

**BOARD OF SELECTMAN SPECIAL MEETING- May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 11:15 am

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

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These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, D. Masters, J. Plock  
Absent: B. Manners

**Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Agenda**

1. Status of the Police Department Expansion
2. Streetlights
3. Executive Session: Bennetts Pond Litigation

R. Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

**R. Marconi moved and J. Plock seconded a motion to change the order of today's agenda and hold the Executive Session first, followed by the Police Department Expansion status discussion. Motion carried 4-0.**

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to go to Executive Session to discuss Bennetts Pond litigation at 11:21 am. Dave Grogins and Stewart Edelstein of Cohen and Wolf; Betty Brosius, Planning & Zoning Director; and Becky Mucchetti and John Katz of the Planning & Zoning Commission were asked to attend. Motion carried 4-0.**

The Board exited Executive Session at 12 pm.

2. Status of the Police Department Expansion

R. Marconi began the discussion of the status of the police department expansion project and called Chief Ligi, Major John Roche, Architects Rick Zini and Peter Coffin, George Kane, and Carl Lecher to the table. D. Masters asked what the consequences of stopping the plans now were, and P. Coffin said cost.

D. Masters mentioned the possibility of a change in building codes in the next five years if the plans were put on hold. R. Zini said that before starting to build, whether it is now or in five years, the codes have to be cross-checked with the plans.

P. Coffin addressed the cost to finish the drawings, and stated that it is likely that the cost to finish the plans will increase as time goes by. R. Marconi suggested that the town pay to complete the drawings now and “put them on the shelf,” so if the town wants to re-address the project in a few years, less review will be required when that time comes. Chief Ligi agreed that the plans should be completed, stating that the plans will be there in 18 or 36 months.

A. Bodner mentioned that the community does not approve of the expansion of the police department, and that the people voting do not understand the need to expand the building or the number of police officers. J. Plock added that the people approved the money needed to complete the plans, just not to go through with the construction of the plans.

A. Bodner said he thinks we should hold off on paying the approximately \$21,000 now that it would cost to complete the plans, and just pay the approximately \$40,000 later if the project gains different popularity.

J. Plock inquired if only portions of the designs could be used in the future, rather than mandating that all of the design be approved. R. Zini and P. Coffin both advised that it would be difficult and time-consuming to make those adjustments to the plans and would not be worth the effort.

R. Marconi said the town should go ahead with completing the plans and then just put them on the shelf completed. D. Masters agreed with completing the plans now.

### 3. Streetlights

Chief Ligi brought up the previously discussed plans of eliminating every other street light except at intersections. He agreed with this plan, but also suggested that streetlights be kept at pedestrian cross-walks as well as intersections.

R. Marconi introduced the plan to switch the current LED light bulbs to metal halide bulbs. The company will remove every other light bulb without charge if we switch to the metal halide bulbs, so this plan would be cost effective.

A. Bodner inquired why we aren't switching to the LED bulbs, and R. Marconi said that the LED bulbs for streetlamps have not been perfected and are therefore not available. A. Bodner suggested we wait until the LED light bulbs are available, but R. Marconi said that there would be no savings.

R. Marconi provided the information that approximately \$12,500 would be saved through the proposed streetlight modification; a 14.5% reduction.

J. Katz voiced opinions from the audience. He advocated the phenomenal savings that shutting off more than every other light would entail. He thinks that streetlights outside of major intersections should all be shut off.

C. Fisher discussed shutting off some of the lights at Yanity Gym manually, and installing mechanisms to shut them off manually.

Chief Ligi brought up safety reduction and vandalism as consequences of shutting off some of the lights. He inquired how the plans would be drawn up determining what lights would be shut off. He asked if there would be a map drawn out that indicated the location of each streetlight.

**J. Plock moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Special Meeting at 12:45 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie van de Weghe, senior intern