

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes of March 26, 2007

Selectmen:

Frank Michel, Chairman
Peter Brothers, Vice Chairman
Bob Flanders
Miller Lovett
Colette Worsman

Town Manager:
Recording Clerk:

Carol M. Granfield
Karin Landry

Call to Order: Chairman Michel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Chair introduced the Board, Town Manager and Recording Clerk. He announced that the meeting was called specifically to address the Parks & Recreation budget allocations.

ACCEPTANCE AND/OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

07-17 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of 02/05/07 and 02/26/07; Board of Selectmen Workshop Minutes of 03/05/07.

Colette Worsman motioned to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meetings of 02/05/07 and 02/26/07; and the Workshop Minutes of 03/05/07. Seconded by Peter Brothers.

Miller Lovett supplied the recording clerk with a copy of Addendum #1 which was referred to in the minutes of 02/26/07 but not attached thereto. Chair Michel asked the Town Manager to see that all addendum referred to in the minutes are on file.

All in favor. 5-0. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The Board held an organizational workshop and the following actions were taken:
 - Frank Michel was voted as Chairman of the Board
 - Peter Brothers was voted as Vice Chairman of the Board
 - Representatives were appointed to various Boards and Committees:
 - Planning Board – Colette Worsman, Bob Flanders (Alternate)
 - Traffic Advisory Committee – Frank Michel
 - Transportation Advisory Committee/DOT Project Advisory Committee – Frank Michel

- Capital Improvement Program – Miller Lovett, Peter Brothers (Alternate)
 - Parks & Recreation Commission – Bob Flanders
 - Greater Meredith Program Economic Development Committee – Miller Lovett
 - Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee – Bob Flanders, Peter Brothers (Alternate)
 - Fire Station Building Advisory Committee – Peter Brothers
 - Trustee of Trust Funds – Miller Lovett
- The Town Meeting is scheduled to start airing on Lakes Region Public Access on Wednesday, March 28. They are working on addressing audio problems in portions of the recording.
 - The Fire Station Building Advisory Committee Subcommittee conducted interviews of construction managers. They will be reporting to the Advisory Committee tomorrow night. On Wednesday, April 4 there will be an open house at the downtown fire station at 6 p.m., followed by a charette at 7 p.m. The architects will be on hand with various alternatives and scenarios for the new station. It will be an opportunity for the public to provide input and make suggestions.
 - The Board will meet for the Volunteer Recognition Program on April 16.
 - Senator Reynolds' office requested to meet with the Board to update them on legislation and seek their input. This would be an opportunity to invite other legislators if the Board cares to do so.
 - As a result of the budget adopted at the Town Meeting, the Town is recruiting for a full-time Planner, part-time Office Clerk and a Water & Sewer Operator. The Town is recruiting for a Heavy Equipment Mechanic as the result of a retirement. As of April 1, Planning & Zoning will be the combined department of Community Development.
 - The Town is seeking volunteers to serve as alternates on the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board.

Dialogue ensued regarding Senator Reynolds coming before the Board. Selectman Worsman invited the Senator to address legislation that is before the Senate and House regarding tax credits. She feels it is important for the Board to be able to express how the legislation is going to impact our Town and tax base. The Board agreed that they prefer to meet with the Senator in May and asked the Town Manager to contact the Senator and our representatives to see what they would like to set as an agenda.

VISITOR'S AND RESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

None

SELECTMEN COMMENTS (Reports on Committees 2nd meeting each month)

Colette Worsman reported on the Planning Board:

- Little Bears, PCS, LLC came before the Board applying for conversion of a building located at 61 Reservoir Rd. in the Annalee complex into condominium ownerships.
- The Board granted conditional approval for SRV Properties, Energy Services, Inc. to erect a 60' x 100' storage building on property located at 163 DW Hwy. in the commercial district.
- Jeff Burd and Mark and Christiane Knisely came before the Board for pre-approval review on a possible subdivision at the corner of Waukewan and Rte. 104 (Tax Map S25, lots 30 and 38) in the residential district.
- McFarland Johnson appeared before the Board for Crosspoint Associates asking for pre-application conceptual consultation for site plan review of Meredith Shopping Center on Route 25.
- Peter Thorndike presented a pre-application for a possible boat charter off the docks behind the Christmas Tree Loft.
- A pre-application was addressed for a senior center and housing units on Upper Mile Point Drive.
- The Board is planning to rewrite the cluster ordinance in the next couple of months and present it to the Town.

