

**Selectmen Present:** Ralph Dormitzer  
Robert Spofford  
Fred Koed  
Gary Vanderweil  
Edwin G. Carr

**Others Present:** Samantha Brown – The Cohasset Mariner  
Drake Lucas – The Patriot Ledger  
Paul Murphy – Animal Control Officer  
John and Mia Dean  
Aida Dean  
Nathaniel Palmer  
Robert Swift, National Grid  
Mark Brennan, Greenbush Team

Chairman Frederick Koed called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Reorganization of the Board**

Chairman Koed turned the meeting over to Town Manager, William Griffin, for the reorganization of the Board. **Selectman Gary Vanderweil moved to nominate Selectman Ralph Dormitzer as Chairman, and Selectman Robert Spofford as Vice Chairman. Selectman Edwin Carr seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous.** Chairman Ralph Dormitzer then assumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

The Board then unanimously decided to move the Board of Selectmen meeting night to Mondays.

**Town Manager’s Report**

Town Manager, William Griffin, advised the Board that he appointed Paul Pattison as the Interim Shellfish Constable. In his letter to the Board, Mr. Patterson urged other citizens to come forward and offer their services.

Mr. Griffin then informed the Board that he was pleased to give the Board the final audits of both the Deer Hill, Middle/High School and Osgood school project. Mr. Griffin explained that although with the Osgood School, the Town’s annual reimbursement will be reduced by \$18,400 a year, the Town will also be seeing a \$1,113,181 surplus for the other projects. The surplus funds must be devoted to reducing the amount of future debt exclusions for the Town. Mr. Griffin asked that a member of the Board, Selectman Spofford of the School Building Committee, a School Committee member, and a member of the Advisory Committee meet with Finance Director, Mike Buckley to determine how these funds should be allocated. Chairman Ralph Dormitzer asked if any other Board members would like to be involved. Selectman Edwin Carr asked to attend these discussions as well.

Mr. Griffin then alerted the Board that there is currently no Cable Advisory Committee. He stated that with the license close to expiring, and with many other issues, it would be good for the Town to reinstate this committee. The Board agreed and Mr. Griffin stated he would draft the charge.

**Public Comment Period**

Water Commissioner, Nathaniel Palmer, addressed the Board and asked the Board for help with the Water Department's relationship with Comcast. Mr. Griffin asked Mr. Palmer to put all of the details in to an email.

**Selectmen Comment Period**

Selectman Koed asked the Board for their Town Manager evaluations. He also informed the Board that he had attended a meeting of the Suburban Coalition. One of the topics discussed was the amount of money that is currently being paid under Chapter 70 per student. The consensus of the meeting was that any improvement on the amount would be good for any Town, so to please keep that in mind if any of the members should speak to the State Representatives.

Selectman Spofford welcomed new Board member, Edwin Carr, and congratulated him. Selectman Spofford also thanked everyone else in the Town that ran for election. He also asked Chairman Dormitzer to make the committee reassignments at the next Board meeting.

Selectman Carr thanked the Board for his welcome. He also thanked his opponent, Roger Hill, for a great race.

Chairman Dormitzer then asked the Board if they should review the procedures of their meetings. Mr. Griffin offered to give the Board procedures that had been adopted by a Board of Selectmen from another town.

Selectman Spofford stated that where Selectman Carr would not be present at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, he felt that both the discussion on Board procedures and committee reassignments should take place at the first meeting in May.

**Dean Dog Hearing**

Chairman Dormitzer reviewed the timeline of events and stated that tonight's agenda item is actually just the issuance of order. That being said, Chairman Dormitzer did want to let the Dean's speak on their own behalf if they felt they wanted to. Mr. Griffin also explained that, per Town Counsel, the only members of the Board that could participate in this discussion were those present for the previous Issuance (that would be Chairman Dormitzer, Selectman Koed and Selectman Spofford).

Chairman Dormitzer stated that the Animal Behaviorist, Dr. Amy Marder, conducted studies on each of the nine dogs and submitted a report on each to the Town and the Dean family. Of the nine dogs, Dr. Marder felt that four should either be placed in very special homes, or be humanely put down. The other 5 dogs, she recommended that they be neutered and then kept either contained in an enclosure or on a leash the rest of the time.

Mr. John Dean read a statement/letter that he prepared for the Board in response to Dr. Marder's report. In this letter, the Dean's asked to be able to continue breeding on their property.

Selectman Koed stated that he found it difficult to go against the recommendations of the expert; in particular for the dogs that Dr. Marder said should not be placed in homes.

Mia Dean, the wife of John Dean then asked to speak. She stated that the dogs are registered in her name, and that they are in fact her dogs. Mrs. Dean reviewed the processes that Dr. Marder used to evaluate each of her dogs. Mrs. Dean stated that she felt that there were factual errors in the report and that she was not "happy" with them. Selectman Koed reminded her that at that at the last meeting, the Dean's agreed they would accept the reports from a behaviorist.

Selectman Spofford moved to adopt the order as written, Selectman Koed seconded it and then it was opened for discussion: Chairman Dormitzer then reviewed the order. Selectman Spofford asked that if in this order, was the Board going to differentiate between puppies and dogs. The consensus amongst the Board was that they would have to have another hearing for the puppies. One of the victims, Claire Barnum, then stated that there seemed to be too much conversation with the Deans, and what almost seemed like negotiations with the Dean family. Ms. Barnum stated she felt the issue was with the dogs' training. She asked that the Board get back to issuing the Order

The Selectmen continued to review the order and focused on the timeframes. First the Board required that the four dogs, named by Dr. Marder, be placed with a Border Collie Rescue within 30 days. The Board then required the other five dogs be neutered within 30 days. The dogs that are neutered and kept – 45 days on that order. **Selectman Spofford moved to support this order with these amendments, it was seconded by Selectman Koed and the vote was unanimous.**

### **Pole Hearing – Sohier Street**

Robert Swift of National Grid petitioned for these poles to be moved because of the road widening and the MBTA railroad crossing. One pole will be added for support, and pole number 22 will be moved about 60' toward the Music Circus property. Selectman Carr stated that he would like to see the poles all on one side of the street, and would like to see all other options exhausted before a guide wire and stub pole were used. The Board asked Mr. Swift if they could get a more detailed drawing of the plans to move all four poles as they want to make sure the poles are located in the most aesthetically pleasing location. In the meantime, the Board felt they could recommend the moving of pole #22,

and asked if Mr. Swift could come back in a few weeks with the rest of the details. Mark Brennan, MBTA Liaison, explained that they are on tight deadline and would like to get this done quickly so the street can open for the Music Circus. **Selectman Gary Vanderweil moved to support the moving of pole #22, Selectman Koed seconded it and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **Parker Avenue Speed Bumps**

Bob Pattison, of 19 Parker Avenue, came before the Board to address the petition he and his neighbors submitted for seasonal speed bumps. Selectman Vanderweil asked if they had any scientific data to back up the allegations of speeding on the road. Police Chief Hussey addressed the Board and stated that he had officers sit on the road and use radar to get an idea of what the speeds were. He stated that measured speeds were between 15 and 25 MPH, but the real issue was the amount of volume this very short road experiences during the boating season. Many residents of Parker Avenue then spoke and asked that the Board give it a try for at least the summer. **Selectman Spofford moved to support the temporary placement of speed bumps on Parker Avenue from the date of placement in May – September 30<sup>th</sup>, it was seconded by Selectman Vanderweil, and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **Special Election Warrant Approval**

**The Board was asked to approve the Warrant for the Special Town Election. Selectman Spofford moved to approve the warrant, Selectman Vanderweil seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **One-Day Liquor License**

**The Board was asked to approve a one-day liquor license for the Carriage House Pre-School on May 20, 2006. Selectman Spofford moved to grant the license, Selectman Vanderweil seconded it and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **Minutes Approval**

**Selectman Vanderweil moved to approve the minutes for March 21, 2006, March 28, 2006 and April 1, 2006, it was seconded by Selectman Koed and the vote was unanimous.**

#### **Executive Session – Collective Bargaining**

**The Town Manager asked to go into Executive Session for the purposes of strategizing collective bargaining. The Board would only resume the open meeting for the purposes of adjournment.**

**Motion by Selectman Gary Vanderweil to go into Executive Session.  
Seconded by Selectman Robert Spofford**

**Vote 5 – 0 in favor, none opposed.**

**Selectman Koed – Aye  
Selectman Vanderweil – Aye  
Selectman Spofford - Aye  
Selectman Carr - Aye  
Chairman Dormitzer - Aye**

Selectman Vanderweil moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Spofford seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph S. Dormitzer  
Chairman