Town Of Needham Board of Selectman
Minutes for January 23, 2007
Needham Town Hall

6:45 p.m. Informal Session:
Colin Campbell, new appointment to the Needham Housing Authority, appeared before the Board to introduce himself.

7:00 p.m. Call To Order
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman John H. Cogswell at 7:00 p.m. Those present were: John H. Cogswell, Daniel P. Matthews, John Bulian, Gerald Wasserman, James Healy, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Recording Secretary Greg Cooper.

7:00 p.m. Moment of Silence
Mr. Cogswell asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mary Ellen Herd who recently passed away. Mr. Matthews said a few words expressing his feelings about the contribution Ms. Herd made to the community and many people lives.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – NSTAR Petition for 253 Charles River Street:
Maureen Carroll, NSTAR Representative, appeared before the Board to request permission to install approximately 15 feet of conduit on Charles River Street.
Motion by Mr. Wasserman that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and sign petition form NSTAR to install approximately 15 feet of conduit @ pole 10/27 on Charles River Street, Needham. This work is necessary to provide relocation of service to #253 Charles River Street, Needham.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:05 p.m. Special One-Day Wine and Malt License:
Gloria P. Greis, Applicant on behalf of Needham Historical Society, requested approval of a one-day wine and malt license for an event to be held at the School House/Needham Historical Society on 1147 Central Avenue on Saturday, February 3, 2007.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the request of Gloria P. Greis for a one-day wine and malt license for the Needham Historical Society Benefit to be

held on February 3, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:05 p.m. Appoint Commissioner, Needham Housing Authority
Sheila Pransky, Peter Fugere, and Colin Campbell of the Needham Housing Authority appeared before the Board to recommend appointment of Terence P. Noonan to the Authority. Mr. Noonan would replace Richard Gatto who recently resigned. The Board asked Mr. Noonan why he was interested in serving on the Authority. He stated that the Town is making a real effort to increase affordable housing and he wants to play a role in achieving the Authority's goals.
Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen and Needham Housing Authority vote to appoint Terence P. Noonan to serve as Commissioner, Needham Housing Authority until April 10, 2007.
Second: Mr. Healy. Unanimously approved 8-0. (Sheila Pransky, Peter Fugere, and Colin Campbell, Mr. Cogswell, Mr. Wasserman. Mr. Matthews, Mr. Healy, and Mr. Bulian voted in favor of Mr. Noonan's appointment.)

7:10 p.m. Needham Cares/Katrina Relief:
Bill Tilburg, Kathleen Tilburg, Jane Howard, Terence Noonan, and Denise Garlick with Needham Cares appeared before the Board to discuss their recent visit to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi where they assisted victims in rebuilding their homes. Ms. Fitzpatrick, who also went on the trip, described the effort and how the 12 Needham residents who went helped victims and became close friends in the process.

Bill Tilburg, Needham Cares President, provided some background on Needham Cares and described how the Gulf Coast rebuilding process is not moving as quickly as one would hope. Jane Howard stated that there are some very committed people helping with the effort but more is needed. Mr. Healy asked if the group saw Reverend Jenkins. Mr. Tilburg stated that they did. Mr. Healy also asked if Needham Cares has had any luck coordinating with other Massachusetts towns. Mr. Tilburg stated that some efforts have been made and the group would continue to look for partnerships. Ms. Howard spoke of problems with domestic abuse in the area due, in part, to the depressed conditions. Ms. Tilburg spoke about Needham Cares efforts to work with the Needham Schools.

Ms. Howard announced that Needham Cares would be holding a fundraising event at the Newman Elementary School on April 28, 2007. A folk music group will be performing. The Board thanked the group for their efforts and congratulated Needham Cares on all the good work they are doing.

