

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of November 15, 2016
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

PRESENT: - Alison Hughes, Chairperson, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice Chairman, Tami Dristiliaris, Clerk, Tony Archinski, Member, Jesse Forcier, Member, James A. Duggan, Town Manager, Attorney James Hall, Jr. and Suzanne Noel, Recording Secretary.

Time: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01 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: None

Town Manager's Report: Town Manager, Mr. Duggan spoke about the assessment center for the new Fire Chief. He is looking to have it posted in December with resumes returned in January. The plan is to have the Committee assesses and a decision to be made in February. The confirmed dates will be posted some time in December.

Town Manager Duggan spoke about the \$100,000.00 State funding for the Public Safety Departments for the Town and made stressed how hard Ms. Colleen Gary worked to get the funding. Mr. Duggan discussed our missing resident, Ms. Kathy Lussier and noted how the Town residents pulled together as a community and worked long hours to bring her home safe. He thanks the Residents for all their help and support and wanted to personally thank all that reached out to the family.

Mr. Duggan spoke on the Storm Water meetings and noted the project is underway with CDM Construction and is on schedule for July 1st.

The Town Manager discussed the Economic Development Grant that Betsy Ware has requested from the State and noted this is her second year applying. He is much more optimistic to receiving the grant this year due to Betsy hard work and persistence.

Town Manager Duggan mentioned Pleasant and Lakeview Avenue stating that it was the center of our "door" and will ask a consultant firm to come in and evaluate on how to "clean" it up. He also mentioned Bridge Street and how the Town could improve that area and help support the local businesses.

The Merrimack Valley Reliability project is in progress and there is a lot of construction going on with National Grid. The area's involved for the next few weeks are Methuen to Merrimack River from November 7-12th, November 15-19th Methuen to Wheeler and November 21-26 Methuen to Merrimack River.

The Veterans Day event was a huge success that made him proud to be part of this community. Mr. Archinski asked about tomorrow's event and Mr. Duggan made mention that the Town will be receiving a Plaque in recognition to the men who fought at Bunker Hill. It is a fact that a large amount of men who fought this battle were from Dracut and Mr. Harvey Gagnon will be excepting the plaque on behalf of all who fought.

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Fire Chief's Report: Deputy Chief, Thomas Mackey presented the Fire Chief's report due to a conflict in schedule for Chief Brouillette. Deputy Mackey made mention that the Fire Department does training daily and this week they are reviewing the FF1/FF2 training that is an essential part of being a firefighter. This training is a refresher for all Veteran firefighters to keep them abreast on essential skills. Every firefighter that is hired must have this training certification to become a firefighter. Deputy Mackey stated that they are using the Town Hall Annex on Springpark Road and said it is the perfect building to do search and rescue along with Hose placement. Also in the past week the firefighters also are doing refresher training in EMS, EMD, and all types of fire rescue to keep up their certifications.

Deputy Mackey spoke about the new hires in the Town that are replacement firefighters due to retirement. The fire department does have three (3) new candidates attending the Academy as we speak and slated to graduate in February. We also will have two (2) additional new hires attending the Academy in March. Mr. Archinski asked how long the academy was. (Ten weeks) The Town Manager did mention that one of the new hires is part of the goal to add three more permanent hires by FY19 to try and have three (3) firefighters per truck which would put them up to the recommendation of the NFA and the Assessment Evaluation recommendations that was done this past year.

Community Calendar: Chair, Alison Hughes read the following information:

1. Salvation Army Radiothon will be on December 10th on WCAP 980 AM radio starting at 6:00 a.m. If you have any questions call WCAP at 978-454-0404.
2. Holiday Concert performed by the Dracut Community Chorus on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m. at the Dracut High School.
3. Fall Compost Dates will be on Saturday the 19th of November located at the Dillon Center from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. They will accept leaves, brush and grass clippings. Proof of residency is required.
4. Dracut Council on Aging will be having their Thanksgiving Celebration on Thursday the 17th of November at 9:30 a.m. For further info call 978-957-2611.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Annual Classification and Taxation of Property According to Use Hearing

Presented by Kathleen Rourke, Town Assessor, for fiscal year 2017. Ms. Rourke presented a document showing the calculations of FY2016 vs FY2017 on a unified and split tax rate. We have been working on a unified taxed and the Board consisting of herself, Meagan and Ann Vandal and all are recommending a unified rather than a split rate. The town's commercial percentage is not large enough to make an impact with a split rate. A motion to close the hearing was made by Mr. Archinski and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Discussion on the motion: Ms. Dristiliaris asked Ms. Rourke if she had a list of nonprofit members that do not pay taxes. Ms. Rourke stated yes but not with her. Ms. Dristiliaris asked if she could please get that to the Board within the next few days. Mr. Archinski asked Ms. Rourke to please explain the Personal Property Tax vs the Property taxes. Ms. Rourke state personal property tax would be equipment, contents, etc. The Board voted unanimously to close.

