

**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
MEETING
MINUTES**

April 19, 2016

Town Hall

Chairman Kenneth Picard; Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman James Brochu; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

1 The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Chairman Picard opened the meeting and after the
2 pledge of allegiance reviewed the agenda.

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4 **MINUTES**

5 ***Motion #1:*** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve the April 5, 2016 regular session
6 meeting minutes.

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8 Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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10 ***Motion #2:*** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve the April 7, 2016 regular session
11 meeting minutes.

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13 Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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15 ***Motion #3:*** Motion made by Selectman Brochu to approve the April 5, 2016 executive session
16 meeting minutes.

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18 Second: Selectman Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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20 **INVITED GUESTS**

21 **Jessica Strunkin - 495/Metrowest Partnership Update**

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23 Ms. Strunkin gave the Board an update on the activities of the Partnership and discussed with the
24 Board assistance that she and the Executive Director may be able to give Upton in the area of
25 economic development.

26
27 The Partnership has become recognized by legislators as the voice this region crucial to the
28 economy of the State. The key priorities are economic development, workforce housing, natural
29 resources, skilled workforce, transportation, and organizational sustainability.

30
31 Specific interest to the Selectmen was the I-90/495 interchange improvements that the
32 Partnership was successfully able to include in the MassDOT's highway projects.

33
34 Ms. Strunkin also reminded the Board that MassWorks grants can be useful to water related
35 projects.

36
37 **Senator Michael Moore**

38 Senator Moore updated the Selectmen on the House Ways and Means budget distinguishing it
39 from the Governor's. It reflected a 3.5 percent increase over the fiscal year 2016 state budget
40 and contained no new taxes or increased fees; and increased Unrestricted General Government
41 Aid (UGGA) by 4.3 percent growth over fiscal year 2016.

42

43 Chapter 70 education funding would be increased to \$4.6 billion; increasing aid to each
44 community of \$55 per pupil versus the governor’s budget which included, \$20 per pupil. This
45 translates to \$121,605 for the Mendon Upton Regional School district.

46
47 The proposed budget also “boosts funding for Special Education Circuit Breaker by five million,
48 for Charter School Reimbursements by five million, and for regional school transportation by
49 one million.”

50
51 The House and Senate also passed legislation relative to Chapter 90 road work funds last week.

52
53 Selectmen imparted their concern over the need for additional Chapter 90 and infrastructure
54 funding citing the lack of commercial base to assist with the road repairs.

55
56 The Board was specifically concerned over an impending bridge repair project that the town, in
57 collaboration with Milford who jointly owns the bridge is working on. Ms. Robinson said that
58 between engineering and repair costs, the 21.5-foot bridge on Fiske Mill Road is expected to cost
59 about \$1 million and does not qualify for a grant program for small bridges because it is one and
60 a half feet too long. Complete Streets requirements require a sidewalk on the bridge even though
61 there is not a sidewalk leading to it on either side or the width wouldn’t support adding a
62 sidewalk Ms. Robinson stated. Senator Moore requested an email detailing the project.

63
64 Chairman Picard also expressed a desire for infrastructure funding to support commercial water
65 and sewer so businesses will be more inclined to move into town where it already exists.

66
67 **RECOGNITION**

68
69 Selectman Fleming expressed condolences to the family of Richard Randall a lifelong resident of
70 Upton and former cemetery commissioner.

71
72 Condolences were also expressed for Scott Satow, who recently died tragically in a fire in his
73 apartment in Centennial Court.

74
75 The Selectmen also commended the Fire and Police departments and Officer Rankins, who was
76 on patrol and saw the smoke and flames at the Hopkinton Road property, for their efforts in the
77 two significant structure fires the previous week.

78
79 Also recognized by the Board were the mulching and beautification work completed by the
80 Upton Men’s Club at route 140 and Hartford Avenue North.

81
82 **MANAGER’S REPORT**

83 The Federal MS4 Storm water permit has been released and will be in force on July 1. The
84 budget being put forth to Town Meeting includes funding for Upton to meet its obligations for
85 the next year. The storm water coalition was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant by DEP to
86 continue its work to implement the new aspects of this permit.

87

88 The receiver that has been appointed to take over the rehabilitation of the property at 14 North
89 Main Street is due back in court on May 4th to submit a budget and plan to the court for
90 approval.

91
92 In 2010 the then Board of Assessors implemented a process with the Conservation Commission
93 that required owners who wanted lowered assessments because some of their property contains
94 wetlands going forward to retain a wetlands professional to verify and flag the affected area and
95 the Conservation Commission to sign off that this was in fact the case. Recently, the current
96 Board of Assessors sent a letter to the property owners that have had reductions prior to 2010 to
97 inform them that effective July 1st if they want to continue to receive the discount then they must
98 go through this process with Conservation to have the size of the wetlands confirmed.

99
100 ClearGov is live. The website address is www.cleargov.com where actual budget data for Upton
101 for FY 15 can be found.

102
103 Upton Loyalty Day this year is on Sunday, May 1st.

104
105 **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
106 Motion to Approve Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review
107 Commission's Recommendations

108 A resolution calling for the full funding of the recommendations of the Foundation Budget
109 Review Commission (FBRC), a commission established by the Legislature in the FY16 budget
110 that was charged with examining the Foundation Budget (Chapter 70) formula was considered
111 by the Selectmen. The FBRC found that the current formula understates costs significantly in
112 two areas: Employee Health Insurance and Special Education.

113
114 **Motion #4:** Selectman Fleming motioned to adopt a Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the
115 Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations, Whereas the Massachusetts
116 Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and
117 special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true
118 cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;
119 Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been
120 borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;
121 Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police,
122 prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future; whereas state and
123 local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the
124 number of well-educated workers." Therefore Be It resolved that the Board of Selectmen, Town
125 of Upton calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund
126 and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate
127 future.

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129 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

130
131 Discuss FY 2016/2017 Budget
132 A current version of the budget was reviewed. The priority for this budget is to provide level
133 services for both the Town and school districts, but with no change in the tax rate. The

134 assumptions that went into this budget strongly indicate that no tax rate increase is possible,
135 which will be confirmed when the recap sheet is completed in the fall.

136

137 Motion to recommend the Tax Title Revolving Fund

138 The Treasurer/Collector requested that a revolving fund be set up for tax title expenses. Town
139 Counsel has advised that the Board of Selectmen need to vote to recommend the account prior to
140 it being taken up at Town Meeting. Mr. Glowacki has requested a limit on the fund of \$15,000
141 into which fees from tax title work can be deposited, and then those monies can be used to pay
142 for future work. The law gives the Selectmen and Finance Committee the joint decision to be
143 able to change the dollar threshold of the fund in the future if they so choose.

144

145 **Motion #5:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to authorize a Tax Title Revolving Fund be
146 established with a \$15,000 threshold giving approval jointly to the Selectmen and Finance
147 Committee the option to change the dollar threshold of the fund in the future.

148

149 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

150

151 Motion to Execute the May 5th Annual Town Meeting Warrant

152 A final version of the warrant for the annual meeting was reviewed The warrant has 28 articles,
153 and some of the capital items are planned to be funded for next year are being held until the fall
154 special town meeting.

155

156 **Motion #6:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming execute as submitted the May 5th Annual Town
157 Meeting Warrant.

158

159 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

160

161 Select annual scholarship recipients

162 The Board has reviewed 13 applications from Upton students seeking scholarships for their
163 continuing education and selected the recipients.

164

165 **Motion #7:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming award a Ramsey Scholarship applicant
166 identified as #1; a Bates Scholarship to applicant identified as #9 and Risteen Scholarships to
167 applicants identified as #'s 5,6,8,10,11,12,13 as submitted on roster.

168

169 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard

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171 **Motion #8:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to fund an additional \$500.00 scholarship from
172 the William Knowlton Trust Fund.

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174 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard

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176 Motion to Award Contract – Wastewater Sludge Removal

177 DPW Director Roy recommended that the Board vote to award a contract to Waste Water
178 Services, Inc. for a three year contract to remove and treat sludge from the Town's wastewater
179 treatment plant. The competitive bid process resulted in two bids and the low bidder is a firm the

180 Town has have not worked with before. This contract will result in a savings of about
181 \$5,000/year. Ms. Robinson recommended that the Board vote to award a three year contract,
182 subject to appropriation in the future years.

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184 **Motion #9:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to authorize the Town Manager to enter into
185 contract with Waste Water Services, Inc. for three years to remove and treat sludge from the
186 Town's wastewater treatment plant.

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188 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard

189
190 Proclaim May 1-7, 2016 as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

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192 **Motion #10:** Selectman Fleming motion to proclaim May 1-7, 2016 as Children's Mental Health
193 Awareness Week, Whereas, the citizens of the Town of Upton value their health and mental
194 health and that of their families; therefore, they are proud to support observances such as
195 Children's Mental Health Week; and

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197 Whereas, one in five children has a diagnosable mental health disorder and one-half of all
198 lifetime instances of mental illness begin before age 14; and even some children and youth with
199 the most intense needs and some who are insured may not receive services; and

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201 Whereas, children and youth with mental health needs in elementary, middle and high school are
202 more likely to be bullied, absent, suspended, expelled or fail to graduate; and
203 Whereas, learning to recognize the early warning signs of mental health needs and where to
204 obtain the necessary support, assistance and treatment gives children and youth better
205 opportunities to lead full and productive lives; and

206
207 Whereas, the participation and partnership of family members in the assessment and treatment of
208 children and youth is essential to positive outcomes; and

209
210 Whereas, our nation's future depends on the health and well-being of its families and their
211 children; and

212
213 Whereas, Children's Mental Health Week was developed by families of children with emotional,
214 behavioral and mental health needs, to focus on the needs of their children and families; in
215 celebrating this year's theme: "Healthy Families, Resilient Children: Mental Health is a Family
216 Affair" it is fitting to increase public awareness among all Upton citizens of this important issue;

217
218 Now, therefore, the Board of Selectman of the Town of Upton, Massachusetts, do hereby
219 proclaim May 1-7, 2016 as CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK.

220
221 Second: Selectman Brochu, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

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223 At 7:22 the Board recessed to attend the Finance Committee meeting.

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225 Poll taken: Kenneth Picard, aye, Robert Fleming aye, James Brochu aye.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board will enter into Executive Session under under MGL c.30A, S. 21 exceptions #3: to discuss strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining if the chair declares an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the Town’s bargaining position.

Poll taken: Kenneth Picard, aye, Robert Fleming aye, James Brochu aye.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion #11: At 8:47pm motion was made by Selectman Brochu to adjourn the regular meeting.

Second: Selectmen Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Picard.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hakala
Executive Assistant