

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, MACKINNON COUNCIL CHAMBER, MONDAY - JANUARY 12, 2009 - 7:00 PM

A meeting of the Southbridge Council was held on Monday Jan 12, 2009, in the Robert MacKinnon Council Chambers. Chairman Nikolla called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda Item #1 Pledge of Allegiance-Chairman Nikolla led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item #2 Roll Call-Councilors present: KING, LAZO, LIVENGOOD, LOGAN, NIKOLLA, REGIS, VANDAL, and VECCHIA. Councilor MCDONALD was excused.

Agenda Item #3 Consider and accept the minutes of the December 22, 2008 meeting- A motion was made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Livengood to approve the minutes. **Vote by show of hands, all in favor.**

Agenda item #4 Subcommittee Reports:

(a) General Government- Councilor King read had no minutes but stated there is a General Government Subcommittee meeting scheduled for January 13, 2009 in the Rice Conference Room. (b) D.P.W.-Councilor Vandal had no minutes. Next meeting scheduled January 14, 2009 at 7pm in Rice Conference Room. (c) Education and Human Services- Councilor Nikolla stated there were no minutes, she explained Councilor McDonald is ill and she doesn't know of any meeting being scheduled. (d) Planning and Development-Councilor Livengood has no minutes. No meeting scheduled. (e) Protection of Persons and Property-Councilor Lazo had no minutes. Next meeting Wed January 14, 2009 at 7pm. Discussion of interest will be the parking commission. (f) Town Manager-Councilor Regis had no minutes. Next meeting scheduled January 15, 2009 at 7pm in Larry Hyman Room. Discussion will include Town Manager Performance.

Agenda Item #5 Chairman's Announcements -Chairwoman Nikolla stated that Ajay LaRochelle has the Rez almost ready for skating and the Rez should be opened this weekend. The hours are Saturday and Sunday from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. She stated to call 508-764-4849 to confirm if they will open this weekend.

Agenda Item #6 Town Manager's Announcements

- Recording Clerk Introduction-Welcome Deborah Williams, new recording clerk.
- Infrastructure Improvements-Several Infrastructure improvements were discussed and detailed reports provided to all councilors. The projects are: Environmental Industrial Park Access Road; New HVAC system and energy efficient windows for our emergency regional shelter/community center; Municipal Vehicles; Fire Station Roof and Structural Repairs & Renovations; Water Treatment Plant Generator Replacement; Combined DPW Facility - Phase II Site Remediation; Wastewater Treatment Facility WAS Building Demolition and Replacement; South Street Sewer Replacement; Water Treatment Plant Improvements; Water Meter Replacement Program and Water Main Extension - Route 169 to Route 20.
- Health Department Transition-Health Director, Jim Philbrook has resigned effective January 23, 2009, but available until February 7, 2009. The deadline for submission of employment is January 23, 2009 and a few prospective candidates have already applied. Recycling Coordinator interviews have also began.
- Chapter 475 of the Acts of 2004-Riscal oversight expires except for reserve components. Town Finance Director and Town attorney to find replacement for reserve fund and allow for continued reserve funds.

Agenda Item #7 Citizen's Forum- Roger Caouette, 82 Tillyer Avenue, came forward to express his concern that Kopelman & Paige is representing both Southbridge and Charlton on the selling of water to Charlton. Mr. Caouette feels it's a conflict of interest to represent both Towns and poor business practice. Mr. Clark indicated K & P did approval as to form and the Towns negotiated the agreement. Mr. Clark responded that he does not feel it is a

conflict because both Southbridge and Charlton applied for a waiver of conflict and completed. This contract is specific to Kopelman & Paige. A case by case will be reviewed in the future agreements to be sure it's legal.

Mr. Caouette asked about the status of the petition received regarding the Board of Health members being elected rather than appointed. Mr. Clark responded that the petition has been received and the Town Council still has time to act upon it.

John Pulawski, 7 Jennison Street came forward and asked about the Board of Health members being elected versus being appointed to which Mr. Clark responded the petition has gone to Kopelman & Paige and will be sent to the appropriate subcommittee.

Mr. Pulawski asked if a by-law is necessary for contaminated soil being brought to the landfill. Mr. Clark stated the contaminated soil being brought to the landfill is below DEP limits and explained that you cannot have an agreement in good faith with a company and then take action to the contrary and create a by-law to circumvent the agreement.

Mr. Pulawski explained he has heard comments regarding the group RATS and stated the group in not suing Casella or the Town of Southbridge, they are appealing the Southbridge Board of Health's decision on the Site Assignment.

Agenda Item #8 Councilor's Forum-

Councilor Lazo stated he is sorry to see Jim Philbrook leave the Board of Health.

Councilor Lazo commented on the certificate the Fire Chief received. Councilor Lazo also read a letter from the Charlton Emergency Management office offering their appreciation to the Southbridge Fire Department in assisting them during the December 12th ice storm. Councilor Lazo stated the Fire Department is second to none and the recent articles that were printed in the local newspaper are not necessary.

Councilor Lazo also commended the DPW for the good work during the recent snow storms and urged citizens to be patient when driving while the DPW crews are working. It takes time to salt and sand first. In addition, if possible stay home during the storm.

Councilor King wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Rudi DiGregorio for the Christmas display on the Town Common.

Councilor Regis offered kudos to the Town Manager and his staff for putting together the Infrastructure Improvements package so quickly.

Councilor Vecchia stated he would like to see the Town in the Group Insurance Plan offered by the State. He believes it would save the Town money. Councilor Vecchia stated the deadline for enrollment is December 1st of each year and would like to see the Town Manager discuss this plan with the Unions.

Councilor Livengood welcomed Ms. Williams as the Recording Clerk.

Councilor Logan thanked Town Manager Clark for arranging a meeting with Senator Moore, State Representative Alicia, Attorney Giorgio and himself to review the taxing of trucks using Pleasant Street.

Councilor Logan questioned an item on the Infrastructure Improvement package regarding the Water Treatment Plant improvement. Councilor Logan asked Town Manager Clark why six million gallons a day is needed and is this because of the selling of water to Charlton. Mr. Clark replied that the DPW Director may have put that in, but does not believe it's primarily because of the selling of water to Charlton.

Agenda Item #9 Discussion of next meeting date

Councilor Lazo recommended January 26, 2009 as the next meeting date. **Vote by show of hands, all in favor.**

Agenda Item # 10 Adjournments-A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor King, seconded by Councilor Lazo.
Vote by show of hands, all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Williams,
MASc Recording Clerk