

**Town Of Needham Board of Selectman  
Minutes for January 27, 2009  
Needham Town Library**

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:

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, Denise Garlick, James Healy, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - NSTAR Petition for Dedham Avenue: Maureen Carroll, NSTAR Representative, requested the Board's permission for NSTAR to install conduit on Dedham Avenue to provide underground electric service.

**Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign petition from NSTAR to install approximately 8 feet of conduit @ Pole 15/8 Dedham Avenue, Needham in order to provide new underground electric service @ #98 Dedham Avenue, Needham.**

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

7:05 p.m. Mr. Healy read a letter from the Mayor of Leominster thanking the Town for its help after the recent ice storm. The Town sent several crews to help the City with cleanup activities over the course of two days.

7:05 p.m. Introduce New RTS Superintendent - Mario Araya Richard Merson, DPW Director, introduced the new RTS Superintendent, Mario Araya, to the Board. Mr. Merson stated that Mr. Araya has experience in the scrap metal industry and came highly recommended. The Board welcomed Mr. Araya.

7:10 p.m. Snow & Ice Program Update:

Mr. Merson and Rhainhardt Hoyland, Highway Superintendent, provided the Board with an update on the Town's Snow & Ice Program. Mr. Merson stated that nearly 50 inches of snow has fallen thus far which is equal to the average snow fall in a year. He also stated that the Town has spent more than

normal on snow removal this year because many of the snow events have happened on the weekend resulting in overtime charges. Mr. Healy asked Mr. Merson to outline the normal procedures during a snow event. Mr. Merson proceeded to outline the DPW's approach toward dealing with snow removal including weather forecasting, equipment, contractor support, coordination with other town departments and how the DPW works to plow all roads within 24 hours of an event. He stated that the town has supervisors monitoring the work on an ongoing basis. Mr. Merson stated that the Town does not have as much heavy equipment on the job as in past years and the Town's salt shed is undersized. Mr. Hoyland stated that the DPW is looking to test liquid road applications in place of salt because they work quicker. Mr. Wasserman stated that he received a lot of phone calls after the first storm. Mr. Merson stated that the first storm was a three day event over a weekend, which caused a depletion of the town's salt inventory. The Board discussed with Mr. Merson the liquid application alternatives to salt and sand. Mr. Wasserman asked when the DPW typically starts plowing. Mr. Merson stated that generally the first plowing starts after 2-3" have fallen, which is typical for most towns. Mr. Wasserman asked if the DPW was having any problems finding contractors. Mr. Merson said it has not been too bad but most of the contractors have only small equipment which limits their utility. Ms. Garlick asked how the DPW determines which roads to salt. Mr. Hoyland provided the criteria used, which includes school routes, connector routes and inclines. Mr. Healy asked how much has been spent on snow removal this year. Mr. Merson stated that he estimates that nearly \$800,000 has been spent to date.

7:40 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. Council on Aging Risa Greendlinger (term expiration 6/30/2011)**

2. Design Review Board Richard J. (Chad) Reilly  
(term expiration 6/30/2011)

CONSENT AGENDA \*=Backup attached

- 1.\* Approve one day special Wine & Malt license application received from Michael Fraini, for a Seminary Support Superbowl Party to benefit St. John's Seminary in Brighton. The event will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2009 from 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Needham Knights of Columbus, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492.
- 2.\* Approve one day special Wine & Malt license application received from Robert T. Timmerman, II, for the 15th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance to benefit St. Joseph Parish Schools. The event will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Needham Knights of Columbus, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492.
- 3.\* Approve one day special Wine & Malt license application received from Robert T. Timmerman, II, for a Valentine's Dinner Dance and conduct a collection of non-perishable foods and items that will be donated to the Needham Community Council. The event will be held on Friday, February 13, 2009 from 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. at the Needham Knights of Columbus, 1211 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02492.
- 4.\* Due to a recent resignation of a Town Meeting Member in Precinct C, per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 10, approve request from the Town Clerk to place the following position on the ballot for the Annual Town Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2009, "Precinct C TOWN MEETING MEMBER for One Year, Vote for ONE".
- 5.\* Approve application for a one-day special wine and malt license from Needham High School's Athletic Booster Club to hold their 5th Annual Valentine's Day Dance. This event will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2008 from 7:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. at the Village Club, 83 Morton Street, Needham, MA 02494.