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A motion to approve Ms. Rourke recommendation of a unified/single rate was made by Mr. Archinski and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. The Board vote unanimously.

K&K Equipment, Inc. asking to amend their Special Permit #00-03 to transfer the Name to Soft Suds Car Wash, LLC at 1836 Bridge Street. Attorney Fadden presenting for K&K stated that to change the Special Permit's name and transfer ownership requires approval by the Board. Attorney Fadden stated that if this Special Permit was granted today, Ms. Tina Niarhos would take ownership to run the car wash and would be putting in state of the art technology. She would be willing to except all the conditions of the Special Permit and is aware any changes, modifications, etc. would require permits from the building department. Mr. Archinski noted that he was very pleased to see that the car wash was offering free car washes to all Veterans and wanted to thank Ms. Niarhos for her generosity. Ms. Niarhos also noted that she plans on doing community fundraisers for Dracut organizations on Mondays. A motion to transfer the ownership and change name was made by Mr. Archinski and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. The Board voted unanimously to transfer.

Introduction:

Bethany Loveless, director of Council on Aging introduced Ms. Noelle Kaelblein as the new activities and volunteer Coordinator. Ms. Loveless is very excited to have Noelle on board with all her energy and experience. Noelle mentioned to the Board that she was a graduate of UML and did her internship at the Dracut Council on Aging and was very excited to hear about the positioning opening. She is looking forward to working with the staff. Some of the events that she mentioned were Karaoke, Grand Parents Tea, Pizza & Moving Night, Pen Pal Program and Electronic night (help learn how to use or set up their Computer, Kindle, IPod, etc.). Ms. Loveless mentioned that the council has over 100 volunteers and without them they could not be as successful and wanted to thank everyone for their time. She also noted the increase in the senior population and having Noelle on board is very helpful.

AGENDA ITEMS

Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation, Recognition of the Dracut Police Department.

The Middlemiss family presented a plaque to the Dracut Police Department as a thank you for all their work on making Joseph's foundation a success. They especially wanted to thank Detective Pike, Lt. Fleury and Chief Ouellette. This year's 5K had over 1000 attendees due to the hard work of the Dracut Police Department and cannot thank them enough.

The Party Connection requesting a one day beer and wine license for Harmony Hall on December 17, 2016 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

The owner of the Party Connection, Cindy Pamagian who is DBA the Party Connection stated this was for a family party and will not be open to the public. Mr. DiRocco asked if there will be any cash/money exchanged for these alcohol beverages. NO. Ms. Pamagian stated it is a private party and there will be no cash not even tipping. She also stated that the insurance binder for \$1 Million dollars is attached to her application.

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Mr. Forcier noted that the permit states guest are serving alcohol? Ms. Pamagian stated that is an error and she will change the permit to reflect that there is a server hired by her company. Mr. DiRocco also noted the insurance binder states Certificate Holder to be Harmony Hall and it should be Town of Dracut. Ms. Pamagian stated she can change that if that is the request of the Board. A motion to approve the Special Permit with changes to the server to reflect served by Ms. Pamagian Co. and Certificate holder changed to Town of Dracut and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Discuss and Vote on the Need for a Show Cause Hearing for Speedway, 1633 -1643

Lakeview Avenue. The Board noted that they have had several complaints with regards to the trash being removed at 5:00 am and that is a violation of their permit. Town Manager Duggan stated he has made several phone calls (at least three over the summer) to Speedway but has not received any returned calls from the organization. His office did receive calls that the trash is being removed at 5:49 am and it clearly is in violation of no earlier than 7:00 am and would like to see them come in at the December meeting. A motion to bring in Speedway for a Show Cause Hearing at the December meeting was made by Mr. DiRocco and seconded by Ms. Dristiliaris. The Board voted unanimously.

