

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of May 24, 2016
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

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

Mrs. Hughes opened the meeting at 7:02p.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. Mrs. Dristiliaris also asked for a moment of silence for Officer Tarantino from the Auburn Police Department

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Mr. Randy Boisse, 190 Methuen Road – Mr. Boisse stated that Kinder Morgan filed their withdrawal for the pipeline application. Mr. Boisse discussed the pipeline tax and the effect on the rate payers. Mr. Boisse asked that people voice their opinion regard the pipeline tax to the Mass DPU. Mr. Boisse discussed Chapter 97 and stated that the Attorney General's Office could set precedent for all pipelines. Mr. Boisse stated that the Board of Health is working on By-Laws and discussed the need to follow through on the By-Laws. Mr. Boisse discussed pressuring the utility companies to fix gas leaks.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that they are wrapping up the Monahan bathrooms and the Town has received a total of \$10,000 from Dracut Girls' Softball to help with the construction of the bathrooms and parking lot. Mr. Duggan stated that the bathrooms should be finished within the next two weeks. Mr. Duggan stated that the concrete pad at Boule Park is being removed and discussed the new boat ramp going in at Lake Mascupic. Mr. Duggan stated that the State would also be defining parking spaces across the street from Lake Mascupic. Mr. Duggan stated that the State would be repaving the parking lot at Lake Mascupic next fiscal year. Mr. Duggan stated that they are still looking for Skateboard Park monitors and as of right now the Park would be open every other Saturday and Sunday and Tuesday and Thursday over the summer. Mr. Duggan stated that sewer bills are due June 1, 2016 and the Sewer Department is conducting an examination of the system. Mr. Duggan stated that the Sewer Commission would be raising their fees. Mr. Duggan discussed Dracut being responsible for 11% of Duck Island in Lowell, reviewing rates in 2019 for sewer and the Sewer Commission allowing exemptions for seniors.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked if the Sewer Commission vote on raising fee's was unanimous? Mr. Duggan state that the vote was 2 to 1.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

Mr. Duggan discussed the increase in traffic enforcement and the Library bringing in \$3,900 from their recent book sale. Mr. Duggan stated that Holocaust Survivor Rena Finder would be speaking at the Library on Thursday and reviewed the available positions open in Town. Mr. Duggan stated that the new Board of Health Agent is starting May 31, 2016 and his name is Casey Mellin. Mr. Duggan stated that new Veteran's Service Officer would be starting soon as she just accepted the position. Mr. Duggan discussed the \$100,000 air mark by State Representative Colleen Garry for public safety and stated that Senator L'Italien is also in support. Mr. Duggan stated that he has received verbal confirmation that the Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC) has been approved and discussed the RECC opening in 18 month to 2 years.

Mr. DiRocco stated that now that there are only two communities going to the RECC are they looking at smaller buildings? Mr. Duggan stated that they are looking at smaller RECC models. Mr. DiRocco asked if our savings and position are going to stay the same? Mr. Duggan stated yes.

Mrs. Hughes asked how people could apply for the open Town positions? Mr. Duggan stated that people could apply with Human Resources.

Mr. Archinski asked about the proposed work at Colburn and Cross Roads? Mr. Mike Buxton, Public Works Director, stated that they are currently in discussions with the lowest bidder.

Mr. Archinski asked about the car counters all over Town? Mr. Buxton stated that NMCOG is having the cars counted. Mr. Phil Thibeault appeared before the Board and stated that NMCOG does the car counting once a year.

Mr. Forcier asked about the Assisted Living Facility having a local hiring day? Mr. Duggan stated that they would have a Dracut residents only hiring day in the future.

Mr. Forcier asked about the status of the Planning Board? Mr. Duggan stated that the Planning Board has all of their full members but they are looking for two alternate members.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Richardson appeared before the Board and discussed the Traffic Program and stated that they are working 4 hour blocks on different days and different locations. Chief Richardson stated that they currently have two student officers starting the Academy and they would be graduating in October.

Mr. DiRocco asked how much it costs to send an Officer to the Academy? Chief Richardson stated that it cost \$3,000 for tuition, \$800 for ammunition, \$550 for books, \$700-\$800 for the uniforms and \$700-\$730 a week for pay.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

Mr. Duggan stated that he did not want anyone to think the traffic enforcement is due to the override failing.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked if the Town is reimbursed for the Academy training if an Officer leaves Dracut? Mr. Duggan stated that specified items are under contract and have to be reimbursed.

Mr. Forcier asked if they could mount some additional bags to the kiosk at the Police Station drop off for prescription drugs.

Mr. DiRocco asked if the Town receives the salaries back if an Officer leave Dracut after their Academy training? Mr. Duggan stated no, salaries are not reimbursed. Chief Richardson stated that the contract only deals with training reimbursement not compensation.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Memorial Day Parade starts at the Greenmont School at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the Middlemiss Scoop Fest in June 22, 2016 at Shaw Farm.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* Lisa Panagopoulos – Requesting a One-Day Beer & Wine License for Harmony Hall on June 5th, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Mrs. Panagopoulos appeared before the Board and stated that she was hosting a family graduation party at Harmony Hall and she has the appropriate insurance coverage for the event.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Approve the One-Day Beer & Wine License for Harmony Hall on June 5th, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Forcier. Motion passed unanimously.

* David Meade – Requesting Reappointment as a Bonded Constable – Motion made by Mr. Forcier to Reappoint David Meade as a Bonded Constable. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Acceptance of a Donation from Colleen Garry for the Public Safety Divisions of the Community – Motion made by Mr. Archinski to Accept the Donation of \$100.00 from Colleen Garry for the Public Safety Divisions of the Community. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

* Acceptance of a Donation from the Dracut Girls Softball Association for the Monahan Bathroom Facility – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Accept the Donation of \$5,000 from the Dracut Girls Softball Association for the Monahan Bathroom Facility. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

* Acceptance of a Donation from Tony Archinski for the Agricultural Commission – Motion made by Mr. Forcier to Accept the Donation of \$20.00 from Tony Archinski for the Agricultural Commission. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Archinski abstained from voting.

* David Paquin, Dracut Old Home Day Committee – Request to Close Portion of Lakeview Avenue, September 10th, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Old Home Day – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to close a portion of Lakeview Avenue, September 10th, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Old Home Day. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Linda Kawa – Requesting Reappointment to the Dracut Historical Commission – Motion made by Mr. Forcier to Reappoint Linda Kawa to the Dracut Historical Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

* Robert Berube – Requesting Reappointment to the Dracut Agricultural Commission – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Reappoint Robert Berube to the Dracut Agricultural Commission. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Dracut Pipeline Awareness Group – Update & Discussion Regarding the Kinder Morgan Gas Pipeline – Ms. Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road, appeared before the Board and stated that she is happy to hear that Kinder Morgan has withdrawn their application with FERC. Ms. Zuk stated that they need to be serious about the decision as Kinder Morgan still has their eye on Dracut. Ms. Zuk stated that the Connecticut expansion is still on the table and discussed the demand to sell always being “eyeballed”. Ms. Zuk discussed points of export, the focus on the rate payers and the rate payers being used as vehicles. Ms. Zuk discussed the proposed tariffs and requested that Town Counsel send a final letter showing the Board’s disapproval of any tariffs. Ms. Zuk discussed Article 97 lands that are still under the scope and discussed renewables. Ms. Zuk discussed looking at new infrastructure and always being ready for the future.

Mr. Forcier asked about the baselines through the Board of Health and what information is needed? Ms. Zuk discussed establishing base line funding and the time of year for the baseline.

Mr. Archinski thanked Ms. Zuk and the Dracut Pipeline Awareness Group for all of the time they put in.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

* Selectman Tony Archinski – Review and Vote to Pass a Resolution in Support of Striking Verizon Workers – Mr. Archinski discussed the Verizon workers being on strike and stated that he would like the Board to stand in support of the proposed Resolution. Mr. Ed Starr, Ms. Cathy Vigneant and Martha Sinclair appeared before the Board and stated that they are striking Verizon workers and would like the Board's support on the proposed Resolution. Mr. Starr stated that 39,000 workers are currently on strike and discussed the reasons why they are currently striking.

Mr. DiRocco stated that the Board is only hearing one side of the story. Mr. Starr discussed the demands of Verizon and the increasing percentage of jobs going overseas. Mr. Starr stated that they can meet all of the demands but want a guarantee of jobs here.

Mr. DiRocco asked what does the Board signing the Resolution do for the strikers? Mr. Starr stated that they are asking for support for the Dracut residents that work for Verizon. Mr. Starr discussed future FIOS and Broadband for Dracut.

Mr. Forcier asked what is the Board's history with signing Resolutions? Attorney Hall stated that the Resolution is not binding but shows support.

Mrs. Hughes asked if signing this Resolution would get a precedent for the Board?

Mr. Forcier stated that he is a union supporter but would be Board be setting a precedent by signing the Resolution.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she is also a past union member but she is not sure why the Board would be getting involved?

Mr. Archinski stated the Board has constituents and that signing the Resolution shows support for the Dracut residents who work for Verizon.

Mr. Starr stated that the Board is in a position to make a stand. Mr. Starr stated that the strikers are sticking up for what is right. Mr. Starr discussed call center bills and what is in front of the Legislature.

Mr. DiRocco asked if the Police Unions are weighing in on the strike? Mr. Archinski stated that he does not know if they have been contacted.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to Sign the Resolution in Support of the Striking Verizon Workers. Motion made by Mr. Forcier. Under Discussion:

Mr. Forcier stated that he is on the fence with signing the Resolution as he does not want to set a precedent.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

Mrs. Hughes stated that she is o.k. with the wording and would be supporting the Resolution.

Mr. Archinski read the Resolution Supporting Verizon Workers.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he agrees with Mrs. Hughes regarding the wording and stated that the attention needs to be brought back to Verizon bringing jobs to Dracut.

Motion passed 4 to 1. Mrs. Dristiliaris voted no.

* Review and Vote on June 6, 2016 Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Warrant Article #23 – Mr. Duggan reviewed the Warrant Article. Mr. Ellis Neofotistos, Permanent Building Committee Chairman, appeared before the Board and stated that the original Warrant Article was approved for \$350,000 for a field house at the Dracut High School Complex but the bids that have come in range between \$368,000 and up. Mr. Neofotistos discussed deducting alternates and what is left if the fund. Mr. Neofotistos stated that the Permanent Building Committee is looking for an additional \$50,000 to continue with the project. Mr. Neofotistos stated that if not all of the money is used it would be returned to the Community Preservation Fund.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he knows that the Permanent Building Committee does a great job with saving the Town money but this is a lot of money for bathrooms.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the project was originally estimated at \$282,000 and asked what happened in two years? Mr. Neofotistos discussed the timeline of the project.

Mr. Forcier asked if this Warrant Article passes at Town Meeting when would the project be complete? Mr. Neofotistos stated that a majority would be done before school starts in the fall.

Mrs. Hughes questioned if the facility would still be secure with the features that were deducted? Mr. Neofotistos stated that the deductions were roofing materials, etc.

Mr. Forcier asked who would be managing the field house? Mr. Neofotistos stated that once the field house is complete it would be in the jurisdiction of the School Department.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Recommend Warrant Article #23. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #24 – Mr. Duggan reviewed the Warrant Article. Ms. Helen Dunlap, Community Preservation Committee Chairperson, appeared before the Board and discussed the Fox farmhouse at 324 Broadway Road. Ms. Dunlap stated that the money would move the farmhouse, build a new foundation and restore the exterior.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

Ms. Dunlap stated that this has been before the Planning Board. Ms. Dunlap discussed the unsuccessful bid for the 12 acres on the property and stated that Mr. Michael Kuenzler who now owns the property, has offered \$25,000 to help with the move. Ms. Dunlap thanked Mr. Kuenzler for this cooperation in leaving the farmhouse in tact until a piece of property could be found to relocate the farmhouse. Ms. Dunlap discussed moving the farmhouse and stated that CPA funds can be used to move the farmhouse but cannot be used for purchasing a new location. Ms. Dunlap discussed the farmhouse having a historic restriction. Ms. Dunlap stated that they have not been allowed into the farmhouse by the Fox family but Mr. Kuenzler would be allowing access to the farmhouse after he purchases the property. Ms. Dunlap stated that they have three location possibilities for the farmhouse but cannot disclose the locations yet. Ms. Dunlap stated that part of the agreement would be any work over the \$150,000 would be the responsibility of the new owner.

Mr. Phil Thibeault appeared before the Board and stated that the farmhouse is an architectural gem and discussed the past moving of Harmony Hall. Mr. Thibeault stated that a foundation could be designed and built within two months.

Mr. Forcier asked if there would be State highway requirements for the move? Mr. Thibeault stated yes, they would need Mass DOT permits for the move.

Ms. Dunlap stated that the farmhouse does not come with the existing barn.

