

# Board of Selectmen Minutes 09/03/2013

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## Board of Selectmen Minutes September 3, 2013

Chairman Burns convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Draper room of the Town Hall and moved into the agenda. Present: Chairman Robert Burns; Selectwoman Janet Orff Jacaruso; Selectwoman Sandra Biagetti; Town Coordinator Steven Sette; Executive Assistant Patricia Goodwin, and Jeff Ellis, Videographer.

MSDV to approve the regular and executive session minutes of August 19, 2013. Chairman Burns – Aye; Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye, and Selectwoman Biagetti – Aye.

Chairman Burns moved to correspondence on the agenda.  
There was no discussion held.

Chairman Burns moved to appointments and resignations on the agenda.  
Executive Assistant Patricia Goodwin submitted her letter of resignation from the Town of Hopedale effective September 27, 2013 in order to enjoy retirement.  
MSDV to reluctantly accept the resignation of Patricia Goodwin. The Board wished Pat the best in her retirement. Chairman Burns – Aye; Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye, and Selectwoman Biagetti – Aye.

There were no appointments.

Chairman Burns moved to new business on the agenda.  
The Hopedale Road Commissioners submitted Chapter 90 funding project request forms to the MassDOT Highway Division in the amount of \$39,790.33 and \$31,660.00 respectively for approval by the Board regarding road improvement and resurfacing work to be completed on Cook, Nelson, and Thwing Streets.  
MSDV to approve the Chapter 90 funds project requests to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division as discussed. Chairman Burns – Aye; Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye, and Selectwoman Biagetti – Aye.

The Hopedale Unitarian Parish submitted a request for approval of a one-day license for the sale of wine and malt beverages during a fund-raising event for the Milford Performing Arts Center a non-profit organization, "Sock Hop", on Saturday, October 12, 2013 from 5:00p.m. to 12:00a.m.  
MSDV to approve the issuance of a one-day license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only to the Hopedale Unitarian Parish for a fund-raising event to be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 between the hours of 5:00p.m. and 12:00a.m. Chairman Burns – Aye; Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye, and Selectwoman Biagetti – Aye.

Ed Cerow of Boy Scout Troop 1 discussed his proposed Eagle Scout project with the Board. Scout Cerow is proposing the creation of a gravel walkway in the South Hopedale Cemetery, which will encircle the flag pole, and to restore the fence in the northwest corner of the cemetery. He also commented that the scouts would like to install a stone pillar, for which they plan to seek donations. It is anticipated that 10 to 15 scouts will help Ed with the project, which they hope to begin in October. Coordinator Sette will draft a letter from the Board to show their approval of the project.

Chairman Burns moved to old business on the agenda.  
Coordinator Sette continued a discussion on the Town Hall Renovation Committee. Mr. Sette commented that at the last meeting of the Board a discussion had been held as to whether or not there would be interest in moving forward with a committee consisting of different members to determine other solutions that could be presented. Ed Burt, the former Chairman of the Town Hall Renovation Committee, indicated that he would be more than willing to stay on.  
Coordinator Sette asked the members of the Board if they felt the Town Moderator should form the new committee, or whether the Board of Selectmen would be interested in forming the committee. Chairman Burns responded that he believes the Board should do so. A discussion was held with regard to the funds appropriated at the May 21, 2013 Town Meeting. The committee came in under the approved \$300K budget. Coordinator Sette commented that should the Board need to go before the town again, the next Special Town Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Burns asked residents that might be interested in becoming a member of the committee to contact Coordinator Sette and commented that a lot of work had been completed by the previous committee. Selectwoman Jacaruso said that when she initially joined the committee, she was not a member of the Board of Selectmen and that the new committee would not have any members of the Board.

Chairman Burns stated that once any major renovations are undertaken, that would trigger all ADA requirements, including the installation of an elevator. Selectwoman Jacaruso commented that entry and egress through a doorway is an issue and also that municipalities are required by law to pay prevailing wages for any work undertaken.

The Board unanimously agreed to continue with a newly formed Town Hall Renovation Committee.

Coordinator Sette reviewed the current list of committee vacancies and encouraged anyone interested to please come forward. A link to the talent bank form and committee descriptions can also be located on the front page of the town's website.

Coordinator Sette stated that the Town of Bellingham is on track to move forward with the Community Development Block Grant for the Bellingham/Hopedale Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program. They will be submitting a request for the release of funds from the

CDBG grant in the amount of \$571K on or about September 10, 2013. Mr. Sette said emergency cases will be addressed as a priority, with all others entered into a lottery. The funds are to be distributed between the towns of Bellingham and Hopedale. Further information will be publicly announced.

Chairman Burns moved to other topics not previously anticipated at the meeting. There was no discussion held.

Chairman Burns moved to Coordinator news on the agenda.

The Grafton & Upton Railroad land purchase was finalized. Coordinator Sette said the land purchased is approximately 1.5 acres, located behind the highway barn, with a 15 ft. easement maintained for the railroad along the area in order to conduct business and to allow trucks to pass along Depot Street. Mr. Sette stated that all back taxes have been paid by the railroad and for their property on Fitzgerald Drive.

Coordinator Sette commented that dust complaints received from residents of the senior housing community has been addressed with the railroad's general manager who will station a water truck on the property permanently. Selectwoman Jacaruso said some residents are concerned with the berms, which were seeded but have now gone wild. Coordinator Sette said he will ask the G&URR to take care of the matter.

Coordinator Sette received information in reference to the town being designated as a Green Community and the grant program process. A municipality must apply to the Mass. Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Division for designation, and must meet specific designation criteria. Mr. Sette questioned whether the town has enough staff to fulfill the sequence of steps required, as the Planning Board is currently working on updating the zoning bylaws. Mr. Sette will be meeting with a representative this coming week for further discussion of the program, and should the Board believe it is interested, a representative would be asked to come before the Board with further detail.

Coordinator Sette stated that he, Chairman Burns and Selectwoman Biagetti attended the Communities Impact Work Group meeting held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Committee (CMRPC) regarding the proposed Milford Casino.

Continuing discussions will be held, with the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Bellingham Municipal Center. Mr. Sette received a request for completion of questionnaires regarding the fiscal and town impacts on communities, which he has shared with the appropriate department heads for response.

With no further business before them at 7:43 p.m. a motion was made by Selectwoman Jacaruso, seconded by Selectwoman Biagetti, and agreed to by Chairman Burns to adjourn the open meeting, and to enter into executive session, not to reconvene in regular session, under G.L. c.30A, §21(a) (3), to discuss collective bargaining, and contract negotiations with the Police Chief, because the Chair has declared that discussing this matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board of Selectmen; and I as Chairman so declare; not to reconvene but to adjourn directly upon conclusion of the closed discussion.

MSDV to enter into executive session, not to return to open session meeting, and not to reconvene. RCV\*\*: Robert Burns, Chm. – Aye; Selectwoman Jacaruso – Aye, and Selectwoman Biagetti – Aye.

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Robert P. Burns, Chairman

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Janet Orff Jacaruso

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Sandra Biagetti

**Hopedale Board of Selectmen**

\*Moved, Seconded, Discussed and Voted \*\*Roll Call Vote