

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of September 13, 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 7:02 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.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Jennifer Sawyer, 834 Salem Road – Ms. Sawyer appeared before the Board and stated that she has concerns and has received feedback from parent's regarding the change in the ambulance company. Ms. Sawyer stated that it is highly concerning that public safety officer's recommended Patriot Ambulance but the contract is going to Trinity. Ms. Sawyer stated that she is involved in a lot of the sports in Town and Patriot Ambulance has always been very professional and asked why the Town was changing to Trinity? Ms. Sawyer stated that there is no benefit with changing the ambulance contract and would like the Board to take that under consideration.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that a Veteran's Breakfast was held at the Council on Aging today. Mr. Duggan stated that the summer recreation programs are complete, the fall programs are underway and registration for winter sports would start next week. Mr. Duggan stated that the Conservation Commission has created a "how to" brochure for residents. Mr. Duggan stated that the Town's IT Technician is currently evaluating the Town's computer systems and there was a low voter turnout for Thursday's primary with only 1,100 residents voting. Mr. Duggan stated that early Presidential voting starts October 24th and the Town Clerks' Office would be open until 8:00 p.m. on October 27th and November 3rd and open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 29th. Mr. Duggan stated that all Town Meeting Warrant Articles are due on September 23rd to the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Duggan stated that CDM Smith would be evaluating the Kenwood Water System and there are 55 new homes added to the new growth. Mr. Duggan stated that they are currently looking into Stormwater permitting and Ms. Ware is currently reviewing the subdivision rules and regulations. Mr. Duggan stated that the drainage at Boule Park is complete, they will be putting in the granite curbing and the groundbreaking is scheduled for November. Mr. Duggan stated that the snow contracts are going out, they are completing fall maintenance on the fields and Chapter 90 paving is all done. Mr. Duggan stated that free cash is currently being certified and the Flu Clinic will be held on two days; October 14th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and October 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; both day's at Town Hall.

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Mr. Duggan stated that the tobacco regulations are currently under review and discussed the substance abuse link on the Town's website. Mr. Duggan discussed the Regional Grant received for a Substance Abuse Counselor. Mr. Duggan discussed the utilities needing to be reworked on the Cross St and Colburn Avenue project and discussed the upcoming events being held at the Dracut Library. Mr. Duggan stated that Animal Control is currently completing barn inspections. Mr. Duggan stated that excise tax for boats have gone out and the tax rate would be set in early November. Mr. Duggan stated that the MassWorks Grant was signed today and UMass Lowell would be inviting members from Boards and Commissions to an upcoming hockey game. Mr. Duggan announced that Trinity EMS has received the Town's ambulance contract and discussed the criteria and site visits and stated that good service would be provided by Trinity EMS.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he is not happy with the ambulance choice. Mr. DiRocco stated that the Town has an EMS Director and asked why there was a need of outside consultants? Mr. DiRocco stated that it is a slap in the face to the experts we have in-house and stated that the choice was political. Mr. DiRocco stated that the Town Manager plays politics too much. Mr. DiRocco stated that public safety and Patriot Ambulance train together and the change is a disservice to the Town.

Mr. Archinski discussed the Cross Road and Colburn Avenue project and stated that they need to do something with the cross trenches on the roadway.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the use of consultants for the ambulance contract was unnecessary and she has not heard one bad thing about Patriot Ambulance. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Patriot knows the ins and outs of the Town and discussed the loss of personal touch.

Mr. Duggan discussed reviewing the free education being provided by Patriot Ambulance with Town Council and not basing that criteria on the decision. Mr. Duggan stated that Patriot Ambulance did provide a great service but honestly feels a better service will be provided with Trinity. Mr. Duggan discussed the consultants used with an unbiased perspective.

Mrs. Dristiliaris asked about the CPR training, etc. and asked who would pay for the training? Mr. Duggan stated that training is very important and will not cost the Firefighters out of their pockets.

Attorney Hall discussed the free training provided by Patriot Ambulance and discussed the new rulings by the Inspector General.

Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that Patriot was providing training for the entire Town.

Mrs. Hughes stated that Patriot's contract was signed before the new rulings.

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Mrs. Dristiliaris asked where Trinity is located in Dracut? Mr. Duggan stated that they are located at 633 or 638 Bridge Street and they received their occupancy permit on Monday.

