

MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007  
ORGANIZATION MEETING  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL  
9:00 a. m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special organizational meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 9:00 AM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of the Town Hall. All members (Angelo Firenze, Paul Solomon, Dan Leclerc) were present. Town Administrator Tom Younger and Assistant Town Administrator Jeff Conti were also present.

II. QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

There were no questions.

III. ACTION BY CONSENT

Nomination and Election of the Officers of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Solomon nominated Selectman Firenze for Chairman.

The Board moved: To elect Angelo Firenze as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0). The members congratulated Selectman Firenze and he assumed the Chairman's seat.

Selectman Leclerc nominated Selectman Solomon for Vice Chair.

The Board moved: To elect Paul Solomon as Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Committee and Liaison Assignments for the Selectmen

It was noted that the Chairman of the Board serves on the Warrant Committee, so Chairman Firenze will assume that seat. The Board agreed that Selectman Leclerc will serve on the Capital Budget Committee; however, Chairman Firenze will remain the representative to that Committee until the current budget deliberations are complete and Selectman Leclerc will audit the meetings during this time.

The Board discussed the various committees appointed by the Board, whether there is a representative from the Board on each and whether there are any committees that can be discontinued.

The Board moved: To appoint Paul Solomon as the Board's liaison to the Vision 21 Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Paul Solomon as the Board's liaison to the Human Rights Commission.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Angelo Firenze as the Board's liaison to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved: To appoint Angelo Firenze as the Board's liaison to the Permanent Audit Committee.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

There was discussion about the process of making committee appointments, how to streamline and improve the process. The Board talked about how to ensure the widest possible pool of candidates for committees. The Selectmen's Office will issue a news release on this matter annually and when there is a vacancy to be filled.

#### Approval of Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Board agreed that the motion under Article 15 concerning voting in adjudicatory hearings should be drafted to apply to all appropriate committees.

The Board moved: To approve the signing of the Warrant.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

#### VI. OTHER

Selectman Solomon recommended the Board issue a proclamation for Anne Paulsen recognizing her 29 years of public service to the Town. The Board agreed.

The Board agreed that each member will come up with nominations for the Capital Projects Overview Committee to be discussed for action at the next meeting on Monday, April 9. Chairman Firenze shared a list of potential candidates. The Selectmen narrowed the list to 9 names and will contact those individuals to see if they are willing to serve.

There was discussion of a request to send a letter opposing state legislation to transfer control of cable franchising to the state level.

The Board moved: To send such a letter to Belmont's state legislators.

Motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Chairman Firenze recommended that Selectman Leclerc attend the Open Meeting Law seminar on May 10 representing the Selectmen. The Board had a brief discussion reviewing what can and cannot be discussed via e-mail under the law. Chairman Firenze felt it would be better for the Selectmen to have e-mail addresses in the Town system rather than to use their personal addresses for Town business as they currently do. The Board also discussed the process for placing items on the Board's agenda.

Chairman Firenze noted that the Board is going to try to set up a screen so that audience members can see the documents the Board is considering. He also suggested that the Board consider transitioning to meeting every other week instead of every week, unless there is a special topic to be considered. Chairman Firenze and Mr. Younger are working on developing a 12-month meeting calendar.

The Board adjourned at 10:17 AM.

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Thomas G. Younger  
Town Administrator