

**Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for January 24, 2012
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 Maurice P. Handel. Those present were Gerald A. Wasserman, Daniel P. Matthews, John A. Bulian, James G. Healy, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt.
- 7:00 p.m. Congratulations Needham High School Football and Coach David Duffy:
The Board offered its congratulations to the Needham High School Football Team and Coach David Duffy for its outstanding record this past fall, earning the team a well-deserved place at this year's High School Superbowl, played at Gillette Stadium. The team was awarded the Sportsmanship Award during the Superbowl half-time events.
- Mr. Healy pointed out the team record included the first ever playoff victory for the Rockets in 124 years. He commented the team was awarded the M.I.A.A. Division 1 "Sportsmanship Award", Coach Duffy was the winner of the Boston Globe Division 1 "Coach of the Year Award" and the New England Patriot "Coach of the Week Award" for the second time in the last three years.
- Mr. Wasserman, on behalf of the Exchange Club, invited all players and coaches to march in the parade on July 4th.
- 7:15 p.m. RCN Cable License Extension:
Jonathan Tamkin, Cable Advisory Committee appeared before the Board to discuss extending the Cable Television Final License, dated April 25, 2000, until July 17, 2012. Mr. Tamkin said granting the extension ensures the Town will maintain an active cable license with RCN.
- Motion by Mr. Wasserman that on the recommendation of the Cable Television Advisory Committee, the Board of Selectmen, as issuing authority, agree to extend the Cable Television Final License dated April 25, 2000, of RCN-BecoComm, LLC, as a cable television licensee in Needham until July 17, 2012 as the prior extension has expired.**
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.
- 7:15 p.m. Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the Consent Agenda and Appointments as presented.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Council of Economic Advisors Brian Nadler (term expires 6/30/2014)
2. Design Review Board Robert Dermody (term expires 6/30/2014)

CONSENT AGENDA *=Backup attached

1. Accept gift card donation made to Needham Youth Services in the amount of \$150 from Roche Bros. Supermarkets. The funds are to be used towards the Patrick C. Forde Good Person Memorial Award Ceremony scheduled for January, 23, 2012.
- 2.* Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License from Kate Maguire of the Needham Women's Club to host a Grand Wine Tasting event on Sunday, April 1, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Powers Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham.
- 3.* Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License from Jenny Small of Temple Beth Shalom to hold the Adult Purim Shpiel event on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Avenue, Needham.
- 4.* Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License from Gloria Greis of the Needham Historical Society to host its "Chocolate and Champagne" event on Saturday, February 4, 2012 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at The Needham Historical Society, 1147 Central Avenue, Needham.
5. Accept donation made to the Needham Police Department in the amount of \$18.00 from Stephanie M. Pearl, 547 Webster Street Needham. The donation is for a child safety seat installation.
6. Accept donation made to the Needham Police Department in the amount of 100.00 from Daniel H, Cooper, 20 Pond Street, Needham. The donation is for animal traps or other items used by the animal control officer.
7. Accept donation made to the Needham Health Department's Traveling Meals Program in the amount of \$300.00 from Amy Sherman in memory of Francis Biagi.
- 8.* Sign the Warrant for the Presidential Primary scheduled for March 6, 2012.
- 9.* Approve minutes from December 20, 2011 meeting and Executive Session minutes from December 20, 2011.
- 10.* Approve Water & Sewer Abatement Order #1137
- 11.* Approve and Sign Records Witnessing Perambulation of the Town Boundaries.
- 12.* Approve and forward to ABCC for filing Petition for Change of DBA from the Village Fish of Needham Inc. from d/b/a The Village Fish to d/b/a Midtown Smokehouse and Grill.
13. Accept the following donations received to the following Council on Aging's accounts during 2011:
 - \$6,227 to the Transportation Donation Account
 - \$1,655 to the General Donation Account
- 14.* Approve One Day Special Wine & Malt Beverage license request from Mike Riley, Needham Knights of Columbus to host a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 5, 2012 at The Knights of Columbus Council #1611, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

15. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 41 Section 10, that the Board vote to ask the Town Clerk to place on the 2012 Annual Town Election ballot the office of one Selectmen for two years contingent on the resignation of James G. Healy.

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

7: 20 p.m. Town Manager:
Kate Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with 1 item to discuss:

1. Fiscal Year 2013 Proposed Annual Budget

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board to present the Proposed Annual Budget for FY2013. She called the budget “Over the Bridge” and commented various resources and strategies were used during the last few years. She said the proposed budget is the most optimistic in the last three years, and framework for the future must be laid now for service enhancements and improvements to Town assets. Ms. Fitzpatrick presented a Powerpoint presentation. She mentioned the Citizen Survey of 2012 and that 98% of residents continue to rank Needham as a good or excellent place to live. She commented Needham property values remain stable and is indicative of the desirability of Needham. She said the Town as a whole continues to exhibit great fiscal discipline and continues to work within recurring revenue to fund operations. She said the Town has not drawn on reserves to fund operations, but rather has increased its reserves. She said the Town continues to invest in its future and work toward predictability and transparency for residents and shop owners. She commented zoning changes will attract development and the Town has partnered with surrounding towns on several projects. In addition, Ms. Fitzpatrick said investment in facility and infrastructure continues at an extraordinary level. She commented many items on the 2007 Master Plan that have been completed and several items are still in the pipeline, including construction of a new senior center. Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the School Department Budget Proposal and commented the Town has allocated the one-time revenue used to balance the FY2012 budget, and proposed an additional increase of just over \$2 million representing a 5.2% increase over the FY2012 budget. Ms. Fitzpatrick reiterated the Board of Selectmen/Town Manager budget priorities include maintaining existing Town services, to consider sustainability, to consider coordination and efficiency, to consider economic vitality, land stewardship, transportation, and appearance of the Town. Ms. Fitzpatrick said the overall financial forecast is optimistic.

