

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of March 22, 2016
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

Present: Tony Archinski, Chairman, Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman, Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Cathy Richardson, Jim Duggan, Town Manager, Attorney James Hall and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:04 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.

Mr. Archinski stated that Boy Scout Troup 25 was also in attendance for tonight's meeting.

RECOGNITION:

* Hector Berube, Varnum Day Award Recipient – Ms. Richardson stated that two years ago she and Rebecca Duda created the Joseph Varnum Day Award to recognize one member of the Community yearly for their civic and patriotic duties. Ms. Richardson stated the other five nominees for the 2016 Varnum Day Award were Robert and Gay Corey, Norma Taplin, Harvey Gagnon and David Paquin, who all received certificates before tonight's meeting. Ms. Richardson presented Mr. Berube with a minuteman award for the 2016 Varnum Day. Mr. Donald Morowski appeared before the Board and gave the Board a brief history of Mr. Berube's accomplishments and civic and patriotic duties over the years. Mr. Morowski thanked the Board and Sub-Committee and stated that they did a great job by awarding Mr. Berube the Varnum Day Award.

Mr. Archinski recessed the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Archinski reconvened the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road – Ms. Zuk appeared before the Board and made the following upcoming announcement; tonight at Harmony Hall from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. is an Eminent Domain meeting regarding the proposed pipeline, March 31, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dracut American Legion is the next Dracut Pipeline Awareness Group meeting, April 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dracut High School is the DPU meeting regarding the proposed pipeline and March 10, 2016 is a meeting regarding the proposed tariff for the proposed pipeline. Ms. Zuk discussed it being found that gas was under used during the winter months.

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* Betsy Murphy, 41 Adams Road – Mrs. Murphy appeared before the Board to review the finding from the 2015 Community Health Survey for the Richardson Middle School and Dracut High School. Ms. Murphy stated that the School Committee reviewed the surveys last Monday and wanted to review the results with the Board as well. Ms. Murphy stated that the surveys were completed by the Center for Survey Research, University of Massachusetts Boston and stated that if the Board has any questions she would be happy to come back.

* Rich Cowan, 12 Greenlawn Avenue – Mr. Cowan appeared before the Board and discussed the annual statistics on per pupil spending. Mr. Cowan stated that DESE released the information two weeks ago and reviewed the spending with the Board. Mr. Cowan stated that Dracut is ranked the fourth lowest in per pupil spending and discussed that if the override passes how it will increase. Mr. Cowan stated that we are still living within our means if the override passes.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that he received a letter dated March 18, 2016 from Tennessee Gas Pipeline stating that they would be replacing existing pipeline markers. Mr. Duggan read part of the letter explaining how they would be completing outreach to residents. Mr. Duggan stated that the Rabies Clinic is this Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mr. Duggan discussed the DataVis team loading the technology into the system at the Police Department, the continued meetings with the Police Chief and the addition of two new Officers. Mr. Duggan stated that the spring sports are waiting on the release of the fields and April 4th, 2016 starts the Recreation summer registrations. Mr. Duggan stated that the DPW is cleaning up the fields and discussed the dangerous curb signs being placed around Town. Mr. Duggan stated that they have been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to survey historic homes in Town. Mr. Duggan stated that the assisted living facility has submitted their building permit application.

Mr. DiRocco asked about the proposed roadway improvements on Broadway Road. Mr. Duggan discussed the MassWorks grant and the agreement with CVS for road improvements, additional funding for roadway improvements and the easement for the roadway widening. Mr. Duggan stated that they are 10-12 months out for the proposed roadway improvements.

Mr. Duggan stated that the real estate tax bills are due March 2nd, they are finishing up the budget with the Finance Committee and they are finishing the new website with the Board having their own email addresses. Mr. Duggan stated that the Board will receive a full presentation on the new website before it is launched. Mr. Duggan stated that the Veteran's Service Office has been moved to the Council on Aging and thanked Superintendent Stone and Andy Graham for all of their help with the new office. Mr. Duggan stated that only one bid for the work at Colburn and Cross Road has come in and it would go back out to bid April 14th, 2016. Mr. Duggan stated that the Fire Department is hosting a three day training event by the Mass Fire Academy.

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Mr. Duggan stated that the Board of Health has received \$1,000 funding back from their Coalition and discussed the surprise visit he received from Sue Boule in regards to the fundraising efforts for the Mathew Boule Memorial Park. Mr. Duggan stated that a letter was sent to the owner of Budweiser in Germany and Budweiser will be making a financial donation for the park. Mr. Duggan stated that the Old Home Day Committee is looking for 12 volunteers from within the community to help start to finish for the event.

Mr. DiRocco asked if there would be any relief for the seniors if the override passes. Mr. Duggan stated that he is reviewing this with the Department of Revenue for the correct answer. Attorney Hall discussed relief for the seniors and stated that not all can qualify for relief and it would require a Warrant Article at Town Meeting. Attorney Hall stated that we already have a \$500 tax break which could go up to \$1,000. Mr. DiRocco stated that this was worth looking into for the seniors. Mr. Duggan stated that it could possibly be included for the November Town Meeting. Mr. DiRocco stated that they need to find out if it can be done and discussed the commitment of the Board for support.

Mrs. Hughes asked how many pipeline markers would be replaced per the letter from Tennessee Gas Pipeline? Mr. Duggan stated that there is no indication of how many would be replaced in the letter.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Richardson appeared before the Board and introduced the two newest members of the Police Department. Chief Richardson introduced Alex Gerrish and gave a brief history of Mr. Gerrish's background and introduced John Quinn and gave a brief history of Mr. Quinn's background. The Board welcomed the two new Officers.

SPECIAL PERMIT SUBMITTAL:

* Verizon Wireless, 454 Hildreth Street – Proposing a Small Cell Canister Antenna – Attorney Joshua Lanzetta appeared before the Board and presented the Special Permit Application proposing a small cell canister antenna. Mr. Duggan read the Special Permit Application into the record and stated that the application would be submitted to the Community Development Director for review.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* State Representative Colleen Garry – Discuss and Vote on a Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations – Mr. Archinski gave a brief description of the proposed resolution from the Coalition of Government Boards. Mr. Archinski discussed the Chapter 70 Formula being outdated and now incorrect and stated that many Board's and School Committees are approving this resolution. Representation Garry appeared before the Board and discussed the two major parts of local aide.

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Ms. Garry discussed the Cherry Sheet only being increased by 104% and Dracut's education funding at 50%. Ms. Garry stated that the Review Commission had many hearings and found that employee health insurance and Special Education should be added into the formula. Ms. Garry stated that she is not sure which way it will go and discussed the bills before the Legislature. Ms. Garry stated that it does not solve all problems but will move things forward. Ms. Garry stated that she recommends that the Board sign the Resolution. Mrs. Hughes asked if the funding would go to all students? Ms. Garry stated that the money would follow all students. Ms. Richardson asked if the money put aside will be stopped? Ms. Garry stated that the money put aside was a bond. Mr. Archinski asked what how the School Committee voted on the Resolution? Mrs. Betsy Murphy appeared before the Board and stated that they supported the Resolution unanimously. Mr. Archinski passed the gavel to Mrs. Hughes.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to accept the Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Richardson asked about the Circuit Breaker begin funded 100%. Ms. Garry discussed how the Circuit Breaker works.

