

**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of November 24, 2015  
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

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

**Absent:** Alison Hughes

The Chairman opened the meeting 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.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

\* Anna Corey, 215 Jones Avenue – Mrs. Corey appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed compressor station and meter station issues. Mrs. Corey stated that she contacted the Board and thanked Mr. Archinski, Ms. Richardson and Mrs. Dristiliaris for returning her call. Mrs. Corey discussed the Board's previous 3 to 2 vote opposing the pipeline and stated that Mr. Duggan stated that he would not be spending one dime on opposing the pipeline. Mrs. Corey asked the Board who was in charge? Mrs. Corey stated that the Board is doing one thing but the Town Manager is doing another. Mrs. Corey stated that the Town Manager is "romancing" Kinder Morgan and stated that the citizens want to know where the Board stands with the proposed pipeline. Mrs. Corey stated that she has lived in Town for 40 years and discussed the proposed project being so close to the Campbell School. Mrs. Corey stated that Kinder Morgan is a for profit company that has no place in this Town. Mrs. Corey stated that if needed they will have to take legal action on their own.

\* Gina Boisse, Methuen Road – Ms. Boisse appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed compressor station and explained to the Board that her property is at ground zero for the proposed station. Ms. Boisse discussed the adverse health risks of a compressor station. Ms. Boisse stated that she was not notified of the proposed project and didn't find out until last Sunday about the compressor station. Ms. Boisse stated that she also worries about the students at the Campbell School and discussed the health issues that the students will need to fight throughout their lives.

\* Tim Brooks, 40 Jones Avenue – Mr. Brooks appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed compressor station and pipeline. Mr. Brooks stated that he is mainly concerned with the compressor station and discussed the consequences with the station being in a heavy populated area. Mr. Brooks stated that the compressor stations are very dangerous and would there be any security in place for terrorism, etc.? Mr. Brooks stated that the Board needs to look into protecting the residents in their Town.

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\* Steven Wakefield, 11 Cortland Circle – Mr. Wakefield appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed compressor station and pipeline. Mr. Wakefield stated that he lives one half mile from the proposed station and is also concerned about the students at the Campbell School. Mr. Wakefield discussed the Board's prior vote on the pipeline and stated that the Board needs a unified voice. Mr. Wakefield stated that the Board of Health voted against the proposed pipeline and discussed the health risks. Mr. Wakefield discussed the medical affects compared to the benefits to the Community. Mr. Wakefield asked the Board to take a stance and stated that he is here to fight this project and would leave the area if needed.

\* Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road – Ms. Zuk appeared before the Board to discuss the proposed pipeline. Ms. Zuk stated that this project does not fit in Dracut and Dracut would be the terminus for the project. Ms. Zuk asked the following of the Board: hire a legal intervenor, commission the Board of Health to complete baseline studies, create by-laws/ordinances, have Attorney Hall attend any proceedings and establish technical advisory lists. Ms. Zuk discussed Dracut's agricultural heritage, asked the Board to visit with residents and to make their intentions known to the residents as their intentions will show at voting time.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that the Census has been sent out early this year and would also tie in voter registrations. Mr. Duggan stated that dog licenses are now available and the Tax Rate has been set at \$14.84. Mr. Duggan stated that FHCan has collected \$8,500 in late personal property tax for the Town and the land auction was very successful with 16 land areas being sold. Mr. Duggan stated that they are evaluating what to do with the land that was left from the auction. Mr. Duggan stated that the Municipal Aggregation opt out letters are going out to the residents on December 5<sup>th</sup> and he has filmed a video with Dracut Cable Access regarding the Municipal Aggregation program for residents to watch for additional information. Mr. Duggan stated that Mike Buxton, Public Works Director, and Mark Hamel, Town Engineer have received a dangerous curb grant and MassDOT will be providing signage for dangerous curbs. Mr. Duggan discussed where the signs would be going. Mr. Duggan stated that they have revised the Technology Policies and Procedures and the Police Department would have their own Technology Policies. Mr. Duggan stated that they have also created a Social Media Policies and Procedures and an Information Security Policy. Mr. Duggan stated that he was approached by a developer to purchase Town owned land on Brentwood Drive and informed the developer that the Town was not interested. Mr. Duggan discussed the MassWorks Grant and stated that the State would be coming in next Monday at 9:00 a.m. to have an internal team meeting.

Ms. Richardson stated that a resident is concerned with the golf carts crossing Regency Drive and asked that better signage be put up.

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Ms. Richardson stated that a Civilian was seen driving in the Animal Control vehicle and asked the Town Manager if he was aware of this? Mr. Duggan stated that the Animal Control Officer is soon retiring and the On-Call Officer has been out due to personal issues. Mr. Duggan stated that they have advertised for the Animal Control Officer position. Mr. Duggan stated that the On-Call Officer has been brought up to speed with policies and procedures for allowing Civilians to be in the vehicle. Mr. Duggan stated that the Civilian was riding in the vehicle and not physically driving it.