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

7:40 p.m. Town Manager

1. Fiscal Year 2010 Balanced Budget Presentation:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick and David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director, provided the Board with a draft balanced budget proposal for FY2010. Ms. Fitzpatrick provided a presentation showing the Town's budget from FY2003 to FY2010. She reviewed some of the major budget impacts over the past seven years that have helped better prepare the Town financially for the current economic downturn. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that there continues to be a growing demand for school services with enrollment growing nearly 11% over those seven years, and the Town's senior population has also been growing.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Town expects to see up to a 10% cut in state aid in FY2010. Despite this Ms. Fitzpatrick said the Town should be in fairly good shape. One important cost saving has been the reduction in fuel prices and the increased energy efficiency through modernization of equipment. She highlighted the Town's switch over to high pressure sodium lighting for all streetlights, which are significantly more energy efficient than existing lights. Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the projected revenue estimates from local receipts, tax levy and state aid stating that the decreased reliance on state aid by the Town over the past several years puts it in better condition to weather the expected state budget cuts. The Board expressed support for the Town Manager's efforts at controlling costs and discussed the possibility that FY2011 might be an even tougher year.

2. Fiscal Year 2010 - 2014 CIP & Debt Schedules:  
Mr. Davison provided the Board with updated debt schedules for the 2010-2014 CIP. Mr. Healy stated that the schedules appear to allow for funding for a senior center. Mr. Healy stated that the Town's efforts to keep its debt percentages under control and maintain its Triple A rating is a great benefit to the Town during these tough economic times.
3. Accept and Refer Zoning Amendments:  
Ms. Fitzpatrick requested the Board accept and

refer proposed zoning amendments to the Planning Board for review, public hearing and report. This is a standard operating procedure and does not signify the Board's support of any particular amendments. **Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to initiate the process of amending the following Zoning By-Laws: (1) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Needham Center Overlay District; (2) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Lower Chestnut Street Overlay District; (3) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Garden Street Overlay District; (4) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Map Change to Needham Center Overlay District; (5) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Map Changes to Lower Chestnut Street Overlay District; (6) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Map Changes to Garden Street Overlay District; (7) Amend Zoning Bylaw; Dimensional Regulations (Limited Exception to Lot Coverage Regulations By Special Permit); and (8) Amend Zoning Bylaw: Accessory Uses for referral to the Planning Board for review, public hearing and report.**

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

8:50 p.m. Mr. Healy stated that he would like to set a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the Town's debt management policies.

Mr. Healy also stated that although the synthetic turf fields require less maintenance than natural fields there are still maintenance issues. Mr. Bulian suggested that the Town should also be mindful of future replacement costs.

8:55 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Senior Center Exploratory Committee:  
Ms. Garlick provided the Board with an update on the progress of the Committee. She stated that the Committee has begun to investigate sites and space needs. She stated that the Committee is interested in engaging as many residents in the process as possible and would be happy to send interested residents meeting invites or minutes. Ms. Garlick said the Committee is planning on surveying residents through the Exchange Committee's Phone Directory Distribution to get input from residents. Mr. Healy stated that he is very excited about the work of the Committee and the success of the

project requires getting buy-in from the community.

9:00 p.m. Executive Session:

**Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session to:**

**Exception 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, or to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel.**

**Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.**

**Second: Mr. Matthews. Mr. Healy polled the Board members. Unanimously approved 5-0.**

**(The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.)**