



TOWN OF MENDON

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

20 Main Street

Mendon, Massachusetts 01756

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MEETING MINUTESOCTOBER 6, 2004
APPROVED: NOVEMBER 3, 2004

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Dennis Shaheen, attended by Selectmen Ken O'Brien & Sharon Cutler.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Board recites the Pledge.

2. Warrants

Board signed warrants.

3. Minutes

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 8, 2004 meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 8, 2004 Executive Session meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 20, 2004 meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 20, 2004 Executive Session meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 23, 2004 meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to approve September 30, 2004 meeting minutes, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Chairman Shaheen was not in agreement with the meeting minutes of September 13, 2004 and the Executive Session meeting minutes of September 27, 2004. These minutes will be audio & visual reviewed by Ms. Palmer to present at the next meeting.

3. Kelly property logging – Jim McCarthy

Chairman Shaheen discussed that Mr. McCarthy could not make the meeting and cancelled at the last minute. Ann Mazar questioned if the Board has seen Mr. McCarthy's work. Chairman Shaheen said he will keep himself out of this issue because McCarthy has done some logging for him in the past, he does selective cutting and cleans up after he is done. Ms. Mazar would like to look at the Kelly property and monitor the logging. She would like to be notified when Mr. McCarthy is in at a Board of Selectmen's meeting, the Board will notify her.

4. Open Forum

Ann Mazar questioned how the Board would get the information out to the voters regarding the buying of the Fino Land. Selectmen O'Brien told her he is working with cable to replay the information meeting.

Chairman Shaheen told her he has been approached by a number of people & would like to do a TV show to put on cable, and that he would do this as a voter not a Selectmen. Selectmen Cutler told the Board that Don Keller offered to do taped interview for his ½ hour talk show. Also she told the Board that the town couldn't do a mailing. Ms. Tetreault told the board the Fino ballot question will be on the November 2, 2004 Ballot.

Mr. Shaheen asked if we could get a copy of the ballot and bring it to the next meeting to show where it is. Ms. Mazar offered her help with a mailer for the ballot question.

Selectmen O'Brien told the Board he had a meeting with Steve Hackenson, Alan Tetreault, Kathy Coffey & Bob Duff at the Forest Park Development. They did a walk thru, created a punch list & gave Mr. Hackenson a deadline for the completion of the punch list.

5. Treasurer/Collector – Christine Kupstas

The Board discussed with Ms. Kupstas the Treasurer/Collector's office. Ms. Kupstas told the Board things are going good with a lot of progress but it is a lot of work. The Board asked her how they can help in her office, is it more people, technology or outsourcing certain billing jobs? Ms. Kupstas is not sure what she wants to continue to do the job and is feeling burnt out. She comments that other towns separate the position and feels this might help in the office. In the survey taken of other towns it was noted that Harper does most of the payroll, Ms. Kupstas noted the company has contacted her but she has not had the time to sit with them to see what is involved to have them do the town's payroll. Selectmen Cutler requested she get a quote on their services. Mrs. Cataldo stated that the expense checks, will still need to be printed in the Treasurer/Collector's office and that the data entry will still need to be done in her office for payroll. Ms. Cataldo will find out why other towns do outsource for payroll. Selectmen Cutler asked Ms. Kupstas to come back with more information on what's taking most of her time.

6. Parks Commission

The Board discussed with Joe Flaherty, John Accica, and Claudia Cataldo & Town Counsel Jack Collins the revolving account. Chairman Shaheen asked Ms. Tetreault to review the issues with the revolving account. Ms. Tetreault went thru procedure from receipt of bill to accountant to procurement officer The question to Town Counsel is when is work to be done a project subject to procurement law and when is it just a series of repairs. Town Counsel points out that if you know it's a whole project, you can't split it up to avoid compliance with procurement law. If you didn't know that all these repairs needed to be done, but they came up over time, then it may not be seen as a whole project.

The Park Commission stated that this was not one project; that they did not anticipate doing anything except move the portable classroom from North Ave to Taft Ave. and button it up. That after they got the building moved and secured (which they got price quotes for), items came up that needed repair. They did one repair, and then the lights needed fixing, etc.

Sharon stated that she believes that there was a plan.

Jack Collins recommended that since Park Com states there was no plan, that the town accountant pay the bill that brought up the questions and work on an arrangement for the future.

In response to Sharon's question about what other work was planned, John Accica stated that some back filling needed to be done.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he had reviewed the MGL Ch 44, S53D and the BoS vote of 2/26/03. He believes that the Park Commission should have come to the BoS for approval of the portable classroom project to be paid from the revolving fund.

Ken states the Board should rescind its vote of 2/23/03 and have the Park Commission come to the Board of Selectmen for permission to spend from the revolving fund.

Dennis states he does not like to micro-manage people. Sharon disagrees with the term “micro-manage”. She states that she believes that the Park Commission has done a fabulous job with the beach and park programs, that Mendon is the envy of other towns.

Joe Flaherty stated that according to an advisory from DOR, the Park Commissioners have been using the revolving fund properly. Ken would like the Park Com to let the BoS know what is going on.

Joe stated that the commissioners have put in a lot of their own time and gotten work and supplies for free from the community and they are upset that people question them.

Dennis stated that the Town should pay the bill and look at the building to see where we go from here. We should trust people unless it is shown that they shouldn't be trusted.

7. Administrative Issues

➤ Senior Center

Mike Farrell discussed using the Senior Center, in the event of an emergency, for the post office. The Board discussed the location, and access for the public. Mr. Farrell points out that the economic impact on the town if the post office was not able to operate. This request would only be for 2 to 14 days. Chairman Shaheen is concerned that if there were a disaster the Senior Center would be needed to house people. Mr. Farrell explains that the garage is the area the post office would use and that the building has no back up power so it would not be good to house residents but the schools in town are qualified to hold up to 900 people.

Motion by Ken O'Brien to recommend that the Senior Center be used for a temporary, alternate site for the Post Office, not to exceed 14 days in the event of an emergency as recommended in the September 20, 2004 memo from Mike Farrell, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

➤ Appoint reps to Upgrade Study Committee

Ms. Tetreault discussed with the Board appointing someone to the Upgrade Study Committee according to the Union Contract. Jean Berthold and Claudia Cataldo are the union reps. The Board would like to think about this and discuss it later.

Joe Flaherty and John Accica returned to the meeting to tell the Board that they had a discussion with the 3rd member of the Park Commission and that they unanimously agreed to resign effective immediately. Chairman Shaheen asked the Park Commissioners to reconsider. Park Commissioners left the meeting

Motion by Ken O'Brien to go into Executive Session to return only to adjourn under MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B for contract negotiations, Sharon Cutler 2nd, all in favor.

Roll Call, Shaheen – Yes, O'Brien – Yes, Cutler - Yes.

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Palmer
Administrative Secretary
Board of Selectmen