Ms. Garry discussed the number of fundraisers Sue Boule has put on for the Mathew Boule Memorial Park and discussed working with the Permanent Building Committee and the Town Manager on the park. Ms. Garry stated that phase 1 of the project would be done this year. Mr. Duggan discussed the big ticket items needed for the park to be completed. Mr. Duggan discussed Dennis Piendak's vision and were it all started from.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

* Kathleen Roark, Chief Assessor – Assessor's Office – Mr. Duggan introduced Ms. Roark, Chief Assessor and stated that Katie has been working here since High School. Ms. Roark stated that she has worked in the Assessor's Office since she was 16 years old. Ms. Roark stated that the Assessor's Office is in charge of assessing property tax, personal property tax and discussed how taxation works. Ms. Roark stated that the Assessor's Office also sets the tax rate and deals with motor vehicle excise tax and abatements. Mr. Duggan discussed a split tax rate and stated that it does not increase the levy. Ms. Roark stated that shifting of the tax rate from residential to commercial does not bring in any more money into the Town. Ms. Roark discussed the levy and how it works.

Ms. Richardson stated that she is curious how many people own homes and businesses in Town.

Mr. Duggan discussed upcoming development in Town.

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AGENDA ITEMS (CONT'D):

* Brothers Sports Bar & Grille, 101 Broadway Road – Request for a One-Day Outdoor Beer & Wine License on May 7, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Mr. Peter Tsianakas and Mr. Mike Peterson appeared before the Board to request a one-day outdoor beer and wine license for the SPC Matthew Pollini Memorial Fund road race to be held on May 7, 2016. Mr. Tsianakas discussed the road race route and stated that the route has been approved by Deputy Chartrand. Mr. DiRocco asked if the other tenants in the plaza have been notified of the event? Mr. Tsianakas stated yes and they have also been asked to sponsor the event.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the One-Day Outdoor Beer & Wine License on May 7, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she is looking forward to the event.

* Jessica Costa, Yankee Timing – Requesting Permission for the 31st East End Road Race to be held on July 17, 2016 starting at 10:30 a.m. – Ms. Jessica Costa appeared before the Board to request approval for the 31st East End Road Race to be held on July 17, 2016. Ms. Costa stated that the route has been approved by Deputy Chartrand.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the 31st East End Road Race to be held on July 17, 2016 starting at 10:30 a.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Police Chief Richardson – Request for No Parking Signs at Hoover & Donahue Roads – Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the No Parking Signs at Hoover & Donahue Roads. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Police Chief Richardson – Request for a Stop Sign at Regency Drive & Schiripo Way – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve a Stop Sign at Regency Drive & Schiripo Way. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* Discuss Terms of Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement – The Board agreed that an Executive Session was not necessary.

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AGENDA ITEMS CONT'D:

* Vote on Ratification of Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement – Mr. Duggan thanked the Fire Department for their continued volunteer requests and reviewed him Memorandum dated March 7, 2016. Mr. Duggan stated that he recommend ratification of the Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. DiRocco asked if the Agreement is the same as other contracts? Mr. Duggan stated yes.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Ratify the Firefighters Collective Bargaining Agreement. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Duggan stated that the Agreement was ratified unanimously by the Firefighters.

* Selectmen DiRocco – Discuss Letter to Town Manager from Superintendent Stone dated March 1, 2016 regarding Clarifying Erroneous Information – Mr. DiRocco stated that the Town Manager received a strong letter from Superintendent Stone regarding clarifying erroneous information. Mr. DiRocco read the letter from Superintendent Stone dated March 1, 2016. Mr. DiRocco stated that though he did agree with most of Superintendent Stone's letter he read Warrant Article #6 from the November 4, 2013 Town Meeting submitted by Voter Petition and read the Minutes from the October 22, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Mr. DiRocco discussed teachers stating that students were sharing books and the teachers were bringing in their own school supplies. Mr. DiRocco read the Minutes from the November 4, 2013 Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding Warrant Article #6 and read the Minutes from the January 13, 2014 School Committee's meeting. Mr. DiRocco discussed the information is Superintendent Stone's letter regarding erroneous information not being accurate. Mr. DiRocco stated that they cannot tell the School Department how to spend their money and they didn't do anything wrong but the Board of Selectmen thought the money was going to be used for books, etc. Mr. DiRocco stated that the School Committee and the Superintendent needs to sell the override and if this continues they are not going to get anywhere.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that apparently Superintendent Stone has to defend them and everyone has to move forward. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that per pupil spending is embarrassing and the override question should be one question as two questions is dividing the Town. Mr. DiRocco stated that Mrs. Dristiliaris didn't vote for either question to be on the ballot. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she would be voting for both questions.