Ms. Richardson asked about the Veteran's Park Concession Stand Committee's finances. Mr. Duggan stated that the Committee is aware of their finances. Ms. Richardson discussed having the Committee give an update on the improvement fund. Mr. DiRocco asked if there was still a Committee? Mr. Duggan stated yes, there is, and he has spoken with the Chairman regarding the finances and possibly taking a different approach to opening the Stand next season.

Ms. Richardson stated that they still have not received the design specifications for the compressor station from Kinder Morgan. Ms. Richardson stated that they have received some responses but they have not provided square footage, architectural designs, renditions, etc. and stated that the Board would like the actually specific information as soon as possible from Kinder Morgan.

Ms. Richardson stated that she has spoken with the Attorney that some of the residents have secured for the proposed Kinder Morgan project and asked that he put together an estimate of cost and would like to have a discussion regarding the Town possibly hiring an Attorney placed on the next agenda.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the Animal Control issue should be handled privately and stated that the Board should be mindful of what they publicly say. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the Town Manager should be contacted so he can handle a situation and then report to the Board during his Town Manager's report if needed.

Mr. Archinski discussed the land auction and stated that they did an excellent job.

CITATION:

\* Glen Edwards – Citation for his 37 Years of Service to the Town – Mr. Duggan stated that he is still getting used to Mr. Edwards not sitting next to him during these meetings. Mr. Duggan gave the history of Mr. Edwards' employment with the Town and thanked him for his 37 years of service.

The Board presented Mr. Edwards with a Citation for his years of service to the Town.

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Mr. Edwards thanked the Board, Town Manager, staff and the hundreds of volunteers that he has worked with over the years. Mr. Edwards stated that Dracut is known as a great volunteer Town.

PUBLIC HEARING:

\* T.W.'s Pub, Inc., Requesting a Transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License to S. Levesque Corp. d/b/a A'Brew's Tap & Grill, Sonia Abreu, Manager – 1794 Bridge Street – Mr. Archinski read the Public Hearing notice. Attorney James Harrington appeared before the Board to request the transfer of the All Alcohol Beverages Restaurant License. Attorney Harrington stated that the applicants would be completing renovations and the scope and operating hours will remain the same. Attorney Harrington stated that the restaurant will have a whole new look inside once the renovations are completed. Mr. DiRocco asked what they would be doing with the bar downstairs? Attorney Harrington stated that the downstairs at some point would be used as a function room.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Transfer of the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License to S. Levesque Corp., d/b/a A'Brew's Tap & Grill. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW:

\* Jill Laffin, Public Health Agent, Board of Health – Mr. Duggan introduced Jill Laffin, Public Health Agent, and stated that Ms. Laffin would be giving the Board highlights of the Board of Health Department's overview. Mr. Duggan stated that the Department has a lot of good things happening. Ms. Laffin explained that the Department has a full time administrative assistant, part time Nurse and part time Inspector. Ms. Laffin stated that the Board of Health provides all of the food permits to establishments in Town, provides bi-annual inspections of food establishments, provides septic permits, monitors the public beaches, provides a flu clinic, tickets abandoned and neglected properties, etc. Ms. Laffin stated that 527 residents were vaccinated at the flu clinic this year and discussed the flu clinic held at the Council on Aging this year. Ms. Laffin stated that she is also a member of many coalitions such as; Mass Opiate Coalition, Greater Lowell Health Alliance and Emergency Management Coalition.

Ms. Richardson discussed the Healthy Communities Work Group creating a documentary regarding addiction in Dracut and stated that anyone interested in being a part of the documentary can contact the Board of Selectmen's office.

Mr. Archinski stated that it was a great idea to have a flu clinic at the Council on Aging this year.

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AGENDA ITEMS:

\* Bethany Loveless, Executive Director, Council on Aging – Discuss and Vote on Changes to the Senior Property Tax Workoff Program – Ms. Loveless appeared before the Board to request changes to the Senior Property Tax Work Off Program. Ms. Loveless referred to her letter to the Board dated November 19, 2015 and discussed the program. Ms. Loveless explained that with the change in minimum wage, the work hours would be brought down to 55.5 hours of service. Ms. Loveless with the minimum wage continuing to increase, she will need to continue to cut hours of services. Ms. Loveless discussed the benefits of the seniors working in the program and stated that she has reviewed the hours of service and her request to increase the stipend with Mr. Duggan and Mrs. Vandal. Ms. Loveless stated that she is requesting to increase the stipend to \$600 per year with 60 hours of service worked per senior participant.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the senior participant would be making \$10.00 per hour up to \$600 with the requested increase.

Ms. Loveless explained the stipend proposal as shown in her letter to the Board.

Ms. Richardson asked if there was a participant cut-off number? Ms. Loveless stated that over 50 participants applied last year but some were above the income level and some had health issues and could not work. Ms. Richardson discussed increasing the number of eligible participants to 55.

Mr. DiRocco stated that this is a valuable program to eligible seniors.

Ms. Loveless stated that there haven't been over 50 participants since the income guidelines have been implemented.