7:35 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS

1.	**Council of Economic Advisors**	**Mark Silverman**

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Accept donation of holiday lights and bulbs, valued at $8,935.68 from the Needham Business Association.**
2. **Accept a donation of $100 from Carolyn Gayle and Peter Riskind to the Needham Youth Commission.**
3. **Accept a donation of $20 from Lisa Garsh to the Needham Police Department for child safety seat installation.**
4. **Approve a request from the Village Club to extend their hours on Sunday, February 4, 2007 from 12 noon until 8:00 p.m. to 12 noon until 11:30 p.m. so that the members may enjoy watching the entire Superbowl Game.**
5. **Accept a donation of $25.00 made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund from Colin and Mary Coleman.**
6. **Accept a donation of $50.00 made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund from John A. Russo.**
7. **Accept a donation of $150.00 made to the Needham Health Department from Mr. & Mrs. H. Thomas Sagafi for the Gift of Warmth Program.**
8. **Accept the following donations made to the Needham Council on Aging:**
   $24.00 from M. Daganhardt, $12.00 from E. Gross, $12.00 from D.R. Mahoney, $24.00 from M. McKernan, $64.00 from L. Chou, $24.00 from A. Prato, $24.00 from R. Markhus, $20.00 from E. Palmerio, $480.00 from the Estate of Margaret Kentley, $25.00 from A. Chang and $400.00 from J. Sweeney.
9. **Water & Sewer Abatement, Order #1044**

10. **Ratify change in name for Senior, Veteran and Youth Services Department to Diversified Community Social Services Department.**
11. **Approve Release of Lien for Needham Cinema property.**
12. **Approve and Sign Notice of Agreement covering property known as and numbered 300 Second Avenue, Needham with CFRI/Doherty Second Avenue LLC per Development Agreement approved by the Board 1/24/06.**

Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:35 p.m. Ms. Fitzpatrick appeared before the Board with four items for the Board's consideration:

1. Flag Protocol:
   Ms. Fitzpatrick presented the Board with a revised flag protocol for the Board's approval. She stated that several comments were received at the December 19, 2006 Board meeting and the new version reflects the general comments provided at that meeting and input from Board members.
   Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Policy #007.001 – Proper Half-Staff Display of the Flag of the United States. Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant:
   Ms. Fitzpatrick requested the Board open the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. She asked if the Board wanted to continue to put General By-law and Citizen Petition articles at the front of the warrant. The Board agreed with this approach. She also recommended that the Board consider combining some capital items into one article to expedite discussion on the individual items. She stated that only capital items proposed from the same funding source would be combined and that each item would still be voted on independently. Mr. Healy asked if purpose of bundling was to reduce unnecessary discussion on articles where there is unanimous support. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that a presentation on each capital item would not be necessary and discussion would be focused on those items where Town Meeting members raise issues or questions. Mr. Healy expressed an interest in meeting with the

Finance Committee to discuss other ways to streamline the presentation format at Town Meeting. The Board was supportive of having these discussions.
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to open the warrant for the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.
Second: Mr. Wasserman. Unanimously approved 5-0.

3. Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Consultation:
Ms. Fitzpatrick presented the Board with the Town Manager's preliminary FY2008 budget recommendations. She stated that the budget would be formally presented on January 31, 2007. Ms. Fitzpatrick reviewed the revenue estimates and projections and discussed various items within the budget including a recommended level for cash capital, increases in budget items over last year's budget, and additions to the budget. She stated that the general appropriation between schools and general town government is in line with historical efforts to maintain a 60-40 split, respectively.

The Board members offered some opinions on what priority budget items they support. Mr. Cogswell stated that he is planning a special Board meeting on January 30th so that the Board can get a more thorough briefing on the budget prior to its release. Mr. Healy suggested that the Board communicate to the Finance Committee that the Town Departments are working within their budget, but what is really desired is a "needs" budget.

4. Town Manager Report:
Chris Coleman, Assistant Town Manager/Personnel Director, appeared before the Board to highlight a community initiative to combat drug and alcohol abuse in Town. He stated that the Town Manager has formed a working group of nine members. The group recently completed a community booklet which includes information on how parents can talk with children and lists resources in the Town that can help. The Booklet was paid for by the Tolman Trust. Mr. Coleman stated that a series of "Coffee Talks" are being scheduled for parents to learn more about how to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

Mr. Healy expressed his appreciation to Town Department Managers and the Trust Fund Commissioners for their efforts to move this initiative forward.

8:10 p.m. Board Discussion:
Mr. Healy stated that he received a call from a constituent who expressed his gratitude for the efforts by the Town to beautify the Downtown area.

8:15 p.m. Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Healy that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session to:

Exception 3 – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, or to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and

Exception 6 – to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease, or value of real property if such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.

Not to return to open session prior to adjournment.

Second: Mr. Wasserman. Mr. Cogswell polled the Board members. Unanimously approved 5-0.

(The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.)