Dracut Police Department requesting approval of a Stop Sign at Leavitt St. and Stuart

Ave. A letter written on October 28, 2016 by Chief Ouellette with regards to adding a Stop Sign at Leavitt St. and Stuart Ave. Chief Ouellette stated that Officer Bushnell feels the need for this stop sign and he supports her decision. A motion to approve was made by Mr. DiRocco and seconded by Ms. Dristiliaris. The Board voted unanimously.

Lowell Five requesting acceptance of a donation for Town of Dracut Safety Equipment and

Technology. Town Manager, Mr. Duggan noted that this would be the second check of \$5,000 from the letters he send out in FY16 asking local businesses to donate a one time \$25,000 over five (5) years to help with the public safety equipment and technology. Mr. Duggan noted that Mr. Wallace the CEO of Lowell 5 was more than willing to help the community. Mr. Archinski asked if anyone else responded to his letters. Mr. Duggan noted no but there are many local businesses who have reached out in other way to help with the community.

Ratification of the Public Employee Committee Agreement, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

Town Manager Duggan noted that there were very minor changes in the agreement but noted that in July 2017 the 85/15 and 83/17 will revert back to the 80/20. A motion to approve was made by Mr. DiRocco and seconded by Ms. Dristiliaris. The Board voted unanimously.

K&K Equipment, Inc. 1836 Bridge Street approval of amended Special Permit #00-3.

Chair, Hughes noted that although this is unusual having the special permit transfer and approval in the same night she felt she didn't think it was fair to have the permit held up because the Board only meets once in November and December. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Dristiliaris and seconded by Mr. Forcier. The Board voted unanimously.

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Approval of Licenses for 2017

A letter from Chief Ouellette dated November 8, 2016 was submitted to the Board stating that over the past year there have been no incidents or occurrences that call into question the suitability of the management of any of the liquor establishments within the town.

Town Manager mentioned that Shannon sent out letters with regards to renewal and Leroy's Lounge, aka Crackers and she received a phone call from the owner stating he will not be renewing their license. Shannon did ask for a formal letter but did not receive. The Board did have some questions on including Leroy's Lounge for renewal of alcoholic beverages, poker machines and juke box licenses. The Board did not want to hold up the approval of others so a motion to exclude Leroy's Lounge was made by Mr. Forcier and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Alcoholic Beverages License

A motion to approve all with the exception of Leroy's Lounge was made by Mr. Forcier and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Common Victualler Licenses

A motion to approve all was made by Mr. Forcier and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Amusement Video Machines was made by Mr. Archinski and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. The Board voted unanimously.

Video Poker Machines licenses A motion to approve all with the exception of Leroy's Lounge was made by Mr. Archinski and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. The Board voted unanimously.

Pool Table Licenses

A motion to approve all was made by Mr. Forcier and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Juke Box Licenses

A motion to approve all with the exception of Leroy's Lounge was made by Mr. DiRocco and seconded by Mr. Archinski. The Board voted unanimously.

Used Car Dealers/Class I, II, & III

A motion to approve all was made by Mr. Forcier and seconded by Mr. DiRocco. The Board voted unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chair, Hughes noted that the Board should be prepared to discuss the Ballot questioned that passed at the election. She noted that Attorney Hall has been reading and getting himself familiar with the new law.

Sub Committee Reports: None

Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2016 meeting.

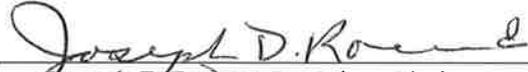
A motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2016 was made by Ms. Dristiliaris and seconded by Mr. Forcier. The Board voted unanimously.

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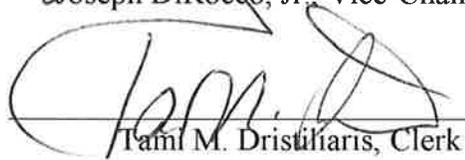
The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Alison Hughes, Chairman



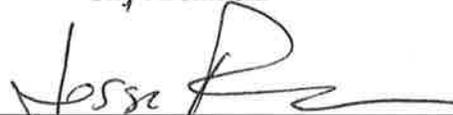
Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice-Chairman



Tami M. Drisiliaris, Clerk



Tony Archinski



Jesse Forcier