

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of September 8, 2015
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

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

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. The Board also asked for a moment of silence for Retired Firefighter Craig Mahoney, Joe Daigle and the Gibson Family.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to suspend the rules for Community Input for the people signed in to discuss the Regional Emergency Communication Center until after the NMCOG presentation. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Mrs. Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road – Mrs. Zuk appeared before the Board and stated that the next Pipeline Awareness Group meeting would be held on September 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Harmony Hall. Mrs. Zuk stated that Senator L'Italien, State Representative Garry and Lawmakers are reaching out regarding the proposed pipeline and urged all to attend the meeting. Mrs. Zuk stated that FERC extended the comments deadline to October 10, 2015 and asked the Board to send a written commentary to FERC and the Utility Board. Mrs. Zuk discussed scheduling a special working session with the Board and the Pipeline Awareness Group to discuss the proposed pipeline information.

* Lisa Lipomi, Gilbert Street/Marsh Hill Road – Ms. Lipomi stated that there would be a table at Old Home Day with information regarding the proposed pipeline and discussed the extension deadline with FERC.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that National Grid would be placing poles at the Cross Road/Colburn Avenue intersection in early October. Mr. Duggan stated that the Middlesex Sheriff's Office completed the painting at the DPW Annex and are finishing up the painting at the Cemetery Building. Mr. Duggan stated that Town Meeting Warrant Articles are due by September 18, 2015 and the last day to register to Vote is October 13, 2015. Mr. Duggan stated that the 61A Exemption applications have been sent out and are to be returned by October 1, 2015. Mr. Duggan stated that the outside audit begins at the end of the month.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Richardson appeared before the Board and stated that Saturday is Dracut's Old Home Day which is the Town's biggest event of the year. Chief Richardson stated that the Road Race starts at 10:00 a.m. and Lakeview Avenue will be blocked off just like every year. Chief Richardson stated that he would have motorcycle units at the event and discussed where parking would be prohibited. Chief Richardson stated that he has 2 Student Officers, Eric Gerrish and John Quinn, attending the Academy which brings his compliment up to 37 Officers.

RECOGNITIONS:

* Tom Bomil, Public Health Director – Mr. Duggan stated that Mr. Bomil was the Chairman of the Screening Committee that hired him and Mr. Bomil has been nothing but supportive to him during his time here. Mr. Duggan discussed the Neglected Property Program that Mr. Bomil spearheaded and thanked Mr. Bomil for all of his hard work. Mr. Archinski stated that Mr. Bomil was his appointment to the Town Manager Screening Committee. The Board presented Mr. Bomil with a Citation for his 35 years of service to the Town.

APPOINTMENTS:

* Christopher Doonan – Veteran's Service Agent – Mr. Duggan introduced Mr. Doonan to the Board and thanked John Dyer, Richard Ducharme, Billy Zounes, Chris Dery and Mary Hamilton for their fantastic job with the Veteran's Service Agent Screening Committee. Mr. Duggan stated that there were three finalists and he selected Mr. Doonan. Mr. Duggan stated that Mr. Doonan was in the U.S. Army for 22 years with 5 Deployments. Mr. Duggan gave a history of Mr. Doonan's U.S. Army experience.

Mr. Doonan appeared before the Board and stated that it is an honor to serve his Country and the Town of Dracut.

SPECIAL PERMIT FILING:

* Bedell's Auto – 1450 Mammoth Road – Mrs. Diane Bedell appeared before the Board to file the Special Permit request to rent two bays at Neal's Collision Center to complete auto repairs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing – Special Permit – Holton Street Auto Body, Inc. – 2111-2125 Bridge Street – Requesting to Allow Light Vehicle Sales – Attorney Michael Fadden appeared before the Board to request a Special Permit to allow light vehicles sales at Holton Street Auto Body. Attorney Fadden stated that the property is a B4 zone which is a permitted use for light vehicle sales. Attorney Fadden stated that they are requesting the sale of 2 vehicles at one time on the property.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

Mr. Edwards stated that a list of special conditions was sent to Attorney Fadden for his review. Attorney Fadden stated that the applicant agrees with the comments and conditions and would apply for an Auto Dealer's License if the Special Permit is approved. Attorney Fadden stated that the hours of operation for the light vehicles sales would be Monday thru Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

No abutters spoke for or in opposition of the Special Permit request.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Special Permit to Allow Light Vehicle Sales at Holton Street Auto Body, Inc., 2111-2125 Bridge Street. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* Beverly Woods, NMCOG – Discuss and Vote to Join Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) – Mr. Archinski stated that he currently works for the Company that represents the Dracut Dispatchers Union and stated that after speaking with the State Ethics Commission he needs to step down from this discussion and stated he would be handing over the Chairmanship to Vice-Chairwoman Hughes. Ms. Beverly Woods from NMCOG, appeared before the Board and gave a presentation on the Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC).