Chair Michel responded to comments that there might have been communication between Board members outside the meeting format. Although it is not illegal for two selectmen to talk about business outside a meeting, it is his preference not to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:**07-18 Board/Committee Appointments**

The Town Manager solicited input from the Chairs of the Boards and Committees regarding proposed reappointments. All reappointments are supported by the respective Chair. The current terms expire on March 31.

Peter Brothers motioned that the Board make the following appointments:

Parks & Recreation Commission - Tami Carpentiere, 2010, Re-appoint; Paula Wanzer, 2010, Re-appoint.

Planning Board – Louis Kahn, 2010, Re-appoint; Herb Vadney, 2010, Re-appoint; Edward Touhey (Alternate), 2010, Re-appoint.

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Fred Hawkins, 2010, Re-appoint; Michael Pelczar, 2010, Re-appoint; Diane Hommel (Alternate), 2010, looking for replacement (see Town Manager for forms).

Conservation Commission – Robert LeCount, 2010, Re-appoint; Donald MacFarlane, 2010, Re-appoint; Ralph Pisapia, 2010, Re-appoint; Barbara Smyth, 2010, Re-appoint; Daniel Heyduk, 2009, Appoint to complete John Sherman's term as Regular member; John Sherman, 2009, appoint to complete Daniel Heyduk's term as Alternate; Paula Wanzer, (Alternate), 2010, Re-appoint.

LRPC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – John Edgar, 2009, Re-appoint.

Seconded by Colette Worsman. All in favor. 5-0. Motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Board has two positions open for alternates and Selectman Flanders encouraged volunteers for the positions. The Waukewan Watershed Committee is also seeking new members.

07-19 Parks & Recreation Budget Allocation

The Board had an opportunity to review a report prepared by Vint Choiniere addressing budget reductions to offset the cost of funding the full time office clerk position. It was the general consensus of the Board not to take public comment regarding the allocation of funds for the position.

Bob Flanders moved that the Board act consistently with the consensus of the Town Meeting, which is the governing body of the Town, and approve the full-time position. Seconded by Miller Lovett.

Miller Lovett believes the basic management principal of participative management supports the approval of this motion. It is based on the idea that people in the lower part of an organization know more about the details of running the organization than the people at the top. They are in a better position to see where improvements can be made in an organization. In the process of making budget cuts, the Board cut the top priority of the Department, which resulted in a Warrant Article to the Town. He encourages department heads to think about how they can run their departments more efficiently, pointing out that the final vote is always with the Board of Selectmen. He would like to see the Board listen more thoroughly to how department heads want to run their departments.

Colette Worsman thinks the Board listened well to every department head that came before them. The budget requires limitations that rest with the Board. Similar decisions for part-time positions were made for the Highway and Police Departments and she feels it is wrong to make an exception for the Community Center. She believes that the Board made the wisest choices they could reasonably make for the Town and to go back is a very wrong move.

Bob Flanders has been intimately involved with Community Center from the very beginning and has been extremely impressed with management since the day it opened. He believes that the Town has a responsibility to its employees not to overload them to the point of burn out. There has been a tremendous amount of responsibility added to the Parks & Recreation Department over the past year, including the Community Center, ball fields, parks, and beaches. He believes

the Board got it wrong when going through the budget and will be going against the will of the people if they don't approve the full-time position.

Peter Brothers agreed that the responsibilities for the Parks & Recreation Department have been overwhelming, largely due to the success of the Community Center. He believes the Board is charged with looking at the bigger picture. The Department heads had ample opportunity during the budget process to express themselves and difficult decisions had to be made. He expressed concerns with special interest groups coming in with petitioned warrant articles to increase spending. He is also concerned with introducing an environment that could lead to SB2 voting and a budget committee.

Frank Michel is in favor of the full-time position. As a Board member he seeks public input and heard it at the Town Meeting. One of the Board's top priority workshops will be working on how the Community Center can generate offsetting revenues.

3-2. Peter Brothers and Colette Worsman not in favor. Motion passed.

Selectman Flanders requested that a matter regarding the volunteer and call firefighters be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Chair Michel asked him to work with the Town Manager to put together a memo to the Board regarding the matter.

Bob Flanders motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Peter Brothers. All in favor. 5-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Granfield, Town Manager

Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

Frank S. Michel, Chairman

Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

Robert Flanders

Miller C. Lovett

Colette Worsman