Mr. DiRocco stated that under the Town Charter this is the Manager's decision. Mr. DiRocco discussed the equipment differences between the Companies. Mr. DiRocco asked if Municipal Resources, Inc., (MRI) is running our Town and stated that MRI recommended the ambulance consultants. Mr. DiRocco stated that when the Manager is hiring consultants he can give his opinion on who to pick.

Mr. Forcier stated that he was disappointed our EMS personnel wasn't used and stated that he now has a deep mistrust for outside consultants.

Mr. Forcier asked about the status of the RECC. Mr. Duggan gave an update on the RECC and stated that it should be underway in 24 months.

Mr. Forcier discussed the winter treatment of the main thoroughfares during inclement weather. Mr. Duggan discussed the increase in pre-treatment of the roadways.

Mr. Forcier discussed the traffic issues with the rotary at Route 93 and asked if updates could be given on the Town's website?

State Representative Colleen Garry appeared before the Board and stated that she contacted Mass DOT regarding the traffic issues at the rotary and they are still looking at trying to work on the traffic issues.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Ouellette appeared before the Board and stated that there are 2 recruits currently in the Academy until October, Officer Nyoro is completing his field training and Sergeant Quealy is filling in as the part-time School Resource Officer. Chief Ouellette discussed new hires and requesting a list from the Massachusetts Human Resource Department.

Mr. DiRocco asked if the hiring of a new officer was within the budget? Chief Ouellette stated yes.

Chief Ouellette discussed the new digital headquarters system and the need for communication.

Mr. Duggan stated that a portion of the system was paid from the existing budget and the \$100,000 received from the Mass Office of Public Safety. Mr. Duggan explained that \$50,000 went to the Police Department and \$50,000 went to the Fire Department.

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Chief Ouellette discussed the 7 patrol computers through Capital Planning and thanked the Department of Public Works for fixing the sidewalks at the Police Station. Chief Ouellette discussed the website redesign and the new speed sign located on Primrose Hill Road. Chief Ouellette discussed how the sign is controlled from the Police Station. Chief Ouellette discussed evidence based enforcement, the updating of high risk policies and procedures, recertified mandatory training and a map created on the website. Chief Ouellette discussed the recent man with dementia lost and found over the Holiday weekend, several overdoses within the last month, a serious assault of a 17 year old with an arrest made very quickly and a child giving their parents problems and the Officers were able to help the family. Chief Ouellette stated that Enterprise Back is having an appreciation breakfast for public safety on October 7th and he will be holding a Citizens Police Academy and would be sending out invitations to the event.

Mr. Forcier discussed the recent evaluation of evidence and property. Chief Ouellette explained the serious concerns with evidence and property and had a third party come in and evaluate it.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mrs. Hughes stated that the Middlemiss Road Race is September 24, 2016 and the MS is BS Duathlon is October 1, 2016.

CITATION:

* Clement Conole – For His 36 Years of Service to the Town of Dracut – Firefighter Conole appeared before the Board and thanked the Board, his family and his friends and discussed his 36 years of service to the Dracut Fire Department. Firefighter Conole presented the Board with a check for \$500 and asked that it be donated to the Boule Memorial Park Fund. Mrs. Hughes presented Firefighter Conole with a Citation from the Board and the Board thanked him for his service.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he worked with Firefighter Conole and his father over the years at the Fire Department.

Deputy Chief Rich Patterson appeared before the Board and stated that there isn't anyone more dedicated than Firefighter Conole and thank him for his service to the Fire Department.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to accept the \$500 donation towards the Boule Memorial Park Fund. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

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INTRODUCTIONS:

* Lynette Gabriela – Veteran’s Service Officer – Mr. Duggan introduced Ms. Gabriela and gave a brief history of her employment experience. Ms. Gabriela appeared before the Board and stated that she is very excited to get into the Community and getting Veteran’s part of the Community. Ms. Gabriela discussed what she is currently working on and her future goals with the department.

* Nathan Guilmette – IT Technician – Mr. Duggan introduced Mr. Guilmette and gave a brief history of his employment experience. Mr. Guilmette appeared before the Board and discussed the overview he is currently completing and discussed implementing monitoring on the critical infrastructure.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* Ann Vandal – Review and Vote on Policy & Procedures for Health Insurance under the Affordable Care Act – Mrs. Vandal appeared before the Board and discussed the Town of Dracut Policy and Procedures for Employee Health Insurance Coverage under the Federal Affordable Care Act. Mrs. Vandal stated that this is a simple policy to put into place for the Affordable Care Act. Mrs. Vandal stated that the policy protects the Town and does not affect us but a policy should be in place.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to accept the Policy & Procedures for Employee Health Insurance Coverage under the Federal Affordable Care Act. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Jay Reynolds – Discuss Sewer Rate Increase – Mr. Reynolds appeared before the Board and gave a brief history of the Sewer Department. Mr. Reynolds discussed the established sewer enterprise fund which is paid by user rates and fees. Mr. Reynolds stated that the Town has completed 32 sewer contracts and the Town is 94% sewered. Mr. Reynolds stated that the last time the sewer fees increased was 2012 and the enterprise fund is reaching the peak of debt. Mr. Reynolds stated that therefore they needed to make a rate increase and they did hold off as long as they possibly could. Mr. Reynolds stated that they have to sustain the enterprise fund.

Mr. Duggan stated that there should be equal to one year’s worth of operating expenses in the enterprise fund. Mr. Duggan stated that they would have to do emergency borrowing if something happened with a system. Mr. Duggan discussed how the enterprise fund works.

Mr. Archinski discussed the decrease in cost over the years? Mr. Duggan stated that by FY20 the costs would decrease but they need reserve on hand and the goal is to decrease the sewer rate in the future.

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Mr. DiRocco stated that it is important for the rate payers to understand why the fee has increased.

* Silva Lane Motor Sales, LLC – 28 Silva Lane – Requesting a Class 2 Used Car Dealers License – Attorney Michael Fadden appeared before the Board to request a Class 2 Used Car Dealers License. Attorney Fadden stated that the applicant received a Special Permit for heavy motor vehicle sales and this is the second part of the process.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the Class 2 Used Car Dealers License for Silva Lane Motor Sales, LLC. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Owen & Ollie's Restaurant & Pub, LLC, 91 Mill Street – Requesting a One-Day Outdoor Liquor License on September 18, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Mr. Harry Gorman appeared before the Board to request a one-day outdoor liquor license on September 18, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Gorman read the letter provided to the Board dated August 14, 2016.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the One-Day Outdoor Liquor License on September 18, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Back to the Boathouse, 294 Tyngsboro Road– Requesting a One-Day Outdoor Liquor License on October 8, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Mrs. Andrea Buxton appeared before the Board to request a one-day outdoor liquor license on October 8, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Buxton stated that she is having an Octoberfest Food Drive.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to approve the One-Day Outdoor Liquor License on October 8, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Dracut Police Department – Requesting Approval of Two Stop Signs at Fox Street and Grandview Street (North) and Fox Street and Grandview Street (South) – Motion made by Mr. Archinski to approve the two stops signs at Fox Street and Grandview Street (North) and Fox Street and Grandview Street (South). Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Dracut Police Department – Requesting Approval of a Stop Sign at Bryan Avenue and New Boston Road – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve a stop sign at Bryan Avenue and New Boston Road. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

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* Approval of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Utility Pole #14/7-1 at Broadway Road - Special Permit #16-3 Statement of Facts – Motion made by Mr. Archinski to approve the Special Permit #16-3 Statement of Facts. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Approval of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Utility Pole #176-10 at Thissell Avenue – Special Permit #16-4 Statement of Facts – Motion made by Mr. Forcier to approve the Special Permit #16-4 Statement of Facts. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Approval of Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Utility Pole #10-9 at Robbins Avenue – Special Permit #16-5 Statement of Facts – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to approve the Special Permit #16-5 Statement of Facts. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Acceptance of a Donation from Brox Industries – 2012 WANCO Radar Speed Trailer – Mr. Duggan stated that Brox Industries has donated a radar speed trailer to help with the neighborhood concerns regarding vehicular speeds on Methuen Street. Mr. Duggan stated that he met with the neighbors and Brox Industries regarding the speeds on Methuen Street. Mr. Duggan respectfully requested that the Board send a thank you letter to Brox Industries for the donation.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to accept the donation of a 2012 WANCO Radar Speed Trailer from Brox Industries, Inc. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. Forcier abstained from voting.

* Selectwoman Tami Dristiliaris and Selectmen Tony Archinski - Discuss and Vote on a Dedication Monument on Town Owned Land for Mike Blatus – Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that they would like the square land between the Town Hall and Dracut Library to be named after Michael Blatus. Mrs. Dristiliaris stated that the goal is to construct a gazebo on that land. Mrs. Dristiliaris read a brief history of Mr. Blatus' accomplishments over the years.

