

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 9, 2009

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairman Rollins with all Selectman present.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Selectmen Patuto, Fay and Rollins shared their experiences reading to the children at the elementary schools in honor of Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

Ernie Zabolotny came before the BOS and said that people did not attend this evenings meeting because the agenda was not posted until Saturday. Chairman Rollins informed Mr. Zabolotny that the agenda is available in print at the Selectmen's Office on Friday afternoons and printed in the newspaper on Mondays.

Greg Smith came before the BOS requesting information on who to call on the weekends regarding dead animal pick up. T.A. Mercier informed Mr. Smith to call the police and they will contact the Animal Control Officer.

419: Common Cause/E. Government Award

Amy Warfield of the Town Clerk's Office came before the BOS to notify them that the Town of Burlington received the Common Cause/E. Government Award with Distinction. The award is for open and accessible government and for posting minutes and agendas on the Town website. There is an awards ceremony at the State House on March 19th at 1:00pm.

420: DISCUSSION: Update/State Financial Affairs
Senator Kenneth Donnelly and
Representative Charles Murphy

Representative Murphy said we are facing challenging times and are entering the toughest economic times this country has seen in years. State receipts are down \$86,000,000. Unemployment for February was 7.4%. He said he remains optimistic. He said he looks forward to Chair the House Ways and Means. Senator Donnelly congratulated Representative Murphy on his appointment to Chair. Senator Donnelly is Co-Chair of the Veterans & Federal Affairs Committee and Vice Chair of Education. He is also on the Utilities, Energy and Communications Committee. He said we are looking at difficult times with a very serious deficit. The municipal relief package should be ready in the next two to three weeks. He is hoping to work on the transportation bill, ethics and reform. He stated that Burlington is in good shape. He said they are working on health insurance, plan design and ways to work with cities and towns. Selectman Fay wished them well in their respective roles and thanked them for what they do for Burlington. Selectman Zenkin wished them the best and said he looks forward to working with them. Selectman Patuto asked if there will be more 9C cuts and Representative Murphy said there is no answer right now. Selectman Gianino said the municipal relief package proposed doesn't have a charge fee or tax on garages which may give some leeway to municipalities. He asked about the sound barriers and Representative Murphy said that they are an ongoing effort. Senator Donnelly said that the sound barriers have been put in as one of the priorities with the Department of Transportation. T.A. Mercier echoed the comments of the BOS and thanked them both. They have worked diligently with Burlington on the Home Rule Petition, the stimulus package and what they can do for Burlington. Chairman Rollins said the meals tax is intriguing to her and thanked them both for attending. She also said that work on the Grandview Farm will begin shortly and the fencing was installed today.

421: APPROVAL:

Appointments:

Sign By-Law Committee
Recycle Committee
Historical Committee

Town Administrator Mercier put forth the names of Brenda Vidoli, James Murphy, Walter Zenkin, Joan McSweeney and Doug Place to the Sign By-Law Committee. Selectman Fay moved to waive the fifteen day waiting period. Seconded by Selectman Zenkin and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Town Administrator Mercier put forth the names of Mike Tredeau, Eldrine Emerson, Norman Biggart, Kathleen Horton, Norma Robichaud, Judy Wasserman, Toni Faria, Joyce Fay, Sandra Coven, Gene Rossi and Hope Paulsen to the Historical Committee. Selectman Fay moved to waive the fifteen day waiting period. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Town Administrator Mercier put forth the names of Gail Lima and John Tuccinardi to the Recycle Committee. Selectman Gianino moved to waive the fifteen day waiting period. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

422: VOTE:

Snow and Ice Deficit

DPW Superintendent John Sanchez came before the BOS to request an additional \$250,000 for snow and ice operations. Superintendent Sanchez said that the DPW has responded to fifteen events and over 70" of snow this season. This authorization will bring the snow and ice budget to \$1,100,000 for this season. Selectman Fay moved to approve \$250,000 for the Snow and Ice Deficit. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

423: APPROVAL:

Fees:

Building Department
Ambulance Fees

Building Inspector John Clancy came before the BOS with the Massachusetts State Building Code. The 7th edition authorizes cities/towns to set fees for Annual Inspections. Prior editions of the Building Code set fees for Annual Inspections. Building Inspector Clancy recommended keeping the existing fee schedule used in previous Building Codes. Selectman Fay moved to approve the Building Department Fees. Seconded by Selectman Gianino, with Selectman Zenkin, Selectman Rollins, Selectman Fay and Selectman Gianino voting in favor. (4-0)

Fire Chief Lee Callahan came before the BOS requesting to write off all bad debt through December of 2006, approximately \$150,000, for unpaid ambulance charges. This item is on hold and will be on the agenda for the next meeting. He also requested to raise the cost for Basic Life Support ambulance transport from \$475 to \$540 and raising mileage from \$0.13/mile to \$0.15/mile. Medicare has recently increased its fee schedule for ambulance transport re-imbusement. Selectman Gianino moved to approve the Ambulance Fees. Seconded by Selectman Fay and unanimously voted. (5-0)