Mr. Wasserman clarified the cuts talked about were to increases, not to existing budget items from last year. Ms. Fitzpatrick confirmed reductions were to submitted requests. Mr. Wasserman asked what is the total cost for field maintenance? Ms. Fitzpatrick said the total projected amount for field maintenance is \$190,000.

Mr. Bulian asked that some of the free cash be considered for road maintenance.

Mr. Matthews asked about the budget process going forward to Town Meeting.

Mr. Handel pointed out the effort that went into preparing the budget and thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Davison for their work.

Mr. Healy commented on free cash being used for one-time capital expenses. He also commented on Phase 2 of the capital infrastructure planning. He said he is convinced more money needs to be spent on field maintenance.

7:55 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Sale of Alcohol for Consumption off Premises

The Board discussed several options relative to the possibility of allowing alcohol sales for consumption off-premises in Needham. Each of the options includes a limit on the number of licenses to be issued. These limits mirror the State framework if the Town were to follow the adoption provisions contained in M.G.L. c. 138.

Mr. Healy commented the most important thing the Board can do is to get some advice from a consultant who knows the liquor and package store industry. He said knowing the pros and cons of how a shop can be successful in a town like Needham, and still be respectful of safety is important. Mr. Healy said he is unsure how he would vote, but feels it should be an all-alcohol license. He commented to allow certain members of the public to be able to enjoy the benefits of this type of business, while denying it to others is unfair, as long as it is safe. He said he feels the license should go beyond supermarkets. He said the number of licenses should be limited to one or two.

Mr. Bulian said he agrees with Mr. Healy that the number of licenses should be limited. He said he would like to hear from Roach Bros. and Trader Joe's as to their experience of selling beer and wine at other locations across the state.

Mr. Matthews said he would like more information, but feels Option 1 would be the way to go. He said the key role for the Board is to frame the question in a way that Town Meeting members and voters can act on it in a way that best meets their interests. He said the public needs to know what standards the Board of Selectmen would use in evaluating issuance of a license.

Mr. Wasserman believes a home rule petition could be tailored specifically for Needham. He said he is not in favor of issuing 6 licenses, but something less. He agrees with Mr. Matthews that convenience stores are not a proper place to sell alcohol. He said he is unsure if he would vote for all-alcohol or just beer and wine licenses. He said he would like more information on high end beer and wine shops.

Mr. Healy clarified the distinction between the ability to issue licenses and the willingness of the Board of Selectmen to actually issue licenses. He commented if the Board has the ability to issue 6 licenses there will be strong temptation to issue them. He said residents need all the information available as to the “rules of engagement”. He commented people need to know the hours of operation, whether there will be keno, and how recyclables will be handled, parking. He said there are many issues that people want to know.

Mr. Handel agrees it is important voters know how the Board would limit, control, and regulate the issue. He feels limiting the sale of alcohol to supermarkets is not a good idea.

2. Committee Reports

The Board discussed work it is doing to identify an alternative for Ridge Hill. Mr. Handel said he had met with Mr. Wasserman, Ms. Fitzpatrick, and various stakeholders in Town government to try to identify classifications of use or possible uses for Ridge Hill, with an eye toward what is realistic and desirable.

8:15 p.m. Mr. Handel commented on the resignation of Jim Healy from the Board of Selectmen. He said Jim is a passionate and devoted champion for Needham, and its residents. He wished Mr. Healy well.

Mr. Wasserman said he has worked with Jim prior to being on the Board of Selectmen. He commented on the work Mr. Healy has done for the Town and thanked him for his efforts.

Mr. Bulian thanked Mr. Healy and said he has been a great advocate for the Town.

Mr. Matthews said he appreciated all Mr. Healy has done for the Town and wished him the very best.

Denise Garlick, State Representative, said she was privileged to serve with Mr. Healy and major accomplishments took place, including the Field of Dreams, renovation of Town Hall, and a new Senior Center for the Town. She said these accomplishments would not have happened without Mr. Healy. She thanked him for his service to the Town.

Ms. Fitzpatrick presented Mr. Healy a frame with several photographs of Needham. She thanked him for his service.

Mr. Healy thanked everyone for their kind words for all the support he has received. He said it has been a privilege to serve encouraged all residents to get involved and to give back to the Town.

A list of all documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=99&Type=&ADID=>

8:30 p.m. Executive Session (Exception 6):
Motion by Mr. Healy that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session.
Exception 6 – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.
Second: Mr. Wasserman. Mr. Handel polled the Board. Unanimously approved 5-0.

(The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.)