

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of January 26, 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, Jr. and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe Beaulieu

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:02 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. Mrs. Dristiliaris also asked that the moment of silence be observed for Chief Richardson's father who recently passed away.

Mr. Archinski acknowledged Boy Scout Troop 80 being in attendance for tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 1, 2016 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY WARRANT:

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the March 1, 2016 Presidential Primary Warrant. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road – Ms. Zuk appeared before the Board and thanked the Board, Elected Officials, Jim Duggan, Town staff and State Representative Colleen Garry for recognizing that Kinder Morgan is a for profit organization. Ms. Zuk discussed the precious land that needs to be protected, Dracut's Colonial history and the discrepancy with survey access to properties as some residents have not given permission for property access. Ms. Zuk stated that there is an upcoming Department of Public Utilities meeting on April 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dracut High School and stated that people need to pay close attention to the National Grid tariff. Ms. Zuk stated that there would be a Pipeline Awareness Group meeting on February 21st, 2015 at the Pelham Town Hall.

* Anna Corey, 215 Jones Avenue – Ms. Corey appeared before the Board and stated in the wake of the Tri-Board meeting, different issues need to be contemplated and the medical health issue needs to be addressed. Ms. Corey stated that the Police, Fire and all Departments are in need as they are all understaffed. Ms. Corey stated that she volunteers at the Campbell School and discussed the cuts in materials, etc. Ms. Corey stated that she has been hearing that Dracut is a low income Town but not all residents are low income. Ms. Corey stated that everyone needs to work together and she is offering whatever support is needed.

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* Ada Peters, 167 Ruby Road – Ms. Peters appeared before the Board and presented a flier titled “Presentation on Health Effects of Compressor Stations & Natural Gas Infrastructure”. Ms. Peters urged that the Board of Health and Town Officials attend the presentation.

* Steve Chaput, Dracut Police Department – Ms. Chaput appeared before the Board and wanted to follow up from the Tri-Board meeting. Mr. Chaput commended all for their efforts and discussed this just not being a tax problem, Dracut spending less on per school spending and if the schools and public safety are not fixed, property values will continue to decrease. Mr. Chaput stated that it was important to support all of the Towns needs and finding a way to come up with funds for the entire Town. Mr. Chaput stated that the Board should only have one override question.

* Joe Wilkie, Dracut School Committee – Mr. Wilkie appeared before the Board and thanked the Town Manager and the Board for all of their efforts. Mr. Wilkie discussed last night’s School Committee meeting and discussed wanting full transparency. Mr. Wilkie stated that the School Committee would be conducting a third party audit of the financial of the schools and would like to continue to work as a group.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that he attended the MMA conference last Friday and discussed the Governor’s upcoming local aide. Mr. Duggan stated that the funds were just signed off for the January 2015 blizzard and are awaiting the State’s approval. Mr. Duggan stated that the Health Department are completing their annual inspections of restaurants and the Veteran’s Agent is asking business owners to hire local Veteran’s through social media. Mr. Duggan stated that on the day that tax bills are due the Tax Collector’s Office and Assessor’s Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and stated that the Fire Department is in receipt of the equipment they received from the Grant. Mr. Duggan stated that the Fire Department would be applying for another Grant for \$35,000 for electronic tools. Mr. Duggan stated that the Building Department has been working on permits for the assisted living facility and a proposed gas station with a possible restaurant on Broadway Road. Mr. Duggan stated that the Sewer Department is continuing their pump station maintenance and the DEP review of Kenwood Water went excellent. Mr. Duggan stated that the RFP for the Colburn/Cross Road intersection would be going out and they would start the work in the spring. Mr. Duggan stated that the last day to register to vote is February 10, 2016 and the Town Clerk’s Office would be open until 8:00 p.m. that day. Mr. Duggan stated all Election papers are due on March 17, 2016 and all of the November Town Meeting Warrant Articles have been approved by the Attorney General.

Ms. Richardson stated that she wanted to publicly thank all of the Department Heads that responded to the issues regarding unfunded State mandates and discussed the Municipal Modernization Bill.

