

**Middleborough Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes**

**March 17, 2014**

Chairman opened meeting at 7:00 PM by inviting those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance were: Selectmen S. McKinnon, A. Frawley, B. Quelle, L. Dalpe & J. Knowlton; and Executive Assistant J. Shanley.

The meeting was broadcast live by MCCAM and recorded by MCCAM and Verizon.

**UNANTICIPATED**

Selectman Dalpe, also Chairman of the Tourism Committee, presented the newly developed Tourism brochure.

School Committee member Brian Giovanoni distributed a copy of correspondence from N.E. Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc., which announced that it voted to award MHS continued accreditation in the N.E. Association of Schools & Colleges, but to remain on warning for the Standards for Accreditation on Curriculum & Community Resources.

Barbara Holton addressed the Board and read aloud a prepared statement.

Jane Lopes of the Rotary Club announced the Rotary Auction on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at MHS. All proceeds go to scholarships for local kids. She welcomed Board members to attend.

Chairman read aloud announcement that the East Middleborough 4H Drama crew will perform the play “Sally Cotter & the Censored Stone” at Town Hall on 3/22 & 3/23/14.

**MINUTES**

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Dalpe, Board voted unanimously to approve the 3/10/14 regular meeting minutes.

**WARRANTS**

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Dalpe, Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman, or his designee, to sign Warrants for week ending 3/7/14.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted unanimously to declare 1989 Chevy Cavalier, VIN #1G1JC5244W7173344, as surplus.

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted unanimously to approve a One-day all Alcoholic beverages liquor license for Muckey’s Liquor for 3/27/14 from 5 PM to 10 PM at 200 Oak Point Drive.

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Upon motion by Selectman Dalpe and seconded by Selectman Frawley, Board voted unanimously to approve a One-day all Alcoholic beverages liquor license for Muckey's Liquor for 4/12/14 from 5 PM to 11 PM at 200 Oak Point Drive.

Town Clerk Allison Ferreira addressed the Board. Discussion ensued relative to restricting polling hours for the Annual Town Elections. Upon motion by Selectman Dalpe and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted to set polling hours for the Annual Town Election of 4/5/14 from 8 A.M. to 8 A.M. Selectman Frawley abstained.

Town Clerk Allison Ferreira informed the Board that *"the selectmen in any town may provide that the hours during which the polls shall be open for the purpose of voting on a question to be submitted to the voters of said town shall be the same as the hours designated by said selectmen for the election of town officers. After an announcement has been made by the presiding officer of a time so fixed for closing the polls they shall not be closed at an earlier hour."* She consulted with Town Counsel who advised her that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to determine the hours for a special municipal election based on the language set forth in Chapter 54, Section 64 and there is no language regarding special municipal elections within the Town Charter. She also contacted the State Elections Division and was advised it would be in the Town's best interest to keep the hours for the Special Municipal Election the same as the hours for our Annual Town Election based on the subject matter and where the outcome will determine whether or not the taxes will be raised to fund the project. She recommended that the Board set the hours to be the same as the Annual Town Election from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. to remain consistent with the Annual Town Election and to provide an equal opportunity to the voters. Chairman announced, for full disclosure, that he had discussed with the Town Clerk, the possible consideration to lessen these hours, however, he changed his thought on the matter in consideration of the voters. Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted unanimously to approve.

Chairman gave brief introduction re the proposed closing of Taunton State Hospital. Selectman Frawley provided further detail. He read aloud a letter from resident Ellen Farley who has worked at Taunton Hospital for many years. He offered the reasons he is in support of keeping Taunton State Hospital open. Selectman Knowlton shared some of the details of the Taunton State Hospital Draft Report. He suggested that it may not be the right time for a letter of support to keep it open. Selectman Dalpe offered her perspective, supporting that the facility remain open. Selectman Quelle offered that he did not feel he had enough information on the matter. Resident Brian Giovanoni offered that he would like to see a letter of support for funding Special Education at 100%. Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Dalpe, Board voted to send letter in support of keeping the hospital open. Three in favor. Selectmen Quelle and Knowlton opposed.

Selectman Frawley offered that he liked the idea of holding an art contest between the Middle and High School to select a cover for the Annual Town Report. Chairman called upon School

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Committee member Brian Giovanoni who offered that he would defer to Paul Branagan and would contact the Board's Executive Assistant. Selectman Knowlton suggested also just accepting artwork submissions. Glenn Montapert suggested tying in with Tourism. Upon motion by Selectman Dalpe and seconded by Selectman Frawley, Board voted unanimously to have schools submit artwork for consideration.

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Quelle, Board voted unanimously to send letter of support to State Legislators re Local Aid.

**HEARINGS, MEETINGS, LICENSES**

At 7:55 PM Chairman continued hearing from 3/10/14 re Earth Removal permit application filed by GAF Engineering on behalf of Riverrock Realty Trust for 288 Thompson Street. Joe Arruda addressed Board and offered that the only outstanding consideration is that Mr. Beaton would prefer not to be named on the permit as he will not be the owner of the property until after the earth removal project is complete and the cranberry bog is constructed. Chairman asked to hear any further comments or questions. Hearing none, Chairman declared hearing closed.

Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted unanimously in favor of issuing the Earth Removal permit to Riverrock Realty Trust for 288 Thompson Street, subject to the agreed upon contingencies.

**Public Safety/General Government**

Board and the following departments conducted the Public Safety/General Government Budget Reviews:

- C.O.A. - Board of Director member Robert Burke addressed the Board and gave an overview of what the Council on Aging has to offer to the Town's residents. Chairman McKinnon left meeting at 8:04 PM. Chairman returned to meeting at 8:08 PM. Mr. Burke introduced COA Director Andrea Priest who addressed the Board to present the COA budget. It was noted, for those interested, checks may be made payable to the Middleborough COA or cash donations may be brought to the COA and a receipt obtained. Items such as Decaf coffee, paper goods, or anything non-perishable are always appreciated. Selectman Knowlton offered how impressed he is with what the COA is able to offer. Selectman Frawley asked if they've seen a return on the steps taken to conserve energy to which Ms. Priest responded, yes. She offered that, at some point, she will be able to provide a report on the savings.
- I.T. - Information Technology Systems Administrator Ellen Driscoll presented. Selectman Frawley and Chairman McKinnon asked I. T. Administrator, Tara Pirraglia a couple of questions. Selectman Dalpe thanked Tara for the Tourism email.
- Fire Department – Fire Chief Lance Benjamins presented. Chief noted the upcoming retirement of Captain Burke, offering that she has been a tremendous asset. He requested that there be an In Memoriam in the ATR in memory of Firefighter David Brier. Upon motion by Selectman Frawley and seconded by Selectman Knowlton, Board voted unanimously to approve. Chief offered that he put in a request to the Town Manager that the ATR be dedicated to Firefighter David Brier. Board agreed. Chief presented his need

for additional firefighters and administrative staffing. Selectman Quelle asked the Chief to expand on what it would mean to have a Deputy Chief. The Chief explained that it would

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- be huge to him in many ways, such as administratively, i.e. grants, etc. He has a current grant in process for \$660,000 to correct the Town's communication issues. Selectman Quelle recommended that the Chief to come in and do formal presentation re need for a Deputy Chief. Selectman Knowlton offered that he agrees that there is a need for a Deputy Fire Chief, and if it is at all possible, he would like to see the position added. Chairman offered that he appreciates the Chief's organizational skills, and the terrific job he's done, noting the significant improvements he has made since coming to this Town.
- Sealer of Weights & Measures – Sealer Charles Norwich presented. He offered that the Town Manager provided a printout recommending a \$900+ increase in his budget for gasoline, mileage and supplies.
- Building Department – Building Commissioner Robert Whalen presented.
- Police Department – Police Chief Bruce Gates presented. He noted the request for an increase to put towards hiring dispatchers. He'd also like to put another Detective up there. He noted all of the additional requests he has put in for.
- Health Department – Health Officer Jeanne Spalding presented. She noted that she too obtains grants, mostly for equipment.
  - ❖ Animal Control – Health Officer Jeanne Spalding presented.Selectman Frawley thanked her for all she does and asked about the animal shelter alterations. She gave an update on the improvements and offered thanks to Mr. Barbato and those who contributed. Chairman asked how interested persons could donate. She offered that they have an Animal Shelter fund. Selectman Frawley asked questions about mosquitos/spraying, etc. Health Officer explained that aerial spraying is determined by and done by the state.
- Veterans – Veterans' Agent Paul Provencher presented. He requested \$30,000 for a Jr. Clerk position. He offered that he discussed it with the Town Manager.
- Selectmen – postponed to 3/24/14 meeting.
- Town Manager –postponed to 3/24/14 meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

#1 Selectman Knowlton thanked Glenn Montapert re his report on the resolution of the CSX Trash Train matter.

#2 Selectman Knowlton offered that the Standard & Poor's Rating of the Town speaks well for the Town Manager and the Finance Committee.

#5 Selectman Quelle noted Plymouth County Retirement Assessment. He noted that he is the Board's representative on the Plymouth County Advisory Board and this Board has only met a couple of times this past year. His experience at the meetings was that the damage was already done before the meetings even began and it appeared that other members where not paying attention, but instead spending time on their cell phones. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen may want to consider, in the future, if this is the best retirement system to be on.

#5 Selectman Frawley noted the Plymouth County Retirement Assessment also and suggested that the Board invite the Commissioners in sometime after April.

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#2 Selectman Frawley noted the Town's Rating by Standard & Poor's and offered that it couldn't have happened at a better time. He thanked everyone involved.

#3 Chairman thanked Xfinity for dropping channels, but not the rate.

Upon motion by Selectman Knowlton and seconded by Selectman Quelle, Board voted unanimously to adjourn meeting at 9:24 PM.

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Jackie Shanley, Executive Assistant  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN