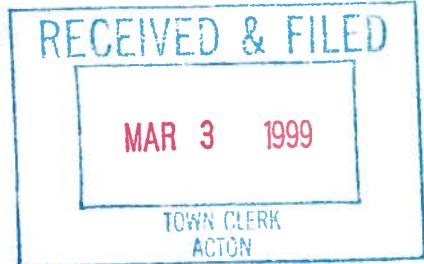


**SELECTMEN'S MINUTES**  
**February 2, 1999**



**Present:** Wayne L. Friedrichs, Herman Kabakoff, F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Nancy Tavernier and the Town Manager. (The meeting was televised)

**CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

Charlie Kadlec reviewed the petition and letter sent to the Town, School and Finance Committee stating that they did not support the Board of Selectmen supporting a 2 1/2 override this year. They wanted a balanced budget. He read the petition that was signed by over 500 people. He noted that the municipal budget is in line with a slight 3 % increase. He wanted the Board not approve school budgets that are above spending levels that would force an override. He will keep track of the voters contacting him about the issue.

Peter made observation that the need for an override has been on the table for over a year, and said that it is not coming out of the blue. Dore' hoped we would get someone from the School to come over here to present their budget.

Bill Sawyer congratulated them on being Board of Selectmen members. He is concerned about process; his impression is that the Town is going forward without the process that should accompany those initiatives. He mentioned the school and demolition and swap of town land and Blanchard Trust issues. He has impression that we are going forward without the planning he feels we should have in place.

Wayne felt that the process is in place and generally is very well spelled out. He feels overall that there it too much process. He is in the Private sector and is constantly surprised at the public process. He noted that regulations have increased in the past 20 years since Bill was a Selectman.

Dore' noted that the school process has been going on for 3 years. He also noted that the land swap and Blanchard are concerning too. Dore' spoke to several of Mr. Sawyers issues and questions. It was noted that during Mr. Sawyers term as a Selectman that sewers could have been installed at a cost of 10% to the community, but were not supported by the town leaders.

Bill Sawyer replied that the Issue was two fold on why they did not get sewers. First, regionalization and the State was pushing town into plan with Maynard, the town resisted the regional approach because they would lose control to Maynard since the plant would be sited in their community.

Joe Boldger asked who has the functional contractual responsibility of the final placement of contracts, like schools and sewers. Wayne replied Regional School Committee handles Jr. and Sr. High Schools and the Town Manager the balance.

Gloria Jacobs - Spoke about Beaver issues on Flint Road. Financially she feels that the Town should get going and get a trapper. Don said he went to the site with the State and found that someone over the weekend and taken out a portion of the dam. The State said that they wanted to call the environmental police, but have backed off. They will not give us permission until the late Spring. The bottom line is we need State Permission and the State has indicated we can trap anytime we want, however, the pelts from the last dam averaged out to be \$250 per animal pelt. He said that the State will not grant the demolition of the dam. They might let us take it down to the water level in November and this would save the Crustaceans. We have to determine the lowest septic system and then they can work to that number which is the lowest bed and bring this information to the State's attention.

Paul Wasserbheor 55 Flint Road. The water has never been this high, it is on top of his leaching field, now is the critical time and don't know if they can wait until Spring, it is going to go higher than leaching fields, it is beyond high currently. He stated that no one had tampered with the dam. Don noted that it must have taken place over the weekend, but it certainly had been tampered with which made the State people very uncooperative.

Dore' said we needed get the water down and to monitor it and find the low field and let the State see it. He urged the neighborhood to get the neighbors out there with the State people and to fax, write and make the situation known to the people that have the power to resolve this in an immediate way, the State.

**DORE' HUNTER** - Moved to authorize Town Manager to spend up to \$2,000 to trap the beavers in the Flint Road area. **NANCY TAVERNIER** - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **TREE REMOVAL HEARING – HARRIS STREET**

Dean Charter outlined the Tree removal process. It was noted that they cannot construct the street unless the two trees are removed. He and Engineering after looking at the tree feel that they could save the oak. Ian Rubin the Engineer felt that the pine could not be saved. **DORE' HUNTER** - Moved the authorization of the removal of the trees. **NANCY TAVERNIER** - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
VETERINARY DENTAL-198 GREAT ROAD**

The landowner, Mr. Moran will empty the catch basin and install a sign that the parking lot is subject to flooding. She has been practicing as a mobile veterinarian and also two days a week at Tufts in Grafton. She will treat 3 animal usually per day. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Moved to approve and NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

**SANFORD SALES** - He said he is now in compliance. He has towed cars out to make the compliance number. He was asked about the outstanding alarm fees. Dore' felt a month extension of the Class II License is all he could recommend. He reminded him that being in compliance means being in compliance every day, not just once per month and noted he will not tolerate any more of Mr. Sanford's stalling. HERMAN KABAKOFF Moved to extend the License to March 3, 1999. PETER ASHTON - SECOND. 4-1 , Wayne Friedrichs - Abstaining -Motion passed.