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Ms. Richardson discussed placing on a future agenda the recognizing of the oldest person in Town. Ms. Richardson discussed not being able to locate the cane that was given to the oldest person in Dracut at one time, reinventing the cane and acknowledging the oldest person on the Town's Birthday.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

* Lori Cahill, Recreation & Conservation Director – Mrs. Cahill appeared before the Board, thanked the Board for their time and explained that the Conservation Department is mandated State Department. Mrs. Cahill explained how the Wetland Protection Act works and stated that the Department had 70 filings last year. Mrs. Cahill discussed the current five member Conservation Commission and stated that the Commission should have seven members. Mrs. Cahill stated that the Conservation Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month and she works closely with the Building and Planning Departments. Mrs. Cahill discussed the Kinder Morgan filing in December to complete test borings on the old Exxon property. Mrs. Cahill stated that the filing was approved but has not been issued as they are waiting for the full payment for a third party peer review with an LSP on site. Mrs. Cahill discussed the State boat ramp at Lake Mascuppic and the replacement of the boat ramp and proposed work on the parking lot. Mrs. Cahill stated that the Town owns 95% of the lot and up to the water at Lake Mascuppic. Mrs. Cahill stated that the boat ramp and a sliver of area of the parking lot site is owned by the State. Mrs. Cahill stated that the Recreation Commission is a nine member volunteer Board and 100% of the programs are run by volunteers. Mrs. Cahill stated that Roy Correira, Director of Lacrosse, passed away suddenly last Friday and asked for condolences for this family. Mrs. Cahill discussed always looking for people to run programs, ideas and stated that the Recreation Department develops, markets and registers children for the programs. Mrs. Cahill stated that the Recreation Department has approximately 3,000 children registered for programs, discussed the programs offered, field scheduling, permitting gyms, etc. Mrs. Cahill discussed the opiate abuse issue and discussed the opportunity to recently hear Chris Herron give a presentation to 7th and 8th graders regarding drug abuse.

Mr. DiRocco asked how much money is budgeted for the Recreation Department? Mrs. Cahill stated that approximately \$98,000 is budgeted for the Recreation Department.

Mr. Archinski discussed the skiing and snowboard program. Mrs. Cahill stated that the program started last week but they need cold weather.

Mr. Duggan stated that Mrs. Cahill does a great job, is involved and a valued member of the Team.

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AGENDA ITEMS:

* J & J House of Pizza, 1480 Broadway Road #5 – Request for a Common Victualler License – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Common Victualler License for J&J House of Pizza. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Dracut Transportation, 182 Arlington Street – Request for a Livery License – Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Livery License for Dracut Transportation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Chief Richardson – Request for a Stop Sign at Emery Street and Old Meadow Road – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Stop Sign Request at Emery Street and Old Meadow Road. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

* Owen & Ollies, 91 Mill Street – Request for Change of Hours to allow alcohol to be served on Sunday's at 10:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m. – Mr. Harry Gorman appeared before the Board and read his letter to the Board dated January 15, 2016 requesting a change of hours to allow alcohol to be served on Sunday's at 10:00 a.m.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Change of Hours to allow alcohol to be served on Sunday's at 10:00 a.m. instead of 11:00 a.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Under Discussion:

Mr. DiRocco stated that he would be voting opposed because he doesn't agree with alcohol being served at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday's.

Mr. Archinski asked if the change of hours would increase business and increase the meals tax? Mr. Gorman stated yes it would.

Motion passed 4 to 1. Mr. DiRocco voted opposed.

* Review & Vote on Varnum Day Award Recipient (Under Separate Cover) – Mr. Archinski stated that there were a lot of nominee's for the Varnum Day Award this year.

Ms. Richardson stated that she reviewed the minutes from last year and Mrs. Dristiliaris made a motion to create a sub-committee that would review the Varnum Day Award nominees.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she thought a sub-committee could review all of the nominee's before a meeting so the Board did not have to review and discuss all nominees during a regular meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to Table this matter to until a Sub-Committee is created to review the nominees. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

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Ms. Richardson stated that this year's Varnum Day Award nominees are Bob & Gay Corey, Bob Corey, Hector Berube, Harvey Gagnon, Dave Paquin and Norma Taplin.

* Discussion Regarding Tri-Board Meeting held on Tuesday, January 19th, 2016 – Ms. Richardson discussed some factors in considering options; having the Capital Planning Committee and Community Preservation Committee giving the Board a list of upcoming priorities, audits of departments and thanked Mr. Wilkie for his comments under Community Input. Ms. Richardson discussed the growth factors in student enrollments, the Affordable Housing Plan statistics and the graduation rates. Ms. Richardson stated that kids are doing great, moderate to low income of residents and decrease of median income. Ms. Richardson discussed the lack of supplies in schools and parent complaints regarding class size. Mr. Richardson discussed the proposed pipeline and the Governor making adjustments in the budget. Ms. Richardson discussed looking at the curriculum, which she discussed with the School Committee at their meeting last night.

Mrs. Dristiliaris discussed the Town having a revenue issue and being a unified Town. Mrs. Dristiliaris discussed putting together a plan and having an organized request for an override which needs to be put to the voters. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that past years are gone and they have to move forward as there is not enough revenue. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Dracut is a great Town and they all have a vested interest. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Joint Budget Task Force has done a great job informing the taxpayers.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the charge of the Joint Budget Task Force and the need to look at an override. Mrs. Hughes discussed economic development and business coming on in the future. Mrs. Hughes stated that they can't move forward without asking the Town for help. Mrs. Hughes discussed the need for a passable number for an override and stated that Mr. Wilkie's point was spot on at last night's School Committee meeting. Mrs. Hughes stated that this will be a tough decision and is looking for everyone to unite as that would have the best chance at passing.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he was very disappointed with the turnout at the Tri-Board meeting even with the School Department making robo calls. Mr. DiRocco discussed people being disappointed in the schools, there always being talk of layoffs at the schools, doubling the user fees and the recent raises. Mr. DiRocco stated that putting only one override question on the ballot could hurt public safety and discussed letting the people decide what should be of value to them.

Mr. Archinski stated that both the Municipal and Schools need money and it is this Board that is to propose the question for the ballot. Mr. Archinski stated that he is not in favor of splitting the override question and discussed working in collaboration. Mr. Archinski stated that splitting the question would be leaving children in a sinking ship and urged the Board to do due diligence.

Mr. Archinski discussed voting on this issue at the next meeting.

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Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she would not be attending the next meeting.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Board has until March to decide on the verbiage, etc. and stated that Mr. Wilkie spoke at last night's School Committee meeting regarding the Superintendent's raise and stated that the School Committee realized what it has done and hopes that it doesn't derail the plans which is now in the hands of the public.

Ms. Richardson discussed the difference between a debt exclusion and override.

Mrs. Hughes stated that regardless of terminology the Board need to do due diligence and educate the public of the need for revenue.

Ms. Richardson asked that the Community Preservation Committee and Capital Planning Committee be invited to the next meeting.

* Selectwoman Cathy Richardson – Discuss the Completion of the Town Charter Review
– Ms. Richardson discussed certain sections of the Town Charter review being put on hold. Ms. Richardson stated that the sections put on hold for review were Sections 2.4, 3.10, 3.3 and 4.2.

The Board agreed to Table the completion of the Town Charter Review until a future date.

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.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Ms. Richardson discussed when Board's previously honored the oldest person in Town and possibly starting the event again.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Mrs. Hughes stated that the Economic Development Committee met last night and they are close to finishing the Dracut Economic Plan. Mrs. Hughes discussed the larger businesses in Town and pulling number together for the Plan. Mr. Duggan discussed applying for the Mass Downtown Initiative Grant for the corner of Pleasant Street and Lakeview Avenue.

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* Ms. Richardson asked about the two houses on Hildreth Street abutting Hovey Field? Mr. Duggan stated that he would need to follow back up on the two houses. Mr. Duggan stated that there may be possible funding issues.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

* Ongoing Litigation to Discuss Dracut's Intervention with FERC #CP16-21-000

8:20 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	Mrs. Hughes - Yes
Mr. Archinski – Yes	Ms. Richardson – Yes
Mrs. Dristiliaris – Yes	

8:32 p.m. The regular meeting resumed with no votes being taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Tony Archinski, Chairman



Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman

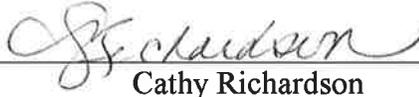
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Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



Joseph DiRocco, Jr.



Cathy Richardson