Ms. Richardson stated that she would like the Chairman to put the budget back on the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Archinski stated that he understands people are upset but all negativity hurts and it was negative what Mr. DiRocco just said. Mr. DiRocco stated that he did not say anything that wasn't untrue.

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Mr. Archinski stated that Mr. DiRocco keeps referring to “them”. Mr. DiRocco stated that he said it is hard to defend themselves. Mr. Archinski stated that Mr. DiRocco is not naming one person he is calling them “them”. Mr. DiRocco stated that Mr. Archinski is missing the point. Mr. Archinski stated that brining this up now puts a damper on the override.

Mrs. Hughes stated that what happened was three years ago and hopefully everyone can move forward.

* Selectwoman Richardson – Discuss the Boston Post Cane - Ms. Richardson discussed placing the Boston Post Cane in a secured location at Town Hall and give the recipient a Certificate. Ms. Richardson stated that maybe the Greater Lowell Vocation School could help create a secure box for the Cane. Mr. Duggan stated that it could possibly be an Eagle Scout project as well and he would reach out to the local Troops. Ms. Richardson stated that the Cane should be given to the oldest person in Town by date of birth.

* Selectwoman Richardson – Discuss Townsend Conservation Land Trust KM/TGP Proposed NED Pipeline – Fitchburg Lateral PowerPoint Presentation – Ms. Richardson reviewed the KM/TGP Proposed NED Pipeline – Fitchburg Lateral PowerPoint Presentation dated January 10, 2016 prepared by the Townsend Conservation Land Trust with the Board.

* Mrs. Betsy Murphy, Chairperson of the Dracut School Committee appeared before the Board and stated that it is important for the Chairs of the Boards to get together and Superintendent Stone could answer any questions that members may have.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Archinski stated that the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Open Space Committee, Government Rules and Regulations Committee, Affordable Housing Partnership Committee, Conservation Commission and Dracut Cultural Council are looking for new members.

Mr. Archinski stated that the Open Space Committee has one new member.

NEW BUSINESS:

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Housing Sub-Committee – Ms. Richardson stated that there will be two public hearings for the Greenmont Avenue project with abutters.

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* Pipeline Coalition – Ms. Richardson stated that the next meeting will be held on March 28, 2016 at Harmony Hall at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Richardson discussed the DPU hearing held on March 10, 2016 with three hours of testimony and all testimony had different avenues. Ms. Richardson discussed the meeting with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs and stated that they are glad to have the support of the residents.

* Healthy Communities – Ms. Richardson stated that there would be an Opiate Roundtable discussion at the Dracut Library on March 30, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2016 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion 4 to 0. Mrs. Dristiliaris abstained from voting.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Dracut High School Musical Grease is being held on March 31st, April 1st and April 2nd, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* Discuss and Strategize with Regard to the Engagement Contract of Attorney Richard Kanoff

9:23 p.m. Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to go into Executive Session. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dristiliaris called for a roll call vote:

Mr. DiRocco – Yes
Mr. Archinski – Yes
Mrs. Dristiliaris – Yes

Mrs. Hughes – Yes
Ms. Richardson – Yes

9:36 p.m. The regular meeting resumed with no votes being taken in Executive Session.

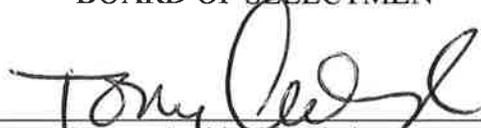
ADJOURMENT:

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Tony Archinski, Chairman



Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman



Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



Joseph DiRocco, Jr.

Cathy Richardson