Mr. DiRocco asked Ms. Dunlap how the Community Preservation Committee voted on this Warrant Article? Ms. Dunlap stated that the Committee all voted yes. Mr. DiRocco stated that Ms. Dunlap and the Community Preservation Committee does a great job but they can't save everything.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she has received positive feedback for preserving the farmhouse.

Ms. Dunlap discussed all three categories for zoning for the farmhouse.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Recommend Warrant Article #24. Motion seconded by Mr. Forcier. Under Discussion:

Mr. Archinski stated that Ms. Dunlap does a great job but there are a lot of unanswered questions regarding this Warrant Article.

Motion failed 2 to 3. Mrs. Hughes, Mr. DiRocco and Mr. Archinski voted no.

Warrant Article #25 – Mr. Duggan reviewed the Warrant Article. Mr. Duggan discussed the housekeeping issues. Attorney Hall discussed coming up with a new defined Warrant Article. The Board reviewed the Warrant Article changes.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

Ms. Betsy Ware, Community Development Director, appeared before the Board and stated that they removed the wording of day to day management of the property from the Warrant Article.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Recommend Warrant Article #25. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. Hughes 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Discuss and Vote on Summer Meeting Schedule – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to have the summer Board of Selectmen’s meetings on June 14th, 2016, July 12th, 2016 and August 9th, 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Discuss & Assign Board of Selectmen Appointed Sub-Committee’s – Mrs. Hughes appointed the following Sub-Committees effective May 18, 2016:

- * Economic Development – Alison Hughes & Tami Dristiliaris
- * Public Safety – Joseph DiRocco & Tami Dristiliaris
- * Housing – Joseph DiRocco & Jesse Forcier
- * Education – Alison Hughes & Jesse Forcier
- * Open Space & Recreation – Tony Archinski
- * Zoning By-Law Review – Tony Archinski

Board Appointed Representatives:

- * NMCOG- Jesse Forcier
- * LRTA – Tom Bomil
- * CTI – Dennis Piendak
- * Sewer Construction – Joseph DiRocco & Alison Hughes

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

* Economic Development Committee – Mrs. Hughes stated that they have finished the Economic Development Plan last night and they would be meeting one more time before the Plan is presented to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Hughes stated that she has reviewed the Board of Selectmen By-Laws and cannot find the charges for a lot of the Sub-Committee's, etc., and will start reviewing them and bring her findings to the Board for their approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

* February 22, 2016 – Varnum Day Award Sub-Committee - Mrs. Hughes approved the Minutes of the Varnum Day Award Sub-Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - Attorney Hall stated that there was no need for the Board to go into Executive Session.

AGENDA ITEMS (CONT'D):

* Vote to Amend Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU Local 888 by Agreeing to Add Additional Positions to the Bargaining Unit – Mr. Duggan reviewed his Memorandum dated May 13, 2016 with the Board and stated that this was also discussed with Town Labor Counsel. Mr. Duggan stated that the Union will agree to withdraw its petition if the Town agrees to recognize as part of the bargaining unit, the regular part-time positions of Children's Room Library Assistant, Technical Services Library Assistant, Adult Library Assistant and Young Adult Librarian. Mr. Duggan stated that the Student and Adult Pages will remain as non-union positions. Mr. Duggan stated that the Library Director has confirmed that the four non-Page positions are assistant Librarians for all practical purposes. Mr. Duggan stated that he recommends to the Board that they recognize the positions.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to move that the Board of Selectmen recognize as part of the SEIU Local 888 bargaining unit the regular part-time Children's Room Library Assistant, Technical Services Library Assistant, Adult Library Assistant and Young Adult Librarian on the condition that SEIU Local 888 withdraws its petition currently pending at the Department of Labor Relations (CAS-16-5048) and does not seek the inclusion of the part-time Student and Adult Pages. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Hall stated that he has reached out to Attorney Kanoff and would report back to the Board at their next meeting.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2016)

ADJOURNMENT:

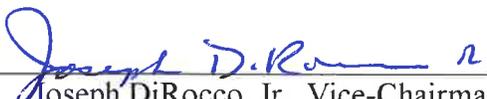
Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

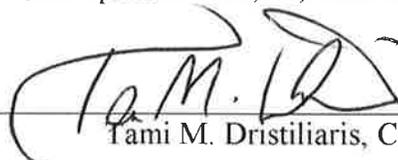
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Alison Hughes, Chairman



Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice-Chairman



Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



Tony Archinski



Jesse Forcier