424: APPROVAL:

April Town Election

The annual Town election is scheduled for April 4, 2009. Selectman Gianino moved to approve the April Town Election date. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

425: APPROVAL: Town Common/Egg Hunt
Recreation Department

The Recreation Department is requesting the use of the Town Common for the eighth annual Egg Hunt scheduled for Thursday, April 9th from 6:00pm-7:00pm. Selectman Patuto moved to approve the use of the Town Common for the Egg Hunt. Seconded by Selectman Zenkin and unanimously voted. (5-0)

426: APPROVAL: Town Common/Annual Easter Sunrise Service
Fellowship Bible Church

The Fellowship Bible Church is requesting the use of the Town Common to conduct their annual Easter Sunrise Service on the Common on April 12, 2009 at 7:00am. Selectman Fay moved to approve the Town Common/Annual Easter Sunrise Service/Fellowship Bible Church. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

427: DISCUSSION: Wildwood Site

The Recreation Commission and Recreation Director Don Lorinovich came before the BOS to discuss the use of the Wildwood Site. T.A. Mercier presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the Burlington Board of Selectmen and the Burlington Recreation Commission. The BOS approves the use of the Site by the Recreation Commission to conduct Town sponsored recreation programs. The Recreation Commission requested to change some of the language in the MOU. The first sentence in paragraph three to state: The BOS supports the use of the Wildwood property for athletic fields and recreation for not less than eight years. The first sentence in paragraph five to state: The Selectmen will support the Recreation Commission in seeking funds at the May 2009 Annual Town Meeting to prepare the Wildwood site for fields with the expectation that these fields will be ready for use by 2012. The Recreation Commission stated they are not happy using the site as temporary and would like it for long term. Selectman Patuto moved to accept the MOU between the Board of Selectmen and the Recreation Commission as amended in paragraphs three and five. Seconded by Selectman Zenkin and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Recreation Commissioner Christine Monaco moved to accept the amended MOU. Seconded by Recreation Commissioner Jack Ferren and unanimously voted. (5-0)

428: APPROVAL: Budgets FY2010
BCLC Fire
Board of Appeals Police
Building Sealer of Weights & Measures
Council on Aging Town Facilities
Emergency Medical Services

Selectman Gianino moved to approve the BCLC budget at \$417,407 with a .057% increase. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Fay moved to approve the Board of Appeals budget at \$14,602 with an 18% decrease on the salary side because of the slow down in the economy. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Fay moved to approve the Building Department budget at \$449,610 with a 2.3% increase. Seconded by Selectman Zenkin and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Fay moved to approve the Council on Aging budget at \$225,980 with a 3.03% increase. Seconded by Selectman Zenkin and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Fay moved to approve the Emergency Medical Services level funded budget a \$22,902. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Gianino moved to approve the Fire Department budget at \$5,484,497 with a 1% decrease. Seconded by Selectman Fay and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Zenkin moved to approve the Police Department budget at \$6,268,874 with a .057% budget. Seconded by Selectman Fay and unanimously voted. (5-0)

Selectman Patuto moved to approve the Sealer of Weights & Measures budget at \$9,714 with a .051% decrease. Seconded by Selectman Fay with Selectman Zenkin, Selectman Patuto, Selectman Rollins and Selectman Fay voting in favor. (4-0)

Selectman Patuto moved to approve the Town Facilities budget at \$888,158 with a 2.53% increase. Seconded by Selectman Fay and unanimously voted. (5-0)

429: APPROVAL: Minutes/February 23, 2009

Selectman Fay moved to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2009. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and unanimously voted. (5-0)

430: SUBCOMMITTEES' REPORTS:

Presented by Selectman Patuto the elementary schools held their DARE ceremonies. The COA is moving away from the prescribed supplier of lunch. The High School will be providing senior lunches. The Drug and Alcohol Task Force will be at the High School tomorrow at noon. Tomorrow night at MSMS from 7:00pm-9:00pm there will be a presentation, Weeding out Marijuana, for parents and children. There will be a panel of distinguished guests.

Presented by Selectman Fay the DPW crews have been filling pot holes and cleaning out the catch basins. He and DPW Superintendent John Sanchez visited Lowell and saw the automatic trash disposal truck in action. People helping people are close to opening the new wing. He attended the DARE program at Francis Wyman School and the speakers were great. He attended the BHS hockey game at the Tsongas arena and said that the Burlington sports teams are doing great.

Presented by Selectman Zenkin the Patrolman, Command and BMEA unions have all agreed to work with the Police Chief on the FY09 overtime budget. The Burlington Town Flag competition begins March 13th and continues through April 6th. It is open to all Burlington residents between the ages of 16-18. The competition is intended to update and build upon the current flag's theme. Grandview Farm permits were pulled on February 24th. The contractor will be on site in April. Last Friday the BEA held their first annual trivia contest.