Ms. Diane Faria, a Dracut Resident, appeared before the Board and stated that she has serious concerns for the safety of the public safety personnel and the safety of the Community with Dispatchers in an RECC being unfamiliar with the area that they are dispatching for. Ms. Faria discussed delayed response times, dispatchers not being familiar with the area and stated that originally 9 Communities started with joining the RECC and now they are down to only 3 Communities joining the RECC. Ms. Faria stated that this is not a good idea for the Town and she respectfully requests that the Board deny joining the RECC.

Ms. T.J. Cooper, 120 Starr Ave, Tewksbury, MA, appeared before the Board and stated that she is a 23 year Dispatcher in Lowell and a part-time Dispatcher for Dracut. Ms. Cooper stated that the City of Lowell voted down joining the RECC because of loss of control and a weighted vote. Ms. Cooper stated that current Dispatchers would be laid off with no guarantee of re-hire. Ms. Cooper discussed response times, wrong address', losing staff, safety of first responders and the bad experiences with the Essex RECC. Ms. Cooper stated that there would be times that Dracut Dispatchers would not be working at the RECC. Ms. Cooper discussed home field advantage, issues with the storing of documents and asked who is going to foot the bill ten years from now? Ms. Cooper stated that they would still need to hire someone to work the door at the stations.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

Ms. Lisa Demers, 44 Lamb Street, Lowell, MA, appeared before the Board and stated that she is a Dispatcher in Chelmsford and discussed the safety of residents and first responders. Ms. Demers discussed wireline calls and wireless calls into an RECC and asked what about business line calls? Ms. Demers discussed phone assessments and discussed people going to the Legislature regarding these assessments. Ms. Demers discussed Hingham, MA, having to come up with additional money after joining an RECC and discussed other Town's having to increase their funding into an RECC. Ms. Demers stated that you can't put a price tag on the lives of our public safety personnel. Ms. Demers stated that there are a lot of questions in regards to funding, etc., and discussed the need for technology.

Mr. Richard Demers, 44 Lamb Street, Lowell, MA, appeared before the Board and stated that he is also a Dispatcher in Chelmsford and asked the audience, with a show of hands, to show who was opposed and in favor of joining the RECC. Mr. Demers discussed the difference in addresses when dispatching, having Community based dispatchers and the upgrade of radios within a Community.

Mr. Leo McMahon, 215 Lexington Road, appeared before the Board and stated that he needs to reserve his rights due to Collective Bargaining with the Firefighters Union. Mr. McMahon stated that the Dracut Fire Department is in support of moving dispatching to an RECC. Mr. McMahon stated that by joining an RECC is allows for more staffing on the streets. Mr. McMahon questioned the number of dispatchers in the RECC and discussed the technical side being a financial problem in Dracut and the Town is struggling to keep up with technology today. Mr. McMahon discussed looking hard and long in regards to the technology side of joining an RECC and discussed learning from Essex's RECC's mistakes. Mr. McMahon stated that the Firefighters Union voted to support joining an RECC last Wednesday.

Mr. Michael Kenyon, 37 Broad Road, appeared before the Board and stated that he has worked for the Dracut Police Department for 14 years and discussed in July 2016, the new Law implementing wireless technology, etc. and asked what happens during the two year change over? Mr. Kenyon provided the Board with a letter dated May 23, 2011, from the Lowell Police Department, commending him on his dispatching assistance with a call on May 6, 2011.

Chief Brouillette appeared before the Board and stated that joining an RECC puts additional Firefighters on the streets. Chief Brouillette stated that the dispatchers in Dracut go a great job. Chief Brouillette stated that he wants Dracut to implement joining an RECC.

Chief Richardson appeared before the Board and stated that he is not trying to take jobs away as he has great dispatchers. Chief Richardson stated that in his opinion, by joining an RECC, it is not going to affect first responder's backups. Chief Richardson stated that he is hoping that the current dispatchers receive the jobs at the RECC.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

Mr. Tom Kennedy from CTC, Inc., appeared before the Board and stated that the next generation 911 system will take at least 2 to 3 years to implement which would be in line with the RECC implementation.

Ms. Richardson discussed a Regional lock-up and stated that the Sheriff's Department is still looking into that being 2 to 3 years away also. Ms. Richardson stated that the Police Chiefs are also looking into Regional lock-up.

Mr. DiRocco discussed the money savings aspect and stated that the most savings would be in technology not in personnel. Mr. DiRocco discussed the professionalism being taken away at the stations. Mr. DiRocco stated that Dracut is not on an even keel with Chelmsford and Tewksbury and discussed no guarantee current dispatchers will end up receiving jobs at the RECC.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that she acknowledges all of the speakers concerns especially in regards to staffing.

