

**Town of Needham  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes for January 28, 2015  
Selectmen's Chamber  
Needham Town Hall**

6:30 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens: No Activity.

6:30 p.m. Call to Order:  
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman John A. Bulian. Those present were Maurice P. Handel, Matthew D. Borrelli, Daniel P. Matthews, Marianne B. Cooley, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt.

Mr. Bulian announced tonight's meeting was rescheduled from last night due to a blizzard.

6:30 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:  
**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.**

**APPOINTMENTS:  
There were no Appointments made at this meeting.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 1. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 54, Section 34 vote to approve the use of ImageCast voting system (approved by the Secretary of State) beginning with the April 14, 2015 Annual Town Election.**
- 2. Accept the following donation to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund: \$100 from Sylvia & Adolph Hutter.**
- 3. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Mark Murray of the Knights of Columbus to hold a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 1, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham.**
- 4. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Mark Murray of the Knights of Columbus to hold a Saint Patrick's Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham.**
- 5. Accept a \$40 donation made to the Needham Police Department's Car Safety Seat Installation Program from Daniel Gilman, a resident of Needham, MA.**
- 6. Water and Sewer Abatement Order #1191.**

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

6:30 p.m. Budget Presentation:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board to present the proposed annual balanced budget for FY2016.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said that the theme of the FY2016 budget is “A 10 Year Look Back, 2005-2015” to recognize the accomplishments by the Town and community, as a whole. A Powerpoint presentation was viewed. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on photos showing the renovated Greene’s Field playground structure, which she said was funded mostly by private monies and some CPA funds. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the budget priorities established by the Board at its meeting in December 2014, noting Board of Selectmen goals, Preservation of Capital Assets, Financial Sustainability, Economic Vitality, Stewardship, Appearance, and Efficiency. Ms. Fitzpatrick talked about fiscal discipline, noting the Town works within recurring revenues and does not rely on one-time funds to support on-going services. She said Needham remains desirable community based on the many visible improvements completed by the Town over the last ten years and its high property values. She said it is astounding to look at the accomplishments over the last ten years, attributing the success to the government, volunteers, staff, and community business partners. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted some projects including the High Rock 6th Grade Center, Newman HVAC, Town Hall, Center at the Heights, Needham Public Library, Town-Wide Energy Efficient improvements, Memorial Park, DeFazio Park, Community Farm, and Off-Leash Dog Area at NIKE. Ms. Fitzpatrick also commented on the Town’s financial sustainability noting OPEB liability being 25% funded, Standard and Poor’s AAA Bond Rating, Capital Facility Stabilization Fund, Athletic Facility Stabilization Fund, renovation of Great Plain Avenue Pumping Station, Water and Sewer Line Replacement in advance of the Route 128 Add-A-Lane project, and Traffic Signals at various locations. Ms. Fitzpatrick mentioned the branding of Needham Crossing, Hospital Expansion, TripAdvisor World HQ, parking lot expansion, and Charles River Landing. Ms. Fitzpatrick said Needham continues to be very vibrant and dynamic. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the financial forecast noting that while 9C cuts in local aid in FY2015 are not part of the Governor’s plan, no projected increases in State aid are anticipated. She noted strong tax levy growth based on a significant level of building activity, particularly in Needham Crossing. Ms. Fitzpatrick discussed revenue projection changes from FY2015 to FY2016, State Aid Estimates, and General Fund Revenue Sources. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on Budget Factors including school enrollment, salary changes, and increased headcount over the past five years. Ms. Fitzpatrick’s recommended budget proposal for Needham Public Schools is 6.1%\* over appropriated FY2015 budget (\*5.7% excluding cash capital transfer). Ms. Fitzpatrick talked about Balanced Budget Highlights, Budget Recommendations, Enterprise Fund Budgets, Financial Warrant Articles, and Reserves. She commented on the Memorial Park Building, noting it is prudent to save money over the next few years for a new building. She also reported on the one time contribution to the OPEB Trust. Ms. Fitzpatrick recapped the FY2016 budget saying Total General Fund Expenses total \$142,586,938, an increase of 6.4%. She asked for questions from the Board.

Mr. Borrelli said he strongly supports the Athletic Facility Stabilization Fund and saving for a new building at Memorial Park. He also commented on additional funds for the OPEB Trust. Mr. Borrelli said he is concerned with the 5.7% increase in school funding, and asked if there is a solution to avoid spikes in funding. He asked about the funding plan for a substance abuse coordinator.

Ms. Cooley commented on the solar consultant, and asked if it was included in the original Pro Forma.

Mr. Bulian agreed with setting aside money for the Memorial Park Building. He said the building is a “hidden jewel” in Town. He commented there must be a better way to plan for unknown SPED costs. Mr. Bulian also commented on police detail contingency money, and said there must be a way to plan for construction detail costs that may not be paid at the end of the project.

Mr. Handel said he continues to be impressed with the prudence of the budget.

Mr. Matthews commented on the school budget. He asked about the West Suburban Health Group and library state aid.

Ms. Cooley commented she supports the recommendation for a Management Fellow. She also commented on spikes in SPED funds, saying there used to be contingencies set aside, rather than actual tuition. She agreed with Mr. Bulian’s suggestion to look at options.

Mr. Bulian commented on the “Ten Year Look Back”, noting all of the projects total more than \$160,000,000. He said for the Town to undertake all of the capital projects in 10 years, and to maintain a stable debt level while in a period of historically low interest rates is astounding. He said all of the assets that have been rebuilt or renovated have improved the quality of life in Needham. He congratulated the Town Manager, Town Meeting, all the boards and committees, and voters involved in the decision process to bring the projects to fruition.

Mr. Bulian announced the next Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

7:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of January 28, 2015.**

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

**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=>**