Mr. Archinski stated that Mr. Blatus is a member of the American Legion and Democratic Town Committee and he would like the space dedicated to Mr. Blatus and a Committee would raise funds for the gazebo.

Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to dedicate the land between the Town Hall and Dracut Library after Mr. Michael Blatus. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Under discussion:

Mr. DiRocco stated that Mr. Blatus and he didn't always agree, but he is a good man.

Mrs. Hughes stated that she met Mr. Blatus years ago when she joined the Veteran's Park Concession Stand Committee.

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Attorney Hall stated that they should have the Town Engineer put a plan together of the land being dedicated to Mr. Blatus.

Motion passed unanimously.

* Discuss and Vote on Streamlining of the Permitting Process for Special Permits Regarding Zoning By-Law 2.11.30, Restaurant/Fast Food – Ms. Betsy Ware, Community Development Director, appeared before the Board and stated that she was asked by the Town Manager to look at the by-laws in regards to streamlining the permitting process. Ms. Ware reviewed the by-law regarding fast food/drive-thru's and discussed there being a double special permit process between the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen. Ms. Ware stated that it can take up to six months for this kind of special permit to be approved by the two Boards. Ms. Ware discussed potentially having the Planning Board also be the permitting authority for fast food/drive-thru's.

Mr. Archinski asked how the double special permitting process originally started?

Attorney Hall discussed this type of permitting being a political issue in the past.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the specific zoning areas for this type of special permit.

Mr. Forcier stated that he would support the change and feels that it is clear to have the Planning Board review this type of special permit.

Mr. Archinski asked how the process works? Mr. Duggan explained that anyone can speak for or against a special permit at a public hearing.

Attorney Hall stated that views have changed on fast food/drive-thru's.

Mrs. Hughes explained to the Board that she wanted Ms. Ware to discuss this possible change with them before it goes to Town Meeting as a Warrant Article.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Mrs. Hughes stated that the several Committees are looking to fill vacancies and applications can be completed on the Town's website.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Zoning By-Law Review Committee – Mr. Archinski stated that the Committee has met twice in the last two weeks and they are currently reviewing Zoning By-Law Warrant Articles. Mr. Archinski stated that a Mission Statement for the Committee will be coming soon to the Board for their review and approval.

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* Open Space Committee – Mr. Archinski stated that the Committee is currently trail making and mapping out the Yapp Farm. Mr. Archinski stated that they are discussing the Long Pond parcel with Town Council.

* Housing Sub-Committee – Mr. Forcier stated that Sub-Committee would be meeting with the architect and designer of the Greenmont Avenue project on September 19th at 4:00 p.m. at the Housing Authority. Mr. Forcier stated that this would be a roundtable discussion and an informative meeting for anyone that would like to attend.

* Review and Vote on the Charters for the Following Board of Selectmen Sub-Committees:

* Housing Sub-Committee – Motion made by Mr. Forcier to accept the Charter of the Housing Sub-Committee. Motion seconded by Mrs. Dristiliaris. Motion passed unanimously.

* Open Space Committee – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to accept the Charter of the Open Space Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Economic Development Committee – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to accept the Charter of the Economic Development Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Education Sub-Committee – Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to accept the Charter of the Education Sub-Committee. Motion seconded by Mr. Forcier. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Forcier to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2016 Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Archinski. Motion passed unanimously.

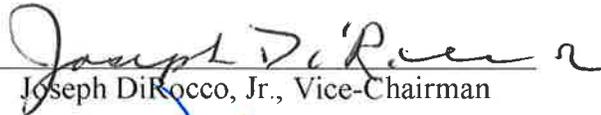
ADJOURNMENT:

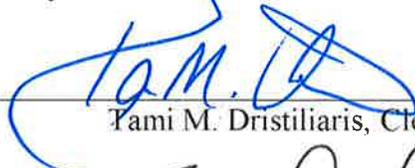
Motion made by Mrs. Dristiliaris to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Forcier. Motion passed unanimously.

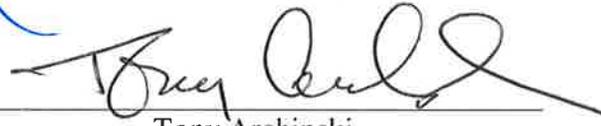
The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Alison Hughes, Chairman


Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice-Chairman


Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk


Tony Archinski


Jesse Forcier