

Town Board Minutes June 18, 2008

Present: Supervisor William A. Eagan, Councilman Richard K. Hawkins and Councilwomen Cathleen M. Dobson and Cathy A. Maghran.

Excused: Councilman James E. Pluta

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Telaak, Town Attorney Downey and Code Enforcement Officer Ferguson.

Reverend James Laun, Churchill Memorial United Methodist Church opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to appoint Joyce Jensen as Part time Assistant Nutrition Director, term to expire 12/31/08.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilwoman Dobson to appoint Karla Mead to the Boston Emergency Squad term will continue until such time as resignation, removal or replacement.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to amend the North Boston Fire Company's request for Use of Facility to include the use of the Town Hall Kitchen and Community Room for July 11, 12, and 13, 2008 with the stipulation that the pool table area will be sectioned off and will not be available for use.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilman Hawkins authorizing the 2008 Agreement to spend Town Highway Funds.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to approve the minutes of 6/04/08 meeting.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins, upon review by the Town Board, that fund bills on the Abstract dated June 12, 2008 in the amount of \$47,385.58 be paid.

four (4) Ayes Carried

Received and filed a resolution from the Town of Tonawanda in regards to fair and equitable assessment practices for condominiums.

Received and filed a resolution from the Town of Newstead in regards to General Municipal Law 239-n.

Supervisor Eagan stated that Town Attorney Downey will be preparing similar resolutions that will be voted upon at the next Town Board meeting.

Received and filed a letter from the Buffalo Bicycling Club, Inc. stating that they will be hosting the NYS Road Race Bicycle Championships on Sunday, July 20, 2008.

Carl Borowicz, Liebler Road inquired about the policy for the Volunteer Fire Departments filling swimming pools on private property.

Supervisor Eagan stated that this was outside of the Town of Boston's jurisdiction and should be a question for the Erie County Water Authority. He noted that all the fire companies in town are separate entities and suggested that Mr. Borowicz contact Pete Lindner, President of the Patchin Fire Company.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilwoman Maghran to approve the Use of Facility Application for Martin White for 6/28/08 & 7/5/08.

four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins upon the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals to appoint Patrick Penrod as an alternate member term to expire 12/31/08.

four (4) Ayes Carried

Received correspondence from Recreation Director Vara requesting appointments to the Summer Recreation program.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilwoman Dobson on the recommendation of Recreation Director Vara, to appoint the following to the Summer Recreation Program, terms to expire 8/15/08:

Name	Position	Hourly Rate
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Andrew Skinner	Sub Counselor	\$7.15
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Anna Nemmer	EMT/AHA/BLS	\$8.00
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four (4) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to refer Dave Ruzzine's request for appointment to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.

four (4) Ayes

Supervisor Eagan noted that Boston Valley Elementary School Principal Eric Pearlstein is requesting support from the Town of Boston towards the purchase of therapeutic playground equipment for the Boston Valley Community playground.

Councilwoman Maghran noted that as the school nurse of Boston Valley Elementary, she wanted to remind the Town Board that all the money raised for this playground has been community raised funds and grants. She noted that the autistic population is growing and Boston is the Hamburg School District's facility for autistic based students most of whom are Boston Residents.

Supervisor Eagan noted that this playground not only serves the community, but also is an added asset to our summer recreation program. An outdoor pavilion has also been put in with tables. He stated it is a great idea to expand the playground to allow all children to access that facility.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to make a contribution of \$3,000 towards the purchase of therapeutic playground equipment for the Boston Valley Community Playground.

four (4) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Eagan stated that at the Zoning Board of Appeals at their meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2008 voted to change their scheduled July 3rd meeting date to July 10th due to the Independence Day holiday.

Received and filed monthly reports from the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Tax Receiver, Code Enforcement Officers and Dog Control Officer.

Supervisor Eagan: I would just like to make a point. Every time we have a public hearing regarding our Town Budget, there are always a few people that either come here or are down at the restaurants and are talking about all the revenue that is brought into this community and how we should use some of this additional revenue. I just want to point out that we collect about \$184,000 in General Fund property taxes, but our overall budget is approximately 4 million dollars. So, a lot of the additional monies come from State aid, mortgage tax, and sales tax, which fluctuates. Because of that fluctuation, we never have the assuredness that it will be replaced. A few years ago, I believe Holland and Concord got into some financial trouble because they exhausted their surplus funds and had nothing to balance their budget with; therefore, they had to raise their taxes considerably.

Supervisor Eagan Cont'd: Since I have become supervisor, we have used a professional and conscientious approach to managing our finances. I have always opposed to using an excess amount of this surplus for every day, reoccurring expenses. We've primarily used it for offsetting our obligations for grant monies. We get a \$50,000 grant; we have a \$50,000 match. That is how we were able to complete a \$200,000 project in bank stabilization along Irish Gulf. This is how we were able to meet some of the cost along 18-mile creek with some of the projects we have going. We collected over \$190,000 in sales tax last year, to date; we have only recently received \$61,000. Home sales have slowed. Boston has always been a very healthy community and we are growing here, I wouldn't say at a fast pace, but our market and values are still up, but they are slowing down. My projection is that when the next check comes in around November, December, we are not going to see \$61,000. There are houses on the market right now that just aren't moving. My point is, when these people on the street, church or coffee shop talk about excessive funds, any funds we have are in reserve for meeting grants. This will help pay for the archeological study we didn't expect. I will bring this up again, because I am putting together a review of the last five or six years of our other sources of revenue to show the public how much it fluctuates and to substantiate my position that you can not use this to bank roll the expenses of the community. It is disastrous to do it in the long run. Kevin Gaughan would probably agree with me that it would be a real act of irresponsibility to just continue to use reserve funds to pay everyday expenses without the ability of knowing that money can be replaced.

Highway Superintendent Telaak asked the Town Board for permission to advertise for a new street sweeper. The towns of Collins, Concord, Eden, Colden and Boston have applied and received a Shared Municipal Grant. This grant will cover approximately 90 percent of the cost.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and was seconded by Councilman Hawkins to direct Town Clerk Shenk to schedule the bid opening for one (1) 2007 or Newer Vacuum Street Sweeper with Single Gutter Broom (New or Low Use Demo)for July 8th at 10 a.m.

four (4) Ayes Carried

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that the parks employees will be installing the mulch underneath the playground this week, weather permitting.

Councilwoman Dobson thanked all the volunteers that helped with the construction of the new playground. She stated that all the fire companies were represented everyone worked diligently to get the project done. The work started at 7 a.m. and continued until 10 p.m. The old equipment was painted by Eden Central Student volunteers. There was one faulty piece of equipment and should be delivered soon.

Supervisor Eagan thanked Kevin Gaughan for his presentation before the Town Board Meeting on government reform. He stated that Kevin Gaughan brings many issues to the forefront that he agrees with. Supervisor Eagan applauds Mr. Gaughan for his efforts. He noted that Mr. Gaughan was always welcome in the Town of Boston.

A motion was made by Supervisor Eagan and seconded by Councilwoman Dobson to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

four (4) Ayes Carried

JENNIFER A. MULE, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK