

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2002 7:30 pm
TOWN HALL LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM

APPROVED MINUTES

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

In attendance: Rudy Marconi, Barbara Manners, Joan Plock, Peter Yanity, Stephen Zemo

Agenda

1. Project Manager's Report
 2. Contract renewal discussion, Project Manager
 3. Affordable Housing Plan Discussion
 4. Lake Mamasasco ordinance revision
 5. ROAR Canine Shelter lease
 6. First Selectman's Report
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First Selectman Marconi called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

1. Mr. Marconi reported that the Building Committee Chairs, committee members, Nels Berg, construction managers, himself, Peter Yanity and Joan Plock attended the Board of Finance meeting last night to discuss the various school and Parks & Rec building projects. Everyone felt the meeting was productive with misunderstandings clarified and questions answered. Bruce Turbacuski, O&G Construction Manager explained the O&G monthly report.

The Board of Finance is looking for a cash flow report, and although not his responsibility, Mr. Berg volunteered to work on one. Mr. Marconi feels it should be a Finance Department responsibility, and he will meet with Mr. Wahlberg to establish format, time schedule, etc.

2. Nels Berg's one-year contract with the Town of Ridgefield as Project Manager expires in October 14, 2002. In discussion, it was felt that hiring Mr. Berg was the best thing the board could have done, and that the Town is being well served by that decision. His knowledge is priceless, and we couldn't do it without him. Dr. Yanity, serving on the P&Rec Building Committee, pointed out the positive contribution Mr. Berg has made to the building project since he started. **Barbara Manners moved to approve the renewal of Nels Berg's contract with unanimity and acclaim for the job he's done. The motion was seconded by Dr. Yanity, and passed 5-0-0.**

3. The discussion of the Affordable Housing Plan was tabled until all the information is ready to present.

4. Michael Violante of 33 Craigmoor Drive South and President of the MLIF (Mamasasco Lake Improvement Fund) was present to provide rationale for the proposed revision to the ordinance. The current ordinance only allows electric motors and canoes on the lake. However, there are no restrictions or provisions for when the lake is frozen. There have been several incidents where skimobiles were running on the lake in winter—causing both noisy and dangerous conditions. The police need specificity in language regarding its frozen state in order to stop skimobiles on the lake.

Asked about the ownership of the lake, Mr. Violante stated that research has not turned up a specific owner. The State, in its stewardship, takes responsibility for the lake but asks the Town to manage it. There is a partnership with the DEP as it test the water and maintains the board launch site. The MLIF maintains the health of the lake.

On a motion by Dr. Yanity, seconded by Ms. Manners and carrying unanimously, the public hearing on the ordinance change was set for September 25, 2002.

5. The discussion for the canine shelter lease with R.O.A.R. was tabled until additional information can be obtained.

6. Selectman's Report:

- a. Mr. Marconi reported on the HVCEO (Housatonic Valley Committee of Elected Officials) meeting's discussion on possible casino in the Danbury area. Mr. Marconi has organized a citizen's group meeting for Saturday, August 24, 2002, at 9 AM in Town Hall to discuss the problem and possible strategies.
- b. September 11th One Year Remembrance/Observance: Mr. Marconi met with the Clergy Association to discuss plans. There are tentative plans to hold a ceremony in Ballard Park at 7:30 in the evening.
- c. The Secretary of the State's Office is planning a recognition for volunteers on September 18th and has invited each Town to submit ten names for consideration. It is similar to last year's recognition of citizens who have served on committees and commission for more than 25 years. Mr. Marconi asked the Selectmen to think about volunteers to nominate and let him know. A youth volunteerism award is also included.
- d. At a previous meeting, Mr. Marconi read a letter from Mr. And Mrs. Boyle concerning property taxes. They suggested helping seniors with their tax bill by freezing the school portion of the tax. Mr. Marconi read a memo from Al Garzi, Tax Assessor that, in part, said ...
- e. McKeon property: Mr. Marconi reported that there were no bids on the two parcels that were offered on the McKeon property. The feeling is that \$650,000 is too steep. Discussion is leaning town lowering to \$575,000 due to a generous individual donation of \$150,000.
Mr. Zemo would like to pursue the idea of soliciting 20 people to contribute \$5000 for 10 years—thus giving people a tax write-off while raising the funds to preserve McKeon.
ROSA is continuing to sell tickets to raffle the Bentley for the Town--also raising money for the McKeon property. Nine hundred tickets have been sold so far, with a mass mailing just sent to homes.
- f. Mr. Marconi reported that the Ridgefield Lake Association is interested in forming a tax district.

With no further business before them, Ms. Manners moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Zemo seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina A. Hazel