

**Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for January 28, 2014
Needham Town Hall**

6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens: No Activity.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Daniel P. Matthews. Those present were John A. Bulian, Maurice P. Handel, Matthew D. Borrelli, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt. Marianne Cooley arrived at 7:25 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - NSTAR Petition for Elder Road:
Maureen Carroll, NSTAR representative appeared before the Board requesting permission to install approximately 10 feet of conduit at Pole 309/8 on Elder Road, Needham. Ms. Carroll said this work is necessary to provide underground electric service for Building #3 and includes two residential units at 38 Webster Street, Needham.

Mr. Matthews invited public comment. No comments were made.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign a petition from NSTAR to install approximately 10 feet of conduit at Pole 309/8 on Elder Road, Needham. This work is necessary to provide underground electric service for Building #3 and includes two residential units at 38 Webster Street, Needham.

Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 4-0.

7:01 p.m. Introduction of Fire Deputy Chief:
Paul Buckley, Fire Chief appeared before the Board to introduce newly appointed Fire Deputy Chief Dennis Condon. Chief Buckley gave a brief background on Deputy Chief Condon's experience, and said it is always exciting to come before the Board of Selectmen with new hires and promotions. Chief Buckley said he has great confidence in Fire Deputy Chief Condon's abilities as a member of Needham's fire command staff.

The Board congratulated Fire Deputy Chief Condon on his promotion, and Chief Buckley presented Fire Deputy Chief Condon with a new Chief badge.

7:08 p.m. Town Manager:
1. FY2015 Balanced Budget Presentation:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager and Dave Davison, ATM/Finance appeared before the Board to present the proposed annual balanced budget for FY2015.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the budget priorities established by the Board, which serve as a key guideline in the evaluation of departmental spending requests. She said the primary goal of the Board of Selectmen in consideration of the FY2015 operating budget is the maintenance and optimization of existing Town services. She noted the Board also set priorities mindful of the availability of revenue for appropriation including initiatives that contribute to sustainability, long-term economic vitality, support the stewardship of open space, and contribute to the appearance of the Town. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on fiscal discipline, noting the Town works within recurring revenues and does not rely on one-time revenue to fund operations. Ms. Fitzpatrick said Needham is a desirable community based on the many visible improvements completed by the Town over the last five years and the high property values. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the financial forecast including local receipts, state aid, town-wide expenses, and the strong level of building activity. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on budget drivers, noting an increase of 209 students since 2009/10 school year. She said a comparison of school enrollment in Needham with other communities will be researched to find what might be causing the changes, both increases and decreases. Ms. Fitzpatrick discussed salary lines and head count. She commented the School Committee is voting tonight on its final budget recommendation of \$56,584,838.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the RTS, noting a committee was formed in 2012 by the Board of Selectmen to evaluate options relative to the sustainability of the RTS. She said the Committee provided a report to the Board and recommends a new financing method for the RTS. Ms. Fitzpatrick proposes elimination of the sticker fee, and expanded access of the RTS to all residents to participate in the yard waste, recycling, and waste ban programs. Ms. Fitzpatrick said in order to expand access at the RTS, expenses will need to be reduced including a reduction in operating hours. Dave Davison commented the proposal will take effect on April 1, 2015.

Ms. Fitzpatrick highlighted changes made to the submitted budget, referring to FY2015 Changes to General Fund Operating Budget Requests, Table 1.11 and changes made to the Enterprise Fund Operating Budget, Table 1.12. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on Other Financial Warrant Articles including the replacement of the Blue Tree in conjunction with the redesign of the Town Common, property tax program, and allocation for the Athletic Facility Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Bulian said the RTS proposal is great and encourages residents to use the facility.

Mr. Handel asked about declining local receipts. He also said he is asked by many constituents what portion of the town-wide budget, not allocated to the school budget, supports school activities.

Mr. Borrelli commented on investment in parks and forestry, the playground, and the substance abuse manager. He said the RTS proposal is very good for all residents. He asked about the supplemental school budget.

Mr. Matthews commented there is some discussion about the School Committee possibly making a request for an operating override.

Ms. Cooley asked about water conservation and the pricing structure in the budget. She commented she is very pleased with the RTS proposal.

Mr. Matthews suggested the Board of Selectmen vote to recommend approval of the RTS proposal.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to recommend approval of the Town Manager's RTS Sustainability Proposal as presented. Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 5-0.

8:05 p.m. Parking Permit Fees & Parking Meter Locations and Fees:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager reminded the Board of its public hearing on January 14, 2014 regarding the proposed meter rates, permit parking fees and the installation of additional parking meters in Needham Heights. She made the following recommendations:

1. Increase Annual Permit Parking Rates as follows:
 \$125 2014
 \$165 2015
 \$200 2016
2. Set New Parking Meter Rates as follows:
 \$.25 (quarter) for thirty minutes
 \$.10 (dime) for ten minutes
 \$.05 (nickel) for five minutes
3. Establish hours of operation for meters as follows:
 Monday through Saturday (excluding Federal and State holidays) 8:00 a.m.
 to 6:00 p.m.
4. Authorize installation of new meters at the following locations:
 - Highland Avenue from Mark Lee Road to Hunnewell St. (3)
 - Mark Lee Rd. from Parking Lot to Hunnewell St. (3)
 - West Street from Highland Ave. to Hunnewell St. (10 maximum)
 - Avery Square (3)

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to set the annual permit parking rates and parking meter rates in accordance with the proposed schedule, to establish hours of operation for meters at Monday through

Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (excluding Federal and State Holidays) and to approve the installation of new parking meters in accordance to the proposed schedule.

Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 5-0.

8:12 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approve continuation of the experimental Traffic Regulation in accordance with the Needham Traffic Rules and Regulations Section 3-6 for Great Plain Avenue for the period December 17, 2013 to February 14, 2014: one Handicap Parking spot, and one 15 minute Parking spot, in front of the former Eaton Square Right of Way adjacent to MBTA Right of Way.**
- 2. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for William Dermody of the Needham Exchange Club to hold its monthly meeting on February 20, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at The Center at the Heights, 300 Hillside Avenue, Needham.**
- 3. Accept the following donations made to the Needham Off-Leash Dog Area gift account: \$10 from Colleen Stiriti; \$10 from William Okerman; \$25 from Amy & Howard Goldman; \$750 from Needham Women's Club.**
- 4. Accept the following donation made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund from the following residents: \$150 from Adrienne Smith & Mark Gluesing.**
- 5. Water and Sewer Abatement Order #1173**
- 6. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Steve Volante of Volante Farms to host a Grand Wine Tasting on March 8, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will be held at Volante Farms, 292 Forest Street, Needham.**
- 7. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Steve Volante of Volante Farms to host a Grand Beer Tasting on March 22, 2014 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The event will be held at Volante Farms, 292 Forest Street, Needham.**
- 8. Accept a \$300 donation made to the Needham Cultural Council from the Needham Running Club.**

Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 5-0.

8:12 p.m. Board Discussion:
1. Noise Regulation
The Board discussed a possible revision to the noise regulation contained in the General By-laws for residential construction activity. Mr. Borrelli suggested restricting construction activity on Sundays and holidays.

Mr. Handel agreed with Mr. Borrelli, but suggested holding a public hearing to determine any possible unintended consequences.

Mr. Matthews noted many homeowners pull their own building permit, and suggested Saturday and Sunday may be their only time to work on their home. He asked Ms. Fitzpatrick to confer with the building inspector to see how other towns handle the issue.

Mr. Bulian suggested reviewing the fine schedule.

2. Committee Reports

Mr. Matthews reported a legislative committee is holding a hearing on January 29, 2014 on House Bill #3851. He said the bill was filed by State Representative Garlick which seeks to maintain and/or widen the green buffer space between Route 128 and Greendale Avenue. He noted Mr. Borrelli and Ms. Fitzpatrick will attend the hearing in support of the bill. Mr. Matthews suggested the Board formally vote to endorse HB#3851.

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen vote to support House Bill #3851: An Act Establishing Highway Buffer Zone in the Town of Needham.
Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Mr. Matthews reported all members of the Board of Selectmen attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association Convention and annual meeting in Boston over the weekend of January 24-25, 2014. He noted Ms. Fitzpatrick served as President of the MMA, and he thanked her for her service over the last year.

8:25 p.m.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of January 28, 2014.
Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 5-0.