

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING – DECEMBER 18, 2007

Present: Ch. Gordon D. Bailey, Frank A. Consolati, Patricia D. Carlino, Board of Selectmen.  
Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator  
Ch. Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. Approval of Minutes:** December 4, 2007

**2. Public Hearings:** 7:00 PM – Tax Classification for FY08 – Edward “Buddy” Briggs, Assessor, came before the Board. He first apologized for the tax bills going out so late. He explained that the Principal Assessor resigned in the middle of the reevaluation of properties in the town. A consultant had to be hired to complete the job. Then the Dept. of Revenue questioned some of the valuations which further delayed the process. The Assessors finally received a Notification of Preliminary Certification from DOR and could now proceed with setting a tax rate. Mr. Briggs said the Board of Assessors recommended a single real estate tax rate for the town. Mr. Briggs explained that residents could come in and pay their real estate taxes without a bill to take advantage of the income tax credit. Ch. Bailey read a schedule that will lead up to the bills being mailed out. When asked about new growth in the town, Mr. Briggs said it had gone up significantly. A list of the new assessments is available to the public in the Town Hall, the library and the town web site. There being no further discussion, the Selectmen voted, unanimously, to approve the Assessors’ recommendation of a single real estate tax rate.

**3. General Business:**

The Board received a change order from Fairview Roofing for additional work done to the roof of Central Fire Station and Town Hall in the amount of \$700.00. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve the change order.

The Board received a revised Western Mass. Intergovernmental Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement and Berkshire Addendum. This is separate from the one the town has with Berkshire County fire and police departments. The Selectmen were authorized to enter into such an intermunicipal agreement at the May 11, 2006 annual town meeting. The Board voted, unanimously, to approve and sign the agreement.

The Board voted, unanimously, to reappointment Thomas Arment, Peter Jahn and Roger Scheurer to the Board of Public Works for two year terms beginning January 1, 2008. It was later discovered that Mr. Scheurer’s term of office would not expire until December 31, 2008. Another member, Garth Story, recently resigned and Ch. Bailey urged anyone interest in filling the vacancy to contact the Selectmen’s office. The Board accepted Mr. Story’s resignation with regret.

Because the chairman was not attending, the Selectmen need to designate a member of the Board to vote at the up-coming Mass. Municipal Association annual meeting. Selectman Carlino will be attending and the Board voted, unanimously, to designate her to be the town’s voting member. Susan Kelley, Treasurer, informed the Board she would not be attending the meeting of the Mass. Intergovernmental Insurance Association and the Selectmen voted, unanimously, to have Ms. Carlino vote at that meeting also.

Ch. Bailey next read a list of licenses that needed the Board’s approval for 2008 and the Selectmen voted, unanimously, to approve them with three exceptions. Bombay Bar and Grill had not yet received a final inspection from the Building and Fire Departments. Approval was made subject to that inspection. Sweet Basil Grille had not turned in its paperwork to either the Selectmen’s office or the Building Department. That license was also approved subject to an inspection from the Building and Fire Departments. Lee Bowling Lanes, Selectman Consolati recused himself, was still not in compliance with the Building and Fire Codes and no Certificate of Inspection had been issued for that business.

**4. Pending Business:**

Ch. Bailey announced that a public hearing will be held at the next Selectmen’s meeting on January 8, 2008 at 7 PM at the middle and high school auditorium for discussion of the mill closings in town. The public is encouraged to attend.

Planning Board meeting – Jan. 7, 2008 at 6:30 PM – Rodeway Inn

The Board received a letter from MassHighway stating that 100% design plans for the Old Pleasant Street bridge had been submitted.

Ch. Bailey announced that for the month of January only, the Selectmen will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of that month.

The Board received a memo from Susan Kelley, Treasurer, stating she had successfully auctioned the property at 25 School Street for \$18,000.00.

**5. Town Administrator:**

Mr. Nason explained that the Selectmen needed to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy.

**6. Public Comments:**

Ch. Bailey brought up the matter of taping additional meetings for the viewers of CTSB. Presently the agreement calls for the taping of Selectmen’s meetings, School Committee meetings, the baby and annual town meetings and one additional meeting every quarter. Due to a lack of volunteers, CTSB is not able to tape any other meetings than the ones they are under contract for. Ch. Bailey said the Selectmen were in favor of the additional tapings.

The Board thanked the town and community firefighters for the extraordinary effort they put in to put out two structure fires and happened also simultaneously.

The Board also thanked the DPW employees for their efforts in keeping the town streets clear during two recent snow storms.

Selectman Carlino wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

**7. Motion to adjourn:**

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 at 7 PM. The Board voted, unanimously, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy and not return to public session. Roll call vote: Bailey, yes; Carlino, yes; Consolati, yes. The meeting adjourned in executive session at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne M. Alderman, Selectmen’s Secretary

cc:	Board of Selectmen	Principal Assessor	Dept. of Public Works
	Town Administrator	Board of Health	Town Treasurer
	Town Clerk	Conservation Commission	Town Reps. District Chairmen
	Town Collector	Police Chief	Superintendent of Schools
	Planning Board	Building Inspector	Town Accountant