Ms. Woods stated that the current dispatchers will no longer be Town employees and there is no guarantee they would receive jobs at the RECC. Ms. Woods stated that the RECC's Chief Administrator would hire the RECC dispatchers.

Mr. Duggan stated that the Chief's in other RECC's have strongly recommended their existing dispatchers but he can't guarantee the positions. Mr. Duggan stated that the Chief Administrator will hire the RECC dispatchers and he wants dispatchers to be trained with the most up to date equipment.

Ms. Demers appeared before the Board and stated that the RECC numbers are not competent with what is already used.

Mrs. Hughes asked if there would be improvements with training in response time? Ms. Woods stated that there would be some improvements with response time and discussed response times.

Ms. Richardson discussed the benefit with a shared building in Tewksbury. Mr. DiRocco stated that he doesn't think that is true.

Ms. Woods stated that they did not include the Firefighter dispatcher's numbers as the Police Department are the primary dispatchers. Mrs. Woods discussed the sizing of the new building with the expansion capacity which saves the Communities money.

Mr. Richardson discussed training in the Communities. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Communities would be learning additional communication and would have a transition plan.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

Mrs. Woods stated that all information would be brought over to the RECC.

Mr. Kenyon asked if other Communities decide to opt into the RECC and they also opt out? Mrs. Woods stated that there are provisions in having an opt out option, and the Town would have to give a 2 year notice.

Ms. Cooper stated that Beverly never spent one day in the Essex RECC and now they are being sued. Mr. Duggan explained the Beverly situation and stated that there was a change in Administration and they did not uphold the old Administration's decision to join the RECC.

Ms. Cooper discussed there being no guarantee of jobs.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Governing Board at the RECC are the Town Managers.

Ms. Richardson stated that not all 9 Communities just opted out. Ms. Richardson stated that Lowell wanted a weighted vote. Ms. Richardson stated that she wants the public safety personnel to be safe and the RECC will have state of the art equipment which will make them safer. Ms. Richardson stated that the Chiefs have endorsed joining the RECC and the Firefighters have endorsed joining also. Ms. Richardson stated that the technology part is huge and discussed the State requiring new technology which Dracut cannot afford.

Ms. Maureen Lamarre, a Dracut Resident, appeared before the Board and stated that she was a Dispatcher in Dracut for 18 years. Ms. Lamarre discussed having incidents at the Station where personnel was needed and discussed the need for local dispatchers in the Community. Ms. Lamarre stated that she was asking the Board to opt out of joining the RECC.

Mr. Shawn Ashe, Stanley Avenue, appeared before the Board and asked if the Board was considering public safety? Mr. Ashe stated that Regionalization is made for small Town's and stated that Dracut should deal with their own residents.

Ms. Diane Faria asked about the Regional lock-up and would they be pulling Officers off the street to bring prisoners to the RECC?

Mr. Duggan stated that he is not going to sacrifice public safety personnel. Mr. Duggan stated that he would not allow the current personnel numbers to go below what we currently have.

Ms. Faria asked about cost savings in the Fire and Police Departments if the Town combined the dispatchers and trained the Police Dispatchers to take all of the calls?

Ms. Cooper stated that Lowell combined dispatchers with no issues.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

Mrs. Hughes discussed technology and what is safest for the public. Mrs. Hughes stated that technology is not just RECC based.

Ms. Lamarre discussed their being 911 technology money being available through grants.

Ms. Demers read the Board an article regarding next generation 911 technology.

Ms. Woods stated that the State 911 Department made it very clear that their grant funds would go to RECC's.

Mr. DiRocco discussed wanting to know the actual costs for additional personnel for the Police and Fire Departments and the costs for upgrading equipment.

Chief Brouillette stated that there would be no new staff needed for the Fire Department for walk-ins.

Mr. Kennedy discussed having a monitoring system in both the Fire and Police Stations that go directly to the RECC for walk-ins.

Chief Richardson stated that there are not any big savings on personnel. Chief Richardson discussed the possible need to hire a clerk for each shift to monitor the station. Chief Richardson discussed the employee cost saving not be huge but the technology going forward is huge.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson for Dracut to join the Regional Emergency Communication Center with Chelmsford and Tewksbury. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Archinski did not vote.

Mrs. Hughes called for a recess at 9:40 p.m.

Mrs. Hughes resumed the meeting at 9:49 p.m.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Board needed to re-vote on joining the Regional Emergency Communication Center for the record.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson shall the Town of Dracut accept the provisions of 18O to 18V, inclusive of Chapter 6A of the General Laws providing for the establishment of a Regional 911 Emergency Communication District, together with the Towns of Chelmsford and Tewksbury, and the construction or siting, administration, operation and maintenance of a Regional 911 Emergency Communication Center by the District under the provision of the proposed District agreement filed with the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Archinski did not vote.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

* Beverly Woods, NMCOG – Discuss and Vote to Approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan –
Ms. Woods appeared before the Board and discussed the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ms. Woods stated that every Community needs a Hazard Mitigation Plan to receive FEMA grants. Ms. Woods stated that the Plan is updated every 5 years.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region-2015 update. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Victory Distributors, LLC – Requesting Change of Manager on All Alcohol Liquor License from Matthew Dion to Diego Comesana – Mr. Diego Comesana appeared before the Board and stated that he is the new store manager at Hannaford's.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Change of Manager on the All Alcohol Liquor License to Diego Comesana. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

* Salvation Army – Requesting Permission for Bicycle Event – September 12, 2015 –
Mrs. Susan Plunkett appeared before the Board and asked for permission for their first annual cycling event and stated that all proceeds are going to the Salvation Army.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Bicycle Event on September 12, 2015. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Actors, Inc. – Requesting a Six (6) Day Beer and Wine License – November 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2015 – Mr. Tom Hickey appeared before the Board to request a six day beer and wine license for the dinner theater being held at Harmony Hall. Mr. Hickey stated that they have all of the appropriate liability insurance for the event.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Six (6) Day Beer and Wine License. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* St. Francis Church – Requesting a One (1) Day Beer and Wine License – October 9, 2015 – The Board reviewed the beer and wine application.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the One (1) Day Beer and Wine License. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Dollar General – Requesting a Common Victuallers License – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Common Victualler License. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

* Richard Carter – Requesting to be Appointed as a Bonded Constable – Motion made by Ms. Richardson to appoint Richard Carter as a Bonded Constable. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

* Jim Duggan, Town Manager – Vote to Approve Site Visit to Compressor Station in New Jersey with One Town Official with Expenses Paid by Kinder Morgan – Mr. Duggan stated that if it is the wish of the Board he would complete the site visit. Ms. Richardson stated that she was curious of why Kinder Morgan would want Mr. Duggan to complete a site visit. The Board discussed the need for a site visit.

There was no motion for the Town Manager to complete a site visit.

* Selectwoman Cathy Richardson – Discuss Annual Review of Town Manager – Ms. Richardson explained that during the hiring process the Board talked about reviewing the Town Manager annually. Attorney Hall stated that he and the Chairman could sit down and discuss how the review process would work. Attorney Hall discussed the review being a matter of public record and being discussed in public. Attorney Hall stated that he and the Chairman could come up with a template for the Board to use.

* Discuss Land Swap between Brox Industries and Town of Dracut with Respect to Straitening and Improvements on Methuen Street – Attorney Hall discussed the land swap that was approved at the June Town Meeting and discussed the housekeeping matter with the signing of the deed.

* Vote to Authorize Board of Selectmen to Sign Deed from Town of Dracut to Brox Industries and to Accept Deed from Brox Industries to Town of Dracut – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to authorize Chairman Archinski to sign the deed from the Town of Dracut to Brox Industries. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

10:16 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Attorney Hall stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation. Attorney Hall stated that no votes would be taken during Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Alison Hughes – Yes
Cathy Richardson – Yes
Tony Archinski – Yes

Joseph DiRocco – Yes
Tamil Dristiliaris – Yes

10:25 p.m. The regular meeting resumed with no votes being taken in Executive Session.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

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.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Public Safety Sub-Committee – Mr. DiRocco stated that the Public Safety Sub-Committee met last Tuesday and all the information discussed at that meeting was covered during the Regional Emergency Communication Center discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the Minutes of May 26, 2015. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to approve the Minutes of June 4, 2015. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mr. Duggan stated that the Fire Department has stepped up again and with the support of the Fire and Police Chief's there will be a 911 ceremony at Fire Station 2 at Jones Ave at 8:30 a.m. on September 11th. Mr. Duggan stated that coffee and donuts will be available after the ceremony and stated that this will be an annual event.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the Salvation Army will be honoring Jim Duggan at its annual breakfast on November 4, 2015.

Mr. DiRocco stated that there will be a kick off fundraiser for the US Army Specialists Mathew Boule's Memorial at O'Hara's Tavern on October 4, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

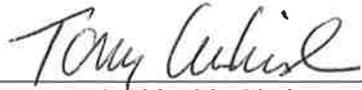
ADJOURNMENT:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2015)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Tony Archinski, Chairman



Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman



Tami M. Dristmaris, Clerk



Joseph DiRocco, Jr.



Cathy Richardson