a result Mr. Burns would recommend this appointment. Selectman Wesley stated that he also knows Mrs. McElroy well and she has done a good job on this Board, she has come forward and raised her hand to serve and he was not prepared to turn his back on her and would also support her appointment. Chair Biagetti understands Mr. Sweet's concerns and that everyone should take personal responsibility for their actions, but agrees that Meg is compassionate to others who come before the Conservation Commission and should be appointed to the Board.

**MSDV to approve Reappointment of Margaret (Meg) McElroy to Conservation Commission term ending June 30, 2018**

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

**b) Retirement of Patrolman John P. Gagnon**

The Board accepted the resignation of Patrolman John Gagnon, Bob Burns motioned (with regrets), Tom Wesley seconded. The vote was 3-0 to accept Patrolman Gagnon's resignation. Mention was made of the many fine things that Patrolman Gagnon had done for the Department and the Town, especially in his role as the School Resource Officer.

**MSDV to accept the retirement of Patrolman John P. Gagnon with regrets; retirement effective September 30, 2015**

Board members mentioned the many fine things that Patrolman Gagnon had done for the Department and the Town, especially in his role as the School Resource Officer.  
Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

New Business

**a) Meet with Board of Directors of Hopedale Country Club – Discussion of Lease Agreement Determination**

The Hopedale Country Club (HCC) lease agreement was discussed, Mr. Stephen Haynes and Mr. Jeffery Germagian, representing the club were recognized to speak. They mentioned that the valuation of the property has gone up dramatically over the past few years and that the excess land that is leased to the Country Club is taxed at a commercial land rate and should be taxed at a recreational rate according to MGL 61B (25% of the assessed value). Mr. Haynes provided a thorough packet of information for the Selectmen and suggested an independent appraisal be done. Town Administrator Sette pointed out for the record that in the letter sent out to property owners prior to the tax bill being sent it does show the land value assessed at 25% and taxed accordingly. Further discussion occurred between all parties and it was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled at a later date between the Board, the HCC and the Board of Assessors to discuss again

1. Old Business

**a) Appointment of Edward Holland, Jr. to Board of Assessors**

The agenda item was to correct the term that Ed Holland Jr. was appointed for at the last meeting, the length of term was clarified to end June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 rather than June 30, 2018. Administrator Sette pointed out why this is the case and why it needs to be corrected; the Board agreed.

**MSDV to approve the appointment of Edward Holland, Jr. to the Board of Assessors term ending June 30, 2017**

Chair Biagetti-Aye; Selectman Burns-Aye; Selectman Wesley-Aye

2. Public Comment and requests for future agenda Items

None

3. Administrator News

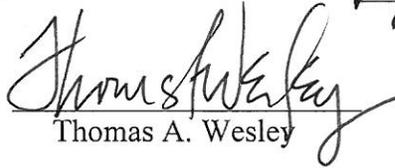
Administrator Sette had three items to mention; 1) the need for a Policy Bylaw workshop to discuss various bylaw changes that need to be made 2) the fact that the next Selectman's Meeting would be on August 31, 2015 at 7:00 PM, and there would not be a meeting on September 8, 2015 as a result 3) lastly he wanted to thank Sen. Ryan Fattman and Rep.

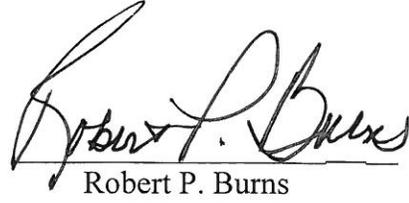
John Fernandes for all their help in securing \$90,000 in Legislative Grants for the Town and that a check presentation was held on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

4. Adjournment

With no further regular business before them at 8:17 p.m. the board adjourned their meeting.

  
Sandra Biagetti, Chair

  
Thomas A. Wesley

  
Robert P. Burns

**Hopedale Board of Selectmen**  
**\*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted**