

TOWN OF DURHAM

Office of the First Selectman

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Maryann P. Boord
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

June 20, 1991

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by First Selectman Maryann P. Boord; Board members also present: Francis E. Korn, Gladys B. Lavine. Others present, at various times, included Karen Gleason, Maria Alvarez, Richard Parmelee, Peter Kofsuske, Thomas Woodson, Kathy Helmer, Rosemarie Naples, Mary Jane Jewczyn, Kit Eames, Beth Quinlivan.

Resolution

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL ALLOW THE DMIAAB TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS; 3 AYES.

Tax Refunds

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO REIMBURSE MICHAEL J. POLANSKY, III, \$50.84 IN TAX FUNDS (MILITARY PERSONNEL); 3 AYES.

Minutes

MOTION M. BOORD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 1991. G. LAVINE NOTED THE CORRECT SPELLING OF THE BANK IS "SHAWMUT"; MOTION SECONDED BY F. KORN, AS CORRECTED; 3 AYES.

MOTION M. BOORD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 30, 1991, SECONDED BY F. KORN; 3 AYES.

Correspondence

1. From Robert Hall, Main Street, asks: a) installation of left turn lane northbound at Rt. 17/Rt. 68 and b) left turn lane onto Pickett Lane from Rt. 17. M. Boord will refer the request to the DOT, but will have her office check first to see if there is previous correspondence on this subject. She will send Mr. Hall a letter telling him she's pursuing it.

2. From Ed Jadovich, Commissioner of the State Liquor Commission, confirming that the Road House cafe liquor license has been revoked as of 3/29/91.

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3. Unemployment during April 1991, in Durham, was 4.7%

4. From the Mayor of Durham, England, asking for mutual correspondence. He has been approaching the 20 cities/towns named Durham of various sizes throughout the world. Item referred to Francis Korn, Town Historian.

Update From the First Selectman

1. Discussion of recent publicity about computer parts and other used equipment from the school district allegedly dumped into the landfill, one monitor ended up in the Town Garage. Mr. Gourley, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of the school district, replied to this particular allegation, that the item was 10-15 years old, it "blew" and would cost more to repair than to buy new, and it was a receiver, not a computer; it also needs a mainframe in order to operate. G. Lavine stressed that we should find out the truth of the rumors on this subject. M. Boord assured her that is exactly what is being done.

2. The Fourth of July Committee Chairman Rosemarie Naples has announced that the day's festivities will begin with a ceremony at 11 a.m.; approximately 400 people are planned for.

3. The Allyn Brook Park dedication is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd.

Public Comments

Richard Parmelee:

- a) against the Board of Selectmen setting the mil rate;
- b) wants the school district budget broken out much clearer.

Kathy Helmer:

- a) has strong feelings not to set the mil rate; the setting of it will create an atmosphere of "being locked in." Asked the Board to wait until the next referendum (6-27-91).

Appointments

MOTION M. BOORD TO APPOINT FRANCIS KORN TO THE RETIREMENT BOARD; SECONDED BY G. LAVINE. M. Boord explained that the Pension Plan was signed last week and since she would be eligible to join it, she felt she didn't want to be on the Retirement Board. MOTION PASSED WITH 3 AYES.

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO REAPPOINT LEONARD J. BAGINSKI TO A FULL THREE-YEAR TERM ON THE CT VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL; 3 AYES.

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Next Meeting

The Board agreed to hold the next meeting on July 18, 1991.

More Update From the First Selectman

1. The DPUC hearing has been rescheduled to July 23rd at 6 p.m. in Town Hall.

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The Board of Finance joined the meeting: M. J. Jewczyn, R. Naples, G. Eames, P. Kofsuske, and clerk B. Quinlivan.

M. J. Jewczyn said the Board of Finance is recommending to the Board of Selectmen that the mil rate be 20.9. R. Naples said she hopes the media will make it very clear to the townspeople that they must come back and voice their opinion at town meeting.

G. Lavine said her sources inform her that the town would not sacrifice its standing by taking out a short-term loan to meet the need on July 1; she does not favor setting the mil rate at this meeting. She felt the democratic system should be allowed to proceed its course; any additional cost to the town should be secondary. SHE MOVED TO MEET THE DAY AFTER THE NEXT REFERENDUM TO SET THE MIL RATE. VOTE 2 NO (BOORD, KORN). MOTION NOT PASSED.

G. Eames explained, however, that a short term loan taken out by the town means the interest rate will be much higher than Mrs. Lavine's experts say. He also noted that Mrs. Lavine's main source (Shawmut Bank of Boston) is having alot of problems with their own business these days; people in HIS bank warned him to be very careful of making any moves, in light of the City of Bridgeport's financial troubles; he feels we can no longer play for time. R. Naples said the town would lose a large amount of interest on our money by waiting any longer to set the mil rate; that it is more fiscally responsible to get the bills out.

Francis Korn observed that we all have struggled deeply with this issue; in reality we've allowed the Board of Education to hold us hostage by waiting to set the mil rate; the Board of Education should have met the wishes of the town two referendums ago; we have the capability to raise the money--why should we have to go out to borrowing; we must move on.

Peter Kofsuske, also in banking, added that any short-term borrowing is going to have a high interest rate; the process has gone far enough; favors setting the mil rate.

M. Boord expressed her concern with the public's knowledge; feels,

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however, we've done everything possible to explain to the people the impact of the Board's actions. We have been put in leadership positions and we must do what we must in a timely manner. Waiting one more week (to await a positive referendum) is taking unnecessary risk; personally, it would not be acting responsibly if she asked the Board of Selectmen to hold back action on this issue; we CAN NOT wait to be in real jeopardy.

MOTION M. BOORD TO SET THE MIL RATE OF 20.9 MILS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1991-1992, AS ALLOWED BY STATE STATUTES WHEN THE TOWN HAS NOT SET THE RATE. VOTE: 2 AYES (BOORD, KORN), 1 NAY (LAVINE). MOTION PASSED.

Resignations/Appointments

a. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION, WITH REGRET AND GRATITUDE, OF MARY JANE P. JEW CZYN FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE; 3 AYES.

b. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPOINT MARY JANE P. JEW CZYN TO FILL THE VACANCY OF TOWN TREASURER FOR THE TOWN OF DURHAM; 3 AYES.

c. MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO APPOINT THOMAS WOODSON TO THE BOARD OF FINANCE TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF M.J. JEW CZYN; 3 AYES.

Any other Business????

G. LAVINE:

a. inquired whether or not we have a truly final grand list figure. M. Boord said it was \$304,413,800.

Adjourn

MOTION M. BOORD, SECOND F. KORN, TO ADJOURN AT 8:12 P.M.