Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes

Date: September 28, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Peter McMurray, Dan Meunier and Joe Casey

2) Motion to approve and sign on minutes of August 11, 2011 as recorded.
   Motion: Dan Meunier  Seconded: Peter McMurray  Vote: DM/PM - Aye
   JC - Abstain

3) Motion to approve and sign on minutes of August 17, 2011 as recorded.
   Motion: Joe Casey  Seconded: Peter McMurray  Vote: JC/PM - Aye
   DM - Abstain

4) Motion to approve and sign on minutes of August 31, 2011 as recorded.
   Motion: Dan Meunier  Seconded: Joe Casey  Vote: JC/DM - Aye
   PM - Abstain

5) Motion to approve and sign on minutes of September 22, 2011 as recorded.
   Motion: Dan Meunier  Seconded: Peter McMurray  Vote: DM/PM - Aye
   JC – Abstain

Forest Legacy Briefing (MAFL Coordinator Mike Fleming). Last update June 24th. Phase III will not be submitted before meeting next week. JC asked how many property restrictions are currently in Ashby (3). Anticipates that there will be (6). JC is concerned about tax reduction on these properties causing a hardship to the town in regards to revenue. Mike Fleming answered questions and hope to close on these properties by the end of the year. JC asked to table this until more information came in. PM said he didn’t have a problem signing on this. Lillian Whitney asked who was following up on the property monitoring, i.e. that all the rules are being adhered to by the property owner. Mr. Fleming stated there are assigned monitors who check yearly and file a report with his office. DM asked how the restrictions would apply 5 or 10 years from now. Mr. Fleming explained a change in procedure in closings and transfer of funds to the Town.

6) Motion to approve and sign on Conservation Restriction for 840 New Ipswich Road Moulton property (Al Futterman, NRWA).
   Motion: Dan Meunier  Seconded Peter McMurray  Vote: PM/DM – Yes
   JC - Abstain

7) Motion to approve and sign on CDBG FY10 Grant Agreement, Case #2 (MRPC).
   Motion: Joe Casey  Seconded: Dan Meunier  Vote: Unan

7:30 p.m.: Joint Meeting with Finance Committee regarding Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles.
Doug Briggs explained Reserve Fund Transfers. Also explained that he would like to have the manager’s work within their budget so as not to have all of the RFTs that they currently have. He would also like to request that all RFTs go to him before going to Selectmen. He is also starting to develop a Capital Plan. He explained what his thoughts for a Capital Plan entailed and how it would be administered.

Finance Committee is concerned about the possibility that if leadership is not here after this is implemented and who would be in charge of following through on this? Question was raised on why more hours are needed for this position and what Assistant does. Assistant is now being used in other departments. Peter McMurray stated that now with DB on board the town can move forward. Lillian Whitney asked how we are paying the Town Administrator. PM stated that Ashburnham is paying him and we pay a set fee to Ashburnham for his services which go into a Capital Plan for Ashburnham. Doug Briggs explained how line items work. Question about Article 1 and how much time is really needed for the position and do we need the Assistant. This will all be under review in the future.

Representative Bastian stopped into BOS Meeting. PM asked about when the Supplemental Budget with be finalized. Feels it will pass by the end of October and hopefully money will be allotted to Town by beginning of November. Also is going to hold meetings for the public to attend for questions and concerns.

Selectmen Vote on Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

8) Motion to Place Articles #1,2,3,4,5 and 7 of the STM Draft of 9/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Employment Laws have changed according to DB. Explained how Unemployment now works in regards to Town having to pay for previous or part-time or on-call employees.

9) Motion to Place Article #2 of STM Draft of 09/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

DB met with Veterans’ Agent. We are getting many more Veteran’s signing up for services this year and this is the reason for the increase in budget. PM asked if we should ask for more money in budget. DB states we can do a RFT and we are reimbursed 75%.

10) Motion to Place Article #3 of STM Warrant Draft of 09/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Joe Casey Seconded: Dan Meunier Vote: Unan

DB had meeting with DEP in regards to town water supply. They have requested that we have the water tested. Average cost for this is $1900. He is asking if we want to do the warrant article or take money out of this budget. PM explained to people in attendance and on TV what has transpired to make this necessary. Council on Aging Director Kathryn Becker asked for Senior luncheons to be served at the Legion. DB has spoken with Dr. Marshall about using a water testing person they have at the school.
11) Motion to Place Article #4 of STM Warrant Draft of 09/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Joe Casey Seconded: Dan Meunier Vote: Unan

Regarding Highway Superintendent’s request for a warrant article to purchase 10 new tires:
Concern arose as to why these tires were purchased in advance and what can be done to prevent this from happening again.

12) Motion to Place Article #5 of STM Warrant Draft of 09/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Joe Casey Seconded: Dan Meunier Vote: Unan

Town has opportunity to go to Fort Devens to get rid of Ashby’s hazardous waste for a fee. John Pankosky recommended we join this. BOS wish to table this warrant article request.

Concerns and questions were raised as to why we need to spend money on a new Fire Truck. Explanation as to what other uses there are for ladder trucks and why we want to purchase a used truck that is already very old. Finance Committee would like a list of all the trucks the town has and what problems they have DB will get list. First 4 Warrant Articles are “Raise and Appropriate”.

13) Motion to Place Article #7 of STM Warrant Draft of 09/28/11 on the warrant.

Motion: Joe Casey Seconded: Dan Meunier Vote: Unan

14) Motion to sign warrant signature page for Special Town Meeting on October 27, 2011.

Motion: Joe Casey Seconded: Dan Meunier Vote: Unan

15) Warrant #W13P approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of $51,908.65, subject to further review.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

16) Warrant #W14B approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of $46,103.78, subject to further review.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

17) Warrant #W14B1 approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of $111,869.08, subject to further review.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

18) Warrant #W14B2 approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of $34,497.65, subject to further review.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan
19) Warrant #W14B3 approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of $23,000.00, subject to further review.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

Regarding RFT Request for Police Department: The expense incurred because alarms were going off in Police Station and employees were unable to fix it. Alarm Company had to be called and batteries were replaced.

20) Motion to approve and sign on Reserve Fund Transfer Request #12-07 in the amount of $249.00 to Police Expense Account.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

21) Motion to approve and sign on Reserve Fund Transfer Request #12-08 in the amount of $126.00 to the Planning Board Expense Account.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

Regarding RFT Request for Hwy Dept.: Several questions and comments were brought up about why this overtime was allowed and why tires have already been purchased before the Article on the Special Town Meeting has been voted on.

22) Motion to approve and sign on Reserve Fund Transfer Request #12-09 in the amount of $110.26 to the Highway Overtime Expense Account.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

23) Motion to award the FY2012 Highway Road Materials Bids per Hwy Superintendent’s recommendations and Doug Briggs.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

Selectmen to Discuss Proposed Old Engine House Lease Changes: PM tabled discussion for this meeting and will put on agenda for October 12th.

Public Comments: Republican Town Committee will meet Thursday Sept. 29th at the Town Hall in the Finance Meeting Room at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

24) Motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.

Motion: Dan Meunier    Seconded: Joe Casey    Vote: Unan

Signed by: ____________________________

Date Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: ____________________________