Mr. Guba spoke about the continued problem with parking. He did not want to see the number of cars return to the site. He read from his letter that he submitted to the board for their discussion tonight regarding Mr. Sanford's business.

**FY2000 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**EDC** - Wayne asked that the Board acknowledge that they exist and need staff support but we will continue work within the existing staff framework. DORE' HUNTER - Moved to acknowledge the work that existing staff is performing in the way of EDC support. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**NANCY TAVERNIER'S Concerns/comments:**

Nancy spoke about Audubon Hill Gift Fund which must be used for senior services only. The Web site most likely will not be supported and urged volunteer support or grant by local business. She is anxious to have MIS person on Board in the Finance Dept John said that he can't guarantee and we have not seen applicants with those qualifications. Don wanted to have a contract person do it and the Board agreed they needed a full time reasonable talent and felt it was a good investment. Wayne thought we needed to fill the position 2 years ago. Nancy noted she is also thinking about moving up library help on the priority list.

**HERMAN KABAKOFF'S Concerns/Comments:**

Herman reviewed his memo of suggestions. He felt the sidewalks could be reduced this year as we have a lot on our plate. Nancy felt we needed to give the

Staff also counseled the Board about Chapter 90 monies and urged retention in the budget of some funding for sidewalks. HERMAN KABAKOFF – Moved to reduce from 60,000 to \$30,000 DORE' HUNTER – Second. UNANIMOUS

**BOH Manhole cleaning** -Don said that it could have negative outcome as this was part of the watershed-trading program. Dore' noted we are trying to demonstrate that we are reducing phosphorus levels. Herman wanted to save 15,000 by doing it later. HERMAN KABAKOFF - moved to not fund the catch basin item in the BOH Request- WAYNE FRIEDRICHES – Second. UNIAMOUS VOTE.

**Highway - #13 he noted #10 compelling reason to replace vehicle and after loader description felt we could get one more year.** He wanted to have the vehicles on a rotation basis like the Police Cruisers replacement to replace the vehicles. Nancy noted that the cruisers are apples to apples highway equip is used differently and prone to breakdowns and felt that David made compelling case about the repairs. Peter noted that there appears that a plan for 5 years is in place. He felt we should replace both items. Wayne felt that the Highway was very careful and felt they needed the vehicles if they asked for them.

HERMAN KABAKOFF – Moved not to fund front end loader #13 NANCY TAVERNIER - Second 1-4 motion lost

**GUI - MIS Budget** - Herman asked if we had a choice not to upgrade. He would suggest we postpone if no urgency from functional perspective. This would get us click and point and support for existing system. He wanted to put off or delay for a year. We have a choice, yes, and Pentimation will support us. John thinks it is worthwhile. Wayne felt if it is worth \$3,000 per year we should get it now. Nancy felt we needed it. Peter felt productivity is worth it. HERMAN KABAKOFF Moved to delay for a year. NANCY TAVERNIER – 1-4 Motion failed.

**GIS - MIS #9** - Herman felt we should give it more thought and delay a year of the \$100,000. John said that this is an incremental program and the reason you don't see the plan is we are doing discrete full segments. We won't have overlays of soils but we will have a plan to work with every day. We will only bring forward what we can implement and work with. It was noted that this is the Town Atlas work, this is the basic raw data building and is first step. He suggested we take a look at converting everything over to GIS in quantified pieces as Bob Miller was alluding to. Wayne felt this is a MIS project and should be assigned to MIS Person. Herman wanted a full project evaluation and a quantive plan spanning x years so we know what we are taking about. The \$100,000 stands alone and we can use this even if we don't go forward with the whole package. Peter wanted to have Doug's savings and Wayne wanted MAPC thoughts as to other town's looking into it.

**WEB PAGE** - Wanted to see volunteer prepare. Dore' thought that it would be

helpful to attract business. Herman felt that we could get a citizen to prepare a quality web page. He felt we would have many offers, and he is confident we would be able to prepare it with volunteers.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move not to support #24 - NANCY TAVERNIER 0  
Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Natural Resources #17** - Little League fields he felt we should get a donation for this and not fund it with town funds. Wayne noted the single most used location are the playing fields. These are matching funds to donations. **Withdrawn**

**Speed Trailer** - Herman felt we could use the funds better. And noted he is trying to be fiscally responsible. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved to move it off and not fund. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 1-4 Motion failed.

**StreetLights** - He is suggesting we leave alone until budget, reviewed \$65,000.

**MIS person** He wanted to add at \$35,000, Nancy felt we could put it in the place of the web page. - HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved to include. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Thermal Imaging Camera** - He felt that this was a good idea. Don Johnson said he did not recommend it and felt the value of this as insurance for us is low to nil because we don't get many working fires. He felt we needed at least 4 to have it work, because they would lose time returning to another station if it were in a different area than the responding apparatus. Herman rescinded his request

ECD is rescinded per the earlier discussion.

**FIRE TRUCK** - Dore' is still concerned about the issues of the Fire requests. He felt that we should wait until latter and we should look for overall plan for replacing fire equipment. He felt it might be a good time to step back and look at getting rid of snorkel and lets be able to stand before town meeting and here is our scheme long range on how to handle it. He was troubled that an 11 year vehicle that is stored inside should be in such bad shape, why are they rusty. Dore' will defer and have the Chief come in to defend it.

**Elderly Tax issue** - Peter is unclear about the memo and needed clarification, it was noted that the overlay could fund it. Nancy thought that maybe the \$130,000 Audubon gift fund could be used to write off the funding. Johh thinks the check off might also qualify for funds from the Gift Fund.

## Operating Budget

*Herman's observations continued:*

**#52190 - Assessors** - he feels it is over budgeted by \$4,000.

**Collector** - Personnel might want to defer one of those people. John spoke to filling both positions. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move that we take \$50,000 personnel service for collectors department - Motion fails

**Lock Box 52197** - Optional and felt we could have in case we wanted to use it. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Moved to remove funding by \$12,000. PETER ASHTON - Second. UNANIMOJS

**52195 - Legal Foreclosure** - Herman said he would ask for reduction, John said they will be using all of the \$26,000 for takings. John said it funds free cash. Herman rescinded

**52190 - Professional services** - John will get back about recoded information question.

**52270 - Hazardous Waste Day** Includes funds for two days of collection.

**Veteran's Benefits** - HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce item 27100 to \$10,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Street Lighting** - Municipal Properties - Herman was concerned about the \$65,000 to buy lights. He said they don't need the \$124,000 if we buy poles. John doubled budgeted it and felt we should take down the warrant article instead of budget.

**Diesel fuel** - Peter questioned price. It was explained that we have a contract and the price is fixed.

**Sick Leave Situation in the Fire Department** - Don has tried to negotiate a wellness program in the contract. The numbers are not very encouraging. We are continuing to look at options, Don is not terribly confident we can solve it. Dore' noted his frustration that this could not be resolved.

**QUINN BILL** - Herman noted the bill is funded fully. And questioned why. It was noted we have to have the funds if the State does not meet its obligation.

**Moving the small dollars into the budget** - Fire alarm, radio call check, and additional items to be discussed at the next meeting.

Dore' noted that we needed to remove Article II sewer pump Station for the Warrant.

Nancy asked if we were going to continue to produce 1,000 Budget Supplements the board felt that 500 copies would be sufficient.

**OTHER BUSINESS** Peter offered to draft the respond to the letter about tax relief from Peter and Beth Norton.

Dore' updated the Board on the Sewer Action Committee. They are taking steps to look at the secondary sewer district with little funds expended.

### CONSENT AGENDA

DORE' HUNTER - Moved to approve. - NANCY TAVERNIER Second - UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

**MASTER PLAN UPDATE** - Master Plan Summary - needs to be trimmed down. Wayne felt we needed to distribute by coupon in the Municipal Quarterly or read it at the library. It was suggested that it be condensed further to fit a 5 page web site.

**BLANCHARD TRUST** - Don updated the Board on he and Dr. Zimmerman's meeting with the attorney regarding the subject Trust.

**SCHOOL BUDGETS** -Dr. Zimmerman wants to know when the BOS and FIN Com can receive a budget presentation of their budget. Herman wanted details in object budget form; he wanted more than a day to look at it. Dore' wanted the staff increases explained. The Board will look at the 22nd with 24th fall back.

Nancy Tavernier moved to Executive session for the purpose of discussion litigation. All AYES

The Board adjourned at 11:30

*Nancy E. Tavernier*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

*3-2-99*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Christine Joyce*  
Christine Joyce