

**Town Of Needham Board of Selectman
Minutes for October 28, 2008
Needham Town Hall**

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:

Russ Broad, Town Meeting Member, appeared before the Board requesting a response to his request that the Board initiate action on senior tax relief. He also requested that the Board do something to curb the number of police details.

Mr. Wasserman agreed that the Town needs to move forward on the issue of tax relief but stated that the solution needs to be the right one for the Town. Mr. Bulian agreed that something needs to be done on tax relief. He also stated that the Town Manager responded to Mr. Broad's question on police details and he agrees with her position.

Mr. Healy expressed his displeasure with Mr. Broad's approach to this issue. He stated that the Board has set up a committee to address the issue of tax relief and he is sorry that it has not come to a decision within Mr. Broad's timeframe. Mr. Healy stated that Mr. Wasserman is leading the committee and meeting with the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager to get ideas and input. Mr. Healy stated that he does not know enough about the police detail issue but will ask the Town Manager.

Ms. Garlick stated that the issue of tax relief is very complicated. She said she understands Mr. Broad's frustration but the Town must take time to reach the right decision.

Mr. Matthews stated that local tax relief is difficult because of constraints at the State level. He stated that Mr. Broad may be making the issue too simplistic and the Board is trying to do the right thing.

Roderick McLeod Sr. asked what the Board plans on doing with the petition he presented which had 138 signatures asking for tax relief. Mr.

Healy stated that Mr. Wasserman is working on identifying solutions.

Mr. Matthews stated that the Board's informal session is not an appropriate time to debate such a complicated matter.

7:00 p.m. Call To Order:

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman James Healy at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John Bulian, Daniel P. Matthews, Gerald Wasserman, James Healy, Denise Garlick, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearings - NSTAR:

Maureen Carroll, NSTAR representative, appeared before the Board to request the Board's approval on four petitions.

1. Public Hearing - NSTAR petition for Chestnut Street and School Street:

The Board addressed the petitions for Chestnut Street and School Street together because they were related to the same project. Roy Cramer, representing Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, stated that the petitions are important for the continued progress on the renovation project. Mr. Matthews asked Ms. Fitzpatrick if everything was in order. She stated that it was.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign petition from NSTAR to install approximately 40 feet of conduit at Manhole #26055 Chestnut Street, Needham and install approximately 142 feet of conduit @ Pole 55/9 School Street, Needham. The work is necessary to provide new underground electric service @ #148 Chestnut Street and School Street respectively.

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

2. Public Hearing - NSTAR Petition for Mayo Avenue: This petition is to install conduit on Mayo Avenue to provide underground electric service to 13 Mayo Avenue.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign petition from NSTAR to install

approximately 9 feet of conduit @ pole 22/3 Mayo Avenue, Needham. This work is necessary to provide new underground electric service @ 13 Mayo Avenue.

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

3. Public Hearing – NSTAR Petition for South Street:

This petition is to install conduit on South Street to provide underground electric service at South Street and Riverbend Lane. Mr. Healy stated that on June 20, 2008 he sold a home in that vicinity and therefore will abstain from the vote.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign petition from NSTAR to install approximately 3 feet of conduit @ Pole 12/79 South Street, Needham. This work is necessary to provide new underground electric service @ South Street from Riverbend Lane.

Second: Mr. Wasserman. Approved 4-0-1. Mr. Healy abstained from the vote.

7:10 p.m. Dick Burgio, Verizon Representative, appeared before the Board seeking approval for two projects.

1. Verizon Petition for Pole Relocation – Chestnut Street (4) & High Rock Street (1):

This request is for permission to relocate multiple poles and a guy pole on Chestnut Street and High Rock Street. The work is at the request of the Town Engineering Department. Mr. Healy stated that he would abstain from the vote because in June he sold a property at 767 South Street.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign order for joint pole replacement from Verizon to relocate multiple poles and a guy pole as detailed on Plan #D08-46, plans 1 through 4 for Chestnut Street and High Rock Street. This work is per the request of the Town of Needham's Engineering Department.
Second: Mr. Wasserman. Approved 4-0-1. Mr. Healy abstained

Mr. Healy asked Mr. Burgio to make every effort to move the wires along Webster Street. He

stated that the Town has been trying to get this completed for over a year. He stated that he assured the neighborhood that it would be done before the end of fall.

2. Verizon Petition for New Pole – School Street: This request is to place a pole on the northerly side of School Street to provide underground service to School Street. Ms. Garlick stated that she would not vote for the petition because Verizon continues to fail to meet its obligations to the Town relative to Webster Street.

Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign the petition from Verizon to place a new pole on the Northerly side 80" easterly from existing Pole 55/10 and Westerly 75" from existing Pole 37/6. This work is at the request of NSTAR to provide new underground service on School Street. Second: Mr. Bulian. Approved 4-1. Ms. Garlick vote nay.

7:20 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

1. Liz Brown Human Rights Committee 6/30/09

CONSENT AGENDA *=Backup attached

1. Approve request from the Needham Business Association to hold Annual Blue Tree Ceremony on Saturday, November 29 at 4:30 p.m. in Avery Square and Blue Tree festivities at the Town Common at 5:00 p.m.
2. Approve request from the Needham Business Association to have "meter-free" parking in Needham Center and Needham Heights on Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- 3.* Approve One Day Special Wine and Malt Beverage License by Liz O'Connell for St. Joseph Parish to hold a Christmas Bazaar event to be held St. Joseph Parish, 1382

Highland Avenue, November 22, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
4.* Approve minutes of October 14, 2008 and October 22, 2008.

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

7:20 p.m. Wall That Heals:

Mr. Bulian reminded everyone that the Wall That Heals is at Memorial Park from October 30 through November 2, 2008. He stated that many activities are taking place over the weekend and encouraged participation of residents.

7:25 p.m. Recognition of Active Duty Military Service:

The Board recognized Needham Police Officer Karl Johnson who recently completed his second tour of duty for the U.S. Army in Iraq. Mr. Healy thanked Mr. Johnson for his service and stated that Mr. Johnson is an exemplary figure for all in Town. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that Officer Johnson has been an employee of the Town for many years and the Town is glad he's back. Officer Johnson explained his role while in Iraq and thanked all who sent cards, gifts, and well wishes while he was away. He stated that positive things are happening in Iraq that may people don't hear about.

7:30 p.m. Trails Master Plan:

Kristen Phelps, Conservation officer, and Lisa Standley, Conservation Commission Chair, requested the Board endorse the recently completed Trails Master Plan. Ms. Garlick had to leave for another engagement but stated that she read the master plan and appreciated all the work and effort that went into it. Ms. Standley provided an overview of the project which identifies existing trails and areas where work is needed. She stated that the plan is a five year plan. Mr. Healy asked if the trail marker project is part of the master plan. Ms. Standley stated that it is. Mr. Matthews raised the issue of identifying all the public easements within private properties and how these easements should be known to the public. Ms. Standley stated that some are identified in the plan but

there are many that are not. She stated that it would be a difficult project to identify all the easements because they are imbedded in individual property deeds. Mr. Matthews suggested the Committee look into hiring an intern to perform the review.

Mr. Wasserman asked how the Town plans on promoting the trails. Ms. Standley stated that outreach materials are being developed.

Mr. Healy thanked Ms. Standley in advance for the Conservation Commission's expedited review of the Public Services Administration Building project. He also informed her of the Board's intent to begin to identify uses for the former Nike Missile site. He stated that the Board would like input from the Conservation Commission and Park and Recreation Commission on this issue.

7:50 p.m. Town Manager Report:

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided the Board with a brief update on some of the capital projects within Town. She stated that the Public Services Administration Building project is going before the Conservation Commission and then the Planning Board for approvals. The goal is to have a construction bid on the street in December. She stated that the DPW is doing a lot of site preparation work. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she is also working on a plan for the location of various Town departments and she is meeting with Kalsow with regard to starting the design work for Town Hall.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that she will be meeting with the School Superintendent on developing a timeline and process for addressing the issues at the Newman School.

Ms. Fitzpatrick informed the Board that Town employees have raised almost \$2,000 in support of a heating fund for needy families in Town. The Board was very appreciative of the efforts of Town employees.

7:55 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Question 1/ Repeal of the Income Tax;
Mr. Healy read a resolution that the Board previously approved which encourages a no vote on Question 1. Mr. Wasserman stated that the impact of no income taxes could result in 70% reduction in some program areas. He also stated that suburban communities would likely lose all state aid. The Board agreed that the impact would result in increased property tax. Mr. Matthews stated that the state is headed for some tough times. Mr. Healy stated that a large reduction in state assistance over an extended period of time would severely impact the Town.
2. Mr. Healy expressed support for the upcoming override to fund the operating expenses at the recently renovated High Rock School. He stated that the Town is in need of more seats for middle school children and it would be illogical not to open the building after the Town has spent \$20 million renovating it. Mr. Wasserman agreed with the issue of overcrowding in the middle school and strongly supports the passage of the operating override. Mr. Bulian and Mr. Matthews expressed their support for the override.

8:25p.m. Adjourn
Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the October 28, 2008 meeting.
Second: Mr. Matthews. Unanimously approved 4-0.