Mr. Duggan stated that he recommends increasing the number of participants at a reasonable amount.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to increase the number of eligible program participants to 55. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve to increase the total stipend that can be earned by Senior Property Tax Work Off participants to \$600 with a pro-rated rate of \$10 per hour regardless of the minimum wage. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DiRocco asked what happened to the Police Chief and Fire Chief coming in to give their monthly reports? Mr. Duggan stated that he has reached out to the Police Chief and the Police Chief is working on an action plan with regards to the Risk Assessment Study.

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Mr. Duggan stated that he is meeting with the Police Chief on Wednesday and they are moving forward collaboratively and would continue to update the Board on the status of the Risk Assessment Study.

\* Reconsideration of Luis Ibarra d/b/a Cancun Mexican Restaurant, 24A Pleasant Street – Request for a Wine and Malt Only Liquor License – Attorney Nicosia appeared before the Board and stated that they have previously voted unanimously to approve the wine and malt only liquor license and discussed the ABCC needing a reconsideration from the Board. Attorney Nicosia stated that the owner of the business is a sole proprietor and needed to be listed as the owner and the manager on the license. Attorney Nicosia stated that they have completed all of the ABCC's recommendations.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Reconsideration for the Wine and Malt Only Liquor License for Luis Ibarra d/b/a Cancun Mexican Restaurant, 24A Pleasant Street. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

\* Approval of Licenses for 2016 – Ms. Richardson discussed the letter from the Police Chief dated November 13, 2015 stating that there have been no incidents or occurrences with any of the liquor establishments within the Town. Mr. Duggan stated that he has had discussions with the Team and they are also o.k. with the liquor establishments in Town.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Alcoholic Beverage Licenses. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Common Victualler Licenses. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Amusement Video Machines. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Video Poker Machines. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Pool Table Licenses. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Juke Box Licenses. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mr. DiRocco questioned the status of Used Car Dealers License #451. Attorney Hall stated that issues with License #451 came to his attention 6 months ago and discussed the License holder's property rights. Attorney Hall stated that the License holder should be invited to a meeting to clean up the matter and have a hearing.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Used Car Dealers Licenses/Class I, II & III accept for License #451. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

\* Discuss and Vote on 2016 Estimated Temporary Increased Resident Population as of July 10, 2016 for the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission – Ms. Archinski read the email from Kathleen Graham, Town Clerk, dated November 20, 2015 stating that according to the US Census Demographic report the population of Dracut is 31, 079 for 2015 and 32,000 projected for 2016.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to accept the estimated population of 32,000 for 2016. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

\* Presentation and Discussion of the Joint Budget Task Force (JBTF) Committee's Final Document – Mr. Archinski stated that Mrs. Hughes is not at tonight's meeting, as she is not feeling well and would be postponing the presentation and discussion of the JBTF final document to the next meeting.

Mr. DiRocco stated that this is a double standard as the Board acted without him at a previous meeting.

Mr. Archinski stated that this is not a double standard, this is a Sub-Committee report which Mrs. Hughes asked to put on tonight's agenda.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Mrs. Hughes personally called all Board members to let them know she would not be attending tonight's meeting.

Mr. DiRocco stated that the Secretary, Town Manager and a Board member knew he has not going to be at the previous meeting.

Mr. Archinski stated that Mr. DiRocco did not call and ask him to continue the discussion at the previous meeting because he would not be available.

Ms. Richardson stated that she would like to discuss the JBTF final report and may have questions for staff members.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the Board should let Mrs. Hughes present the final report at the next meeting.

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Mr. Archinski stated that he is not prepared to discuss the final report and Mrs. Hughes was the Chairperson of the JBTF and she should be presenting the final report to the Board.

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, Zoning Board of Appeals and Dracut Cultural Council are looking for new members.

NEW BUSINESS – There was no new business to discuss.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

\* Healthy Communities Committee – Ms. Richardson stated that the Committee is creating a documentary about addition in Dracut and if anyone would like to participate please contact the Board of Selectmen's office.

\* Ms. Richardson discussed House Bill 2871 and stated that she would get a print out of the Bill as she would like the Department of Public Works to review it.

\* Ms. Richardson stated that on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Haverhill Public Library the Executive Office for Administration and Finance would be discussing unfunded mandates and she would like the Department Heads to look at any issues they face with unfunded mandates and unnecessary mandates and send their information to the Executive Office for Administrations and Finance.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that State Representative Colleen Garry could also help with unfunded mandates.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2015. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

\* Ms. Richardson stated that she wanted to address Mrs. Dristiliaris' concerns and hopes she didn't embarrass the Town Manager with her question earlier regarding Animal Control as it was not her intention to embarrass him.

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ADJOURMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

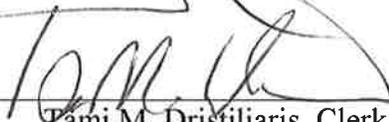
BOARD OF SELECTMEN



\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Archinski, Chairman

ABSENT

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Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman



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Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



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Joseph DiRocco, Jr.



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Cathy Richardson