

## Town Board Minutes March 21, 2012

Present: Supervisor Martin A. Ballowe, Councilmen Jeffrey A. Genzel, Jay P. Boardway, Lawrence A. Murtha and Gary E. Vara

Also Present: Highway Superintendent Telaak, Town Attorney Kobiolka.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and seconded by Councilman Murtha to table the minutes of the March 7, 2012 regular meeting.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Murtha and seconded by Supervisor Ballowe, upon review by the Town Board, that fund bills on the Abstract dated March 16, 2012 in the amount of \$419,730.77 be paid.

five (5) Ayes Carried

Supervisor Ballowe noted that the funds bills are high due to having made the first annual payments to the three fire companies.

A motion was made by Councilman Murtha and was seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to amend the Town Clerk's office hours for the week of April 9 - 13 will be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and was seconded by Councilman Boardway to appoint Jennifer A. Mulé as Registrar of Vital Statistics and Elizabeth A. Martin as Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and was seconded by Councilman Boardway to correct the following Board terms:

Conservation Advisory Council ? Michael Monin from 3/1/13 to 3/1/14

Conservation Advisory Council ? Sharon Stuart from 3/1/12 to 3/1/15

Planning Board ? Jennifer Lucachik from 12/31/17 to 2/1/17

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Vara and was seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to appoint Donald Buckley as Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council for 2012.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Genzel and was seconded by Councilman Murtha to appoint Paul Ziarnowski as a Regular Member of the Planning Board term to expire 2/1/2016.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Vara and was seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to refer the request for appointment to the Planning Board from David Bowen and Richard Skinner for review and recommendation with the stipulation that Rick Skinner sign his letter of request by Friday, March 23, 2012.

Supervisor Ballowe Aye      Councilman Boardway      Nay  
Councilman Genzel    Aye    Councilman Murtha    Aye  
Councilman Vara      Aye

four (4) Ayes (1) Opposed Carried

Councilman Boardway stated that with respect to the application for Richard Skinner, it is an exercise of futility because the Planning Board already made a recommendation and the Town Board had already failed to reappoint him and feels it is a waste of everyone's time.

Councilman Vara stated that the Planning Board had previously recommended him.

Councilman Boardway noted that the Town Board had appointed someone else.

Councilman Vara stated that this is now a request as an alternate.

Supervisor Ballowe stated that is why it is sent back to the Planning Board.

Councilman Murtha noted that there are openings.

Councilman Vara stated that Rick had served on the Planning Board for about five years and is obviously qualified.

Town Attorney Kobiolka noted that a request to use the Community Room for a private party has not been received and in the past this room has not been approved for that kind of use. He suggested that the Town Board table this request so that he can review the Use of Facility Resolution for clarification.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and was seconded by Councilman Boardway to table the Application for Use of Facility from Paula Litwin until Town Attorney Kobiolka can review the Use of Facility Resolution for clarification.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and was seconded by Councilman Genzel to approve the Application for Use of Facility from Peter & Elizabeth Liddon for June 23, 2012 beginning at 1 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and was seconded by Supervisor Ballowe to approve the Application for Use of Facility from Boy Scout Troop 491 for June 14, 2012 beginning at 3 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Councilman Boardway and seconded by Councilman Murtha to approve the Application for Use of Facility from Boston Youth Baseball for the season starting May 19, 2012 and ending approximately July 31, 2012.

five (5) Ayes Carried

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and was seconded by Councilman Boardway to schedule a public hearing for April 4, 2012 at 7:40 p.m. to hear comments regarding the granting of a franchise to Donald Rachwal residing at 5474 Keller Road, Boston, NY to mow, trim and/or cultivate the vacant land owned by the Town of Boston at 8555 Boston State Road, SBL# 227.00-5-57.11 for the term of April 4, 2012 to October 30, 2012

five (5) Ayes Carried

Received and filed monthly reports from the Town Clerk and Assessor.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that the 2011 Annual Financial Report was submitted to the State Comptroller's office last week. It is available to view in the Town Clerk's office.

In the General Fund total revenues increased by over \$117,000, which was due mainly to increased sales tax, mortgage tax and recreation income. Our recreation department realized more income due to the increased programs that our director, Bonnie Clesse made available. We utilized Recreation reserves in part to complete our refurbished recreation building, which was enjoyed by the children this past summer. We are able to keep our taxes stable by utilizing designated reserves to fund the capital project. The reserves not only come from that but from other cost savings implemented from every budget in town.

Supervisor Ballowe cont'd: In the Highway Fund, expenses were lowered from 2010 levels. This was due to less over-time and lower debt. When Highway Superintendent Telaak took over, the department was \$800,000 in debt. Today, the highway department is debt free

We recently received a very high 'A1' rating from Moody's Investor's due to our disciplined financial approach. This is the highest rating for our town's size possible. Due to this fact, we secured a 3.43% 22-year long-term refinanced loan for the Trooper Barracks building. We owed \$1,300,000.00. We paid down approximately \$300,000 which brought it down to a \$1,000,000 loan which we refinanced for 22 years. We are estimating that in that 22 years the Town of Boston will make a little over \$500,000 profit in rent. Now some of that rent goes back into maintaining that building. Using a small amount of excess reserves to pay down some of the principle, the town will save several hundred thousand dollars in interest. In addition, the town will be ahead from the rental income received from the State over what is owed on the loan.

Making good choices in government allows officials to make your town a great and affordable place to live and bring up your family.

Supervisor Ballowe stated we should be starting on our NYSERDA grant and changing all the lighting in the buildings, exit signs, etc. He had the opportunity to talk with Town Engineer Hannon about the Mill Street drainage project. Phase one will be from Eighteen Mile Creek to Boston State Road and hopefully Phase 2 will begin next year to relieve all the water on Boston Cross Road.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that he kept the Parks employees working during the winter instead of laying them off. We found out that the town pays them their first 6 months of unemployment which raises our unemployment insurance. The difference between the two is about \$100. They finished odd projects which otherwise would have been contracted out. The Recreation Center,

the Emergency Squad and the Community Room were painted. The floors were pressure washed in the Emergency Squad among other things.

Parks Superintendent Telaak noted that every road that the town owns has been swept. They started working on the drainage project on Liebler Road. Brush pick up begins on April 1. There are wood chips, firewood and fill still available.

Highway Superintendent Telaak noted that leaf pick up has ended. If you have leaves, bag them and call his office for pick up.

Councilman Murtha noted that he has a meeting with Legislator Mills regarding flooding at the intersection of Boston State Road and Zimmerman Roads.

Councilman Murtha is looking into speed limit reduction signs for Patchin and Kevinton Roads.

Councilman Genzel as Engineering Liaison spoke with Town Engineer Hannon regarding the filling and flushing process of the Cole Road, Water No. 3, ext. #1 project. Water line connections have also begun. Restoration will begin once all the digging is finished.

Councilman Genzel noted they hope to see some relief for the Boston Cross Drainage relief project hope to see some construction this fall. We also would like to apply for the Portion 2 for the next block grant.

Councilman Genzel as Planning Board Liaison noted that the Planning Board held a work session discussing the Comprehensive Plan. There will not be a meeting held but a work session on 3/27/12.

Councilman Genzel as Boston Community Foundation Liaison requested donations for the 4th of July celebration this year and has started receiving some. He also will request the boy scouts do a flag burning ceremony to help residents that may need to dispose of flags.

Councilman Genzel noted that he will be attending an Equal Housing Opportunity training which is required to receive block grants.

Councilman Boardway as Recreation Liaison met with Recreation Director Clesse to finalize the Summer Recreation program. This year there will be a Recreation Intern working with Recreation Director Clesse. This is a non-paid position.

Councilman Boardway noted that the concert series will be on Tuesday evenings again, and there are still some sponsorship opportunities available. There will be an ice cream social again this year, date to be determined.

Councilman Boardway noted that ski season officially ended and Friday Night Recreation has two more weeks.

Councilman Boardway noted that he and Supervisor Ballowe met with the Chief of Boston Fire Company and he met with three members of their building committee this past Monday evening. The group presented everything he believes they need to get their permit approved; the only thing missing is the actual deed clearing up the easement issue.

Councilman Boardway spoke with an unhappy resident on Sherwood about tree trimming. He explained to her that the Town of Boston maintains the right-of-ways and the Highway Department has the right and obligation to trim any trees along the town's right-of-way that have been deemed a hazard. A hazard can be in respect to sight lines for school buses or fire apparatus.

Councilman Vara noted the Boston Young at Heart senior group is planning a Kentucky Derby Day. Barbara Moore and Lisa Rood will be speaking on the subject of training and raising horses.

Councilman Vara noted that annual fishing derby will be held May 12. The Conservation Advisory Council is looking for sponsors and/or donations. On March 27th at 1p.m. there will be a trout release in the 18-mile Creek.

Councilman Vara noted that Hawk Creek will be holding its Earth Day on April 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Councilman Vara noted there is a tree service company that is in Springville dealing with the Ash Borer Beetle problem. He inquired if the Town of Boston can investigate Ash trees in Boston to determine if there is an issue here.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that there is extensive information on the D.E.C. website. He also noted that most ash borers are on private property.

Councilman Vara noted that he attended the North East Southtown's Solid Waste Management meeting. There will be a Hazardous Waste pick up at Erie Community College on June 16th. There will also be a drug collection event on April 28th. Some of the drop off sites will be West Herr, The Mac Center, Bertrand Chafee Hospital, and Botanical Gardens.

Supervisor Ballowe noted that Waste Management had promised the Town of Boston solar powered compactors for the parks and asked Councilman Vara to contact the representative to find out the status.

A motion was made by Supervisor Ballowe and seconded by Councilman Boardway to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

five (5) Ayes Carried

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JENNIFER A. MULÉ, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK