

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MEETING OF JULY 16, 2013  
HARMONY HALL

PRESENT – Cathy Richardson, Chairperson, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice Chairman, Robert O. Cox, Clerk, John J. Zimini, Tony Archinski, Dennis E. Piendak, Town Manager, Glen Edwards, Assistant Manager/Planner and Shannon Rowe Beaulieu, Recording Secretary.

TIME – The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence being observed for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country and for those currently serving in the military particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ms. Richardson also sent her prayers to Barbara Souza hoping for a speedy recovery.

WARRANT APPROVAL – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Warrant. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY INPUT

\* Maureen & Robert Goulet, 202 Varnum Rd – Mrs. Goulet discussed the previous accidents near her property and stated that the street is used as a short cut. Mrs. Goulet discussed the hazard with signs on her neighbor's property. Mrs. Goulet stated that the signs state no trespassing located on her neighbors fence and people look at the signs which cause distractions. Mrs. Goulet stated that Varnum Rod needs to be safer and would like the signs removed from the neighbor's property. Mrs. Goulet stated that the signs are making the street hazardous.

\* Sheila Richardson, 278 Richardson Rd – Ms. Richardson stated that she was leaving Dracut at the end of the month and wanted to say goodbye. Ms. Richardson discussed her service on the Board of Selectmen and stated that she served the Board with pride, conviction and love. Ms. Richardson discussed her time on the Board, PTO's, Scholarship Foundation and Housing Authority. Ms. Richardson stated that she was proud to live in this Town. Ms. Richardson stated that Mr. Piendak and Mr. Edwards were always courteous, gentlemen and very helpful to her over the years.

\* Joyce Andrews, 42 Long Drive – Ms. Andrews discussed that the people at Town Meeting voted to put the override on a Town Ballot and stated that no one has the ethical right to not put the override on a Town Ballot. Ms. Andrews discussed the Democratic process and stated the Board should respect the people and do what Town Meeting voted to do.

\* Caroline McIntosh, 3 MacIntosh Drive – Ms. McIntosh asked the Board to honor the will of Town Meeting and put the 2.9 million dollar override on a Town Ballot. Ms. McIntosh stated that Town Meeting vote should be heard. Ms. McIntosh discussed the needs of children and what the schools offer and don't offer.

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TOWN MANAGERS REPORT – Mr. Piendak gave an update on construction and stated that the Town Hall project is starting and Phase 1 of the High School project should be completed late August. Mr. Piendak discussed the Arlington Street reconstruction project and the Wheeler Rd/Wheeler St project. Mr. Piendak discussed the RFP's for the CPA projects with the removal of the Bridge Street project. Mr. Piendak discussed the Parker Avenue sidewalk project. Mr. Piendak stated that they are currently looking to hire a part time Plumbing Inspector as Mr. Tom O'Connor is retiring. Mr. Piendak stated that three local businesses will be selling additional trash bags. Mr. Piendak stated that residents could purchase the bags at Dracut Hardware, Hannaford's and Kenwood Hardware. Mr. Zimini stated that he would like a letter sent to Mr. O'Connor and would like to have the High School project people attend the next meeting. Ms. Richardson stated that she would like Attorney Hall to review the petition and sign issue on Varnum Road. Ms. Richardson discussed the Local Aid Veto. Mr. Piendak stated that he hasn't seen any estimates yet. Mr. Piendak stated that this is an issue with the Governor and Legislature.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Verizon New England & Mass Electric Company – Joint Pole Petition – Mr. Joe Gleason from Verizon appeared before the Board requesting a joint pole petition. Mr. Gleason discussed the Surrey Lane petition and stated that they would be lifting up the existing lines with mid span poles.

No abutters spoke for or in opposition of the pole petition.

Mr. Piendak stated that Mr. Buxton, DPW Director, is recommending approval for both pole petitions.

Mr. Gleason discussed the Parker Avenue petition and stated that they would be relocating the existing pole 17' southerly.

No abutters spoke for or in opposition of the pole petition.

Motion made Mr. Zimini to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to approve the pole petition for Surrey Lane. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to approve the pole petition for Parker Avenue. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Crackers Lounge – Request for Bowling Game and/or Pinball Machine – Mr. David LeRiche, son of the property owner, appeared before the Board to request an

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Entertainment License for a bowling game and a pinball machine. Mr. Piendak discussed the applicants hearing before the ABCC and the appeal letter dated April 19, 2013 to the ABCC. Mr. Piendak stated that the bowling machine was allowed by the ABCC. Mr. Zimini stated that he is not comfortable accepting a handwritten response and would like an official approval by the ABCC. Mr. Piendak stated that this is how it was approved after the applicants hearing. Mr. DiRocco stated that he had no problem with the bowling machine as it is not a gambling machine. Mr. Archinski asked if the bowling machine would bring business into the establishment? Mr. LeRiche stated yes. Ms. Christine Suprenant, Manager of Crackers, appeared before the Board and stated that the handwritten response is the only response she received from the ABCC.

No abutters spoke for or in opposition of the public hearing.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed 3 to 0. Mr. Cox abstained from voting.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to approve the Bowling Machine only with further written notice from the ABCC. There was no second to the motion.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco approving the bowling machine pending official approval letter from the ABCC. Motion seconded by Mr. Zimini. Motion passed 3 to 0. Mr. Cox abstained from voting.

### AGENDA ITEMS

Town Manager Search Committee – Mr. Thomas Bomil, Mrs. Elaine Espindle, Mr. Edward Pitta, Mr. Michael Kuenzler and Mr. Charles Braley appeared before the Board to discuss their recommendations of finalists for the Town Manager position. Mr. Bomil provided the Board with a package from the Collins Center titled Town Manager Candidates and stated that the Search Committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to discuss the candidates brought forth from the Collins Center. Mr. Bomil stated that on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 fifteen applications were reviewed and six candidates were interviewed on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Mr. Bomil stated that the following four candidates are the Search Committee's recommendations in no particular order:

\* Stephen Bucuzzo – Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Bucuzzo has served as Assistant Town Manager in Andover for over a decade and has also served as Town Administrator in Rockport and in a financial capacity in Wellesley. Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Bucuzzo holds an Undergraduate Degree from UMass Lowell and a Master of Public Administration from Northeastern University.

\*Michael Farrell – Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Farrell has served as Town Administrator for Georgetown since 2009 and has previously served as Town Administrator in Hooksett, NH for fifteen years.

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Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Farrell holds an MPA degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University and an Undergraduate Degree from Villanova University.

\* David Marciello – Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Marciello has served from 2001 to 2011 as Town Administrator in Rehoboth, MA where he was the first person to hold the position. Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Marciello holds a JD from the Massachusetts School of Law and a BA from UMass Boston. Mr. Bomil stated that Mr. Marciello previously practiced law and also served as a Military Policeman in the US Army.

\* Pamela Nolan – Mr. Bomil stated that Ms. Nolan is currently the Town Administer for Seekonk, MA, previously served in similar positions in Truro, MA, Westerly, RI and Weymouth, MA and served as the Town Manager for Plymouth, MA. Mr. Bomil stated that Ms. Nolan holds a BA from SUNY-Buffalo and a Certificate in Senior Executive Manager from Harvard University.

Mr. DiRocco thanked the Search Committee for all of their hard work. Mr. Zimini thanked the Committee and stated that they did a great job with organizing the applicants.

Mr. Bomil stated that he has worked for the Town for 33 years and this was a great and very enjoyable Committee to serve on. Mr. Pitta stated that he was happy to be part of this process in selecting a new Town Manager. Mr. Kuenzler stated that it was a pleasure working with the Committee and stated that the community allowed them to do their jobs. Mr. Braley stated that the Committee interviewed strong candidates for the position. Mrs. Espindle stated that it was an honor to serve on the Committee and there were a lot of great candidates, as the position is very attractive. Mrs. Espindle stated that Mr. Piendak staying for so long showed the applicants stability.

