

Selectmen's Meeting
February 6, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held Monday, February 6, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Chairman Krieger, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Pagett, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Manz; Mr. Valente, Town Manager; Mr. Lahey, Town Counsel; and Ms. Pease, Executive Clerk were present.

Selectmen Concerns and Liaison Reports

Mrs. Krieger reminded the audience that the 1st live Lexington Selects program will be tomorrow, February 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. The subject matter will be the Community Preservation Act. There will be a new topic discussed every two weeks. The next show will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. and the topic will be snow removal policies.

Mr. Manz, as Selectmen Liaison to the Commission on Disability, informed the Board that the Commission has weighed in with some town departments and committees on the materials that should be used for sidewalks and there will be further discussions.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Valente reported that he and Mr. Cohen met with Nstar representatives with regard to putting utilities underground. Nstar says the cost to put the electricity underground for the entire town would be \$600 to \$850 per foot, which does not include the cost associated with phone and cable being put underground. In addition, property owners would have to pay the cost to bring the underground service from the curb to their homes and their service would have to be up to code. It is possible for neighborhoods to petition Nstar to put electricity underground, but they would be responsible for the entire cost.

Conversation with Representatives Kaufman and Stanley

Representatives Kaufman and Stanley discussed the status of the state budget, including state aid, health care, and water and sewer rate relief.

Public Comments

Mr. Fedorochko appreciated the opportunity to review the budget document and presented the Selectmen with a copy of the budget with comments.

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Appoint Members to Community Preservation Committee

The appointing authority as shown below has appointed the following members:

Richard Wolk, Conservation Commission
Betsey Weiss, Housing Partnership Board
Marilyn Fenollosa, Historical Commission
Wendy Manz, Planning Board
Sandra Shaw, Recreation Committee

The Selectmen are waiting to hear who will be appointed from the Housing Authority.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted 3-0-2 (Cohen and Pagett abstained) to appoint Norman Cohen and Richard Pagett to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2007.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Joel Adler to the Community Preservation Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2007.

Town Manager Review Process

Mrs. Krieger provided the Board with a Performance Evaluation Form and an External Assessment Form to be used for reviewing the Town Manager.

The goals on the evaluation form were discussed and revised.

Each Selectmen should return their completed evaluation form to Mrs. Krieger by February 17; she will circulate a composite draft by February 27. The evaluation will be given in public session at the Selectmen's Meeting on March 6.

Mr. Kelley wants the opportunity to present and discuss his evaluation with the Town Manager and then to read at the public meeting for inclusion in the Selectmen's records.

The Town Manager provided a suggested list of who to send the External Assessment Form to.

Senior Center Action Plan Committee

Maria Constantinides, on behalf of the Senior Center Action Plan Committee (SCAPC), presented the SCAPC Report. The SCAPC was charged with reviewing and assessing the programmatic and space requirements of the Senior Center; reviewing and assessing site options identified by earlier site selection committees and identifying one for further pursuit; and establishing a budget and timeline for the design and completion of a new Senior Center.

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SCAPC feels the best option is to renovate the existing Senior Center and use a renovated Munroe School as the additional space needed.

The Committee recommends that the Selectmen determine before the 2006 Annual Town Meeting how the former Munroe School can best serve the community. If the Board decides that Munroe should be used for Senior Center programs, the SCAPC requests Selectmen authorize the Permanent Building Committee to undertake a feasibility study of both facilities to make sure all programs can be accommodated in the space, develop cost estimates, and provide other needed information that impacts scope of the renovations. Should the Selectmen determine not to use the Munroe School for Senior Center programs, the SCAPC recommends that the Selectmen establish a new committee whose charge would be to identify and acquire an appropriate site from a private party.

Selectmen discussed the \$50,000 that was appropriated in 2002; \$15,000 has been spent on surveys to determine programmatic interests and needs of our senior population.

The Selectmen will need to have information on the additional positions that will be required by a larger facility and see how they will affect the operating budget.

Selectmen need to have a better understanding of all the programs that currently exist at the Senior Center; what would be added in a new facility; and how best to evaluate this information.

Selectmen felt that no matter what action is taken the Munroe School needs to be brought to code and the building needs structural repairs done.

Many citizens spoke on behalf of the Munroe School for the Arts and how important it is to Lexington and its citizens.

Mrs. McKenna stated the Munroe site was previously taken off the list. This was apparently done because the recommendation for the arts center and the senior center to share the site meant there would not be enough parking. She felt the Selectmen should wait for the Harrington or Adams schools to become available. She believes the Selectmen previously voted to renegotiate the Munroe School lease and asked why it had not been renegotiated.

The Selectmen need to come up with a process to determine the best use of the Munroe School before Town Meeting by talking with Munroe representatives and the COA. The Selectmen requested the Senior Center provide clear information on programs and also provide information on the money used. The Selectmen also would like a presentation of programs at the Munroe Center for the Arts.

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Youth Services Council

Bill Blout, member of the Youth Services Council and the Human Services Committee, presented the Youth Services Report to the Selectmen. Since the 2003 failed override, the town has been without clinic based counseling, outreach counseling and community support and prevention services. The Human Services Committee recommended that a task force be convened to develop a continuum of services for youth and their families and to fill identified gaps in service. That task force recommended the development of the Youth Services Council, the appointment of a youth services clinician, the creation of a fund that would allow youth without insurance coverage to access services from local practitioners, and the reinstatement of the School Resource Officer at the High School.

With the successful override in 2004 the accomplishments include: the Youth Services Council, the Youth and Family Services Coordinator, and the School Resource Officer for the High School.

Highlights of the Youth Services Council include facilitating communication and sharing of information; expanding original council membership to include representatives of the Fire Department and Lexington Clergy; creating Lexington's "Forum for Youth", and identifying a specific need for middle school half-day initiatives.

The Youth Services Coordinator will be the staff representative to the Youth Services Council, will implement and coordinate the regional groups, co-facilitate and coordinate private school network meetings, co-facilitate three parenting workshops in Spring 2006, implement and coordinate intergenerational programs, coordinate and co-facilitate book groups for parents, provide direct services to families and respond to calls.

The Youth Services Council has the following unmet needs: a coordinated community system of prevention and outreach services and accessible services for all. The Youth Services Council proposes the following services and programs: prevention-based services, group therapy/psycho-education programs, restoration of the School Resource Officer at the middle schools and resource guide.

Mr. Manz asked what size Youth Center would be needed. Ellen MacDonald mentioned that North Andover had a 4,000 sq. foot facility that included a gym and outside area. Kids were surveyed and they would like a coffee house/teen center that had a stage, food and dirty couches to sit on.

The Selectmen thanked the Youth Services Council for the important work they are doing for the community.

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Permanent Building Committee – DPW Facility

Mr. Pionelli, Chair of the Permanent Building Committee, discussed the fact that the proposed DPW facility is larger than presented to Town Meeting last year. The PBC is trying to get a clear understanding of the needed size and what the cost will be. A progress report will be presented to Town Meeting. As part of the process, the PBC will look at similar DPW facilities in comparable communities, will make sure the drawings reflect a site that is big enough but not too big and will make sure the site has enough space for proposed building. The PBC is hoping to have the scope design and cost by mid-April.

Budget

Mr. Lamb, Chair of the Capital Expenditures Committee, commented on the cash capital policy and presented information to the Selectmen on the capital requests:

1. Replace Fire Engine 1 – support
2. Replace/Update Dispatch Center – support
3. Playground Improvements – can CPA funds be used
4. DPW Equipment – support
5. Building Envelope – reduce by \$265,000 (\$15K - Munroe Cemetery and \$15K - Parks Department, \$75K - TOB Ramp, \$100K - Visitor Center Electric Upgrade and \$60K - fire station), still discussing Westview Cemetery heating system and the LFD floor
6. Archives Environmental Control – still reviewing
7. COA Feasibility – no position yet
8. Nstar Parking Lot – no position yet
9. Roads – support
10. Lincoln Field – still reviewing
11. Sidewalks – still reviewing
12. Street Drain Improvements – support
13. All Enterprise Requires (Recreation and Water and Sewer) – support
14. Schools – support
15. EUAC Study – need to see voter support first

Selectmen expressed concern about the recommendation to remove \$60K from the fire station request and what this would mean for bathroom and shower facilities at the fire station.

The Selectmen discussed the consequences and effect on future budgets of using cash capital funds to balance the budget because of being confronted with a large override possibility.

Mr. Valente met with the School Superintendent to discuss the split of new revenue. They are recommending covering shared costs and then splitting the remainder 28% for town and 72% for schools.

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Selectmen discussed the proposed budget adjustments from the operating budget. Concern was expressed about the consequences if an override does not pass and questioned the effect on public safety and services like Lexpress, Recycling and Yard Waste. The Library Trustees have been asked to decide what reductions to make.

Mr. Valente asked the Selectmen for help in identifying areas they would like the Senior Management Team to examine for possible further reductions.

At the Budget Collaboration/Summit meeting on Thursday there will be a discussion on the municipal/school split of revenue, Capital Expenditures Committee recommendations on capital items, and finding an additional \$180,000 in budget adjustments.

Article Positions

Selectmen reviewed the list of Articles and requested presentations on:

- Article 15 Amend General By-Laws to Create Energy Committee
- Article 16 Amend Noise By-Law
- Article 19 Approve Senior Tax Relief
- Article 20 Establish Property Tax Deferral Interest Rate for FY2007
- Article 21 Rescind MGL Chapter 59, Section 5K (Property Tax Work-off Program)
- Article 22 Appropriate for Senior Service Program
- Article 26 Appropriate for Outdoor Sound System

Selectmen should let the Chairman or Clerk know if they are interested in presenting certain articles.

Appointments/Resignations

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the resignation of Miriam Boucher from the Communications Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Caroline Eaton to the Lexington Housing Partnership Board for a 3-year term to expire September 30, 2008.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Albert Zabin to the Condominium Conversion Board for a 3-year term to expire September 30, 2008.

Consent Agenda

Laconia Street – Temporary Easement Plan

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the Laconia Street Temporary Easement Plan.

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Sign Annual Town Warrant

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve and sign the 2006 Annual Town Warrant.

Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the minutes of January 18, 2006 and January 23, 2006.

Executive Session Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 18, 2006.

Letter of Support for the Community Preservation Act

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to sign a letter of support for the community Preservation Act and send to the Lexington Minuteman.

Commitments and Adjustments of Water and Sewer Charges

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the following commitment/adjustments:

Re-Commitment of Water/Sewer Charges for 11/1/05 to 11/30/05 (Finals)	\$16,253.04
Re-Commitment of Water/Sewer Charges for Town-Wide Billing (Section 2)	\$1,932,956.23
Re-Commitment of Water Charges for 12/01/05 to 12/31/05 (Cycle 9)	\$139,827.57

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 11:05 p.m.

A true record; Attest:

Lynne A. Pease
Executive Clerk