Mr. Cox stated that the Search Committee did a fantastic job.

Ms. Richardson stated that the Board would like Mr. Kobayahsi from the Collins Center to meet with them on either August 6, 2013 or August 13, 2013 to discuss how to move forward with the interview process.

Proposition 2 ½ Override Forms – Ms. Richardson discussed the Board listening to so much input regarding the override. Mr. DiRocco stated that he never said he would deny putting the 2.9 million dollar override on a Town Ballot. Mr. DiRocco discussed the difference in amounts, emails and calls he has received regarding the override. Mr. DiRocco stated that he received a call from someone on the School Committee stating that they could possibly just need 1.8 million but Mr. Wilkie wants 2.9 million and nothing else. Mr. Archinski stated that there were 970 voters a Town Meeting and whether they are for or against the override it should be put on a Town Ballot and the Board should move forward and set a date for the election.

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Ms. Richardson discussed the comments and concerns she has received from residents that it was never her intention to not have an election. Ms. Richardson stated that it is the Boards job to listen to all of the residents in Town. Mr. Zimini discussed having severe reservations with going forward but he is willing to listen. Mr. Zimini discussed the berating comments, newspaper articles and posts on the internet. Mr. Zimini stated that he respects the public's opinion and he will not support the 2.9 million dollar override but will vote to place the question on a Town Ballot. Mr. Zimini stated that the School Department is now close to a balanced budget and he doesn't understand why and what is needed for 2.9 million dollars. Ms. Richardson discussed a good leader being able to separate politics from personal. Mr. Cox stated that he respected the opinions of his colleagues and stated that under the Town Charter the Legislative Body is Town Meeting and he would be voting to put the override question on a Town Ballot. Ms. Richardson discussed property values.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to place the following override question on a Town Ballot: Shall the Town of Dracut be allowed to assess an additional \$2,900,000 (Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town of Dracut Public School expenses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013? Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Under Discussion:

Mr. Zimini stated that people are stopping him everywhere stating that they can't afford the tax. Mr. Zimini stated that this would be a tax tsunami for residents in Dracut. Mr. DiRocco discussed people not being physically being able to go to Town Meeting and suggested they get absentee ballots.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to place the following override question on a Town Ballot: Shall the Town of Dracut be allowed to assess an additional \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding departmental expenses (Fire, Police, Department of Public Works) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco for the Special Election to be held September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Motion seconded by Mr. Zimini. Motion passed unanimously.

David Dumaresq, Re-Appointment to Agricultural Commission – Ms. Richardson read the letter dated June 18, 2013 requesting that Mr. Dumaresq be re-appointed to the Agricultural Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Cox to re-appoint Mr. Dumaresq to the Agricultural Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

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Scott Gervais, Re-Appointment as Bonded Constable – Ms. Richardson read the letter dated June 7, 2013 from Kevin Richardson, Police Chief recommending approval of the re-appointment.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to re-appoint Mr. Gervais as a Bonded Constable. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Jonathan Pollack, Appointment as Bonded Constable – Ms. Richardson read the letter dated June 12, 2013 from Kevin Richardson, Police Chief recommending approval.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to appoint Mr. Pollack as a Bonded Constable. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Traffic Sign Location Request – Ms. Richardson reviewed the stop sign requests from Kevin Richardson, Police Chief for Emery Street and Scott Street.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to place a stop sign on Emery Street. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to place a stop sign on Scott Street. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Lori Cahill, Conservation Agent – Request to Accept Donation for Wetland Consultant – Ms. Richardson read the letter dated July 1, 2013 from Lori Cahill, Conservation Agent requesting acceptance of a check totaling \$1,600 for wetland consulting for 401 Broadway Road and 200 Loon Hill Road.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to accept the donation check totaling \$1,600 for wetland consulting for 401 Broadway Road and 200 Loon Hill Road. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Minutes of June 3, 2013. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

Sub-Committee's - Ms. Richardson stated that the following Selectmen were appointed to the following Sub-Committee's:

- \*Economic Development – Ms Richardson & Mr. Cox
- \*Education – Ms. Richardson & Mr. Archinski
- \*Recreation/Open Space – Mr. Zimini & Mr. Archinski
- \*Housing – Mr. Cox & Mr. DiRocco
- \*Public Safety – Mr. DiRocco & Mr. Zimini
- \*NMCOG – Ms. Richardson

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\*Zoning By-Law Review – Mr. Cox

Ms. Richardson stated that the Open Space Committee will be meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. and the Economic Development Committee will be meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and 5:00 p.m.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he would like the Public Safety Sub-Committee to meet regarding the amount of recent break-ins.

OLD BUSINESS

Parker Avenue School – Building Permit Application – Mr. Piendak stated that the Building Inspector gave him a building permit application to sign for the Parker Avenue School. Mr. Piendak stated that the application is for two handicap bathrooms, ramp and lift. Mr. Piendak stated that he is looking for the Boards direction on how to proceed with the building permit application. Mr. Zimini stated that the School Department and School Committee does not want to work with the Board. Mr. Zimini stated that the building belongs to the Town and the Board of Selectmen has totally been ignored. Mr. Zimini stated that they are looking for a building permit with no lease signed. Mr. Zimini asked if Andy Graham's employees will be doing the work? Mr. Zimini asked if the work has gone out to bid, who is would be the contractor, etc. Mr. Zimini stated that he has many questions regarding the building permit application.

Motion made by Mr. Zimini to not have Mr. Piendak sign the building permit application until further information is provided by the School Department. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Under Discussion:

Attorney Hall stated that it is hard to answer the Boards questions with no information. Attorney Hall stated that under Chapter 40, Section 3 the School Committee has no authority to sign a lease for a Town owned building. Attorney Hall stated that the Board of Selectmen should be signing a lease with approval of the School Committee. Mr. Zimini asked who would be responsible for the electric and other utilities for the school? Dr. Michael McNamara, Dracut School Committee, appeared before the Board and stated that Mr. Zimini has brought forward many good questions and would like a joint meeting between the Boards very soon to discuss all of these questions. Dr. McNamara stated that the School Department is trying to generate revenue per the Finance Committee. Dr. McNamara stated that the School Department has leased space before at the Brookside School. Mr. Zimini stated that he would like to review the lease for the Brookside School. Mr. Zimini discussed asking for information numerous times but never receiving a response or the information. Mr. Piendak stated that Superintendent Stone does have Mr. Zimini's letter requesting information and the information is currently being composed. Ms. Richardson discussed possible meeting dates for a joint meeting and asked Mr. Zimini to put his questions together for the Board's review.

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Town Charter – Ms. Richardson stated that the Board has received the report from the Collins Center and would like Attorney Hall to review the report then have the Town Charter Articles placed on the November Town Meeting. Mr. Piendak stated that the Articles would have to be into the Town Clerk by September 20, 2013.

Mr. Cox left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Ms. Richardson stated that the Board would review the report at the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting with Attorney Hall's review and the Board would vote on them the first meeting in September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Cox returned to the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Ms. Richardson stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations with no votes being needed. Roll Call Vote:  
Mr. Cox – Yes      Mr. DiRocco – Yes      Mr. Zimini – Yes  
Mr. Archinski – Yes      Ms. Richardson – Yes

The regular meeting resumed at 9:11 p.m.

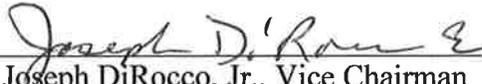
ADJOURNMENT

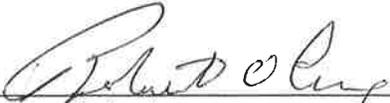
Motion made by Mr. Archinski to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Cox. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
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Cathy Richardson, Chairperson

  
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Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice Chairman

  
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Robert O. Cox, Clerk

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John J. Zimin



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Tony Archinski