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**MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**December 15, 2008**

6 The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Monday December 15, 2008, at Salem Town Hall, 33  
7 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

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9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Elizabeth A. Roth, Vice-Chairman Arthur E. Barnes, Secretary Michael J.  
10 Lyons, Selectman Everett P. McBride, Selectman Patrick Hargreaves and Town Manager Mr. J.  
11 Sistare.

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14 **CALL TO ORDER**

15 Chairman Roth began by calling the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. She then joined the Board in  
16 the Pledge of Allegiance, and introduced members of the Board and the Town Manager.

17 Chairman Roth stated the meeting would be limited to required business and an update of the ice  
18 storm event.

19  
20 **1. Meeting Minutes**

21 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

22 *Move to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on December 1,*  
23 *2008 as written*

24 **SECOND:** Selectman Barnes

25 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

26 **The motion carried unanimously**

27  
28 **2. Chairman Comments**

29 Chairman Roth stated she would reserve her comments until later in the meeting when the  
30 update on the ice storm was given.

31  
32 **3. Receive Zoning Petitions**

33 Mr. Sistare provided a brief introduction, stating the annual deadline for zoning petitions was  
34 last Tuesday and they had received three petitions which had been verified by the Town  
35 Clerk and needed to be formally received by the Board before being passed on to the  
36 Planning Board.

37  
38 **MOTION:** by Selectman Barnes

39 *Petition #1: Move to receive a zoning petition to amend Article VIII, Section 309-51 of the*  
40 *Zoning Ordinance by addition of the following new subparagraph: §309-51 F. Accessory*  
41 *Apartment as allowed under the provisions of the Residential District in §309-7.1, and*  
42 *further that the petition be submitted to the Planning Board for inclusion on the 2009*  
43 *ballot, and that the Planning Board shall submit this petition to legal counsel for review.*

44 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

45 **Discussion:**

46 Chairman Roth clarified the petitions had not yet been reviewed by legal counsel, and Mr.

1 Sistare clarified this would be done to ensure they do not contravene State law. There  
2 followed a discussion with Selectman McBride as to whether the wording in the petitions can  
3 be changed and a discussion regarding signatures on one of the petitions.

4 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

5 **The motion carried unanimously.**

6  
7 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

8 ***Petition #2: Move to receive a zoning petition to rezone properties known as 38, 40 and 42***  
9 ***South Policy Street shown on Tax Map 97, Lot 3996, 3997 and 4000 from Residential***  
10 ***District to Business Office District 1, and further that the petition be submitted to the***  
11 ***Planning Board for inclusion on the 2009 ballot, and that the Planning Board shall submit***  
12 ***this petition to legal counsel for review.***

13 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

14 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

15 **The motion carried unanimously.**

16  
17 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

18 ***Petition #3: Move to receive a zoning petition to rezone Map 89, Lot 1081 from Residential***  
19 ***Zone to Commercial A Zone and the remaining portion of Map 89, Lot 11045 from***  
20 ***Residential Zone to Commercial-Industrial C Zone, and further that the petition be***  
21 ***submitted to the Planning Board for inclusion on the 2009 ballot, and that the Planning***  
22 ***Board shall submit this petition to legal counsel for review.***

23 **SECOND:** Selectman Barnes

24 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

25 **The motion carried unanimously**

26  
27 **4. EOC Update on Ice Storm**

28 Chairman Roth reported the EOC were working on emergency management of the ice storm  
29 and Fire Chief Kevin Breen was Director of Emergency Management. She commended the  
30 staff involved for their efforts and their accomplishments, stating this was the worst disaster  
31 the National Grid had experienced. Chairman Roth then read an e-mail of appreciation for  
32 the record which had been received from a resident, and handed over to Mr. Sistare who  
33 deferred to Chief Breen.

34  
35 Chief Breen provided a short presentation for viewers to convey the current status of  
36 reparations. He reviewed when the state of emergency had been declared, and what had  
37 happened next. He also spoke about the number of residents affected, and the difficulties  
38 clearing roads and with communications, asking for patience regarding the clean up. The  
39 Chief provided the telephone number of the emergency shelter and a status report on the  
40 shelters in the area.

41  
42 He then went on to provide information on the current status of people still requiring  
43 assistance in the shelters.

44  
45 Chief Breen gave a brief explanation of how power is restored for the benefit of the viewing  
46 public; pointing out the first priority is assessment of damage. He encouraged anyone

1 needing assistance to go to the shelter in Nashua at this point as the Salem shelter was now  
2 closed. He went on to talk about restoration of services and provided a report on the water  
3 levels in Arlington, as well as where the public could obtain bottled water. Chief Breen  
4 stated that the schools would be open on Tuesday and that the minor road closures still in  
5 effect should not affect students. The Chief then handed over to the public safety agencies to  
6 provide their reports.

7  
8 Deputy Police Chief William Ganley commended staff and their teamwork, speaking about  
9 the number of calls taken by the Police department. He also spoke about what the Police  
10 staff were involved in relating to the storm, and thanked residents for assisting their  
11 neighbors. Chairman Roth also spoke about how impressed she was with the co-operation of  
12 staff.

13  
14 The next person to speak was Mr. Russell, DPW Director who provided a run down of events  
15 and what his department's involvement has been, which included salting and tree clearing,  
16 setting up road blockades, maintaining sewer and pumping stations. He reported the power  
17 supply to Wheeler Dam was lost and they had to change the Town drinking water supply as a  
18 result. He also reported they had started clearing the arterial roads and would be performing  
19 essential operations for the rest of this week, but that they hoped to be done clearing by the  
20 end of the weekend. He asked residents not to bring their trees and limbs to the edge of road,  
21 as FEMA will not reimburse the Town for this type of effort. Chairman Roth further  
22 clarified this.

23  
24 Mr. Russell reported they will open up the brush section of the Transfer Station to all  
25 residents each night until 7 p.m. and on Sunday 7:00 – 3:00 for brush only, whether or not  
26 residents have a sticker. He confirmed the rest of the station will operate on their normal  
27 hours and recapped what these are, and explained what the limitations would be. Regarding  
28 Pine Grove cemetery, Mr. Russell spoke about closing off sections 9 & 10 to vehicles due to  
29 damage caused by vehicles. He thanked DPW staff for their efforts.

30  
31 Chairman Roth again thanked everyone for their hard work.

32  
33 Chief Breen pointed out there is still an active emergency and they were not ready to move to  
34 the recovery stage yet.

35  
36 Assistant Fire Chief, Paul Parisi, introduced himself and provided statistics for the current  
37 status. He thanked staff for their service to the community, explaining they have been  
38 canvassing areas of town going door to door to check on the welfare of residents. He also  
39 explained the Fire department action items which include reverse 911 actions, and reminded  
40 residents there are no smoke detectors if there is no power or a generator is being used. He  
41 then went on to highlight areas of caution for residents. He further stated residents could  
42 obtain burning permits for brush. Chairman Roth stated she had been impressed with the  
43 way the emergency teams came up with ways to contact people.

44  
45 Selectman McBride spoke about looking at a system similar to the reverse 911 which would  
46 permit them to obtain alternative numbers and contact information. Selectman Hargreaves

1 suggested contacting National Grid as they have a system for this. Selectman Lyons spoke  
2 about metropolitan New Jersey and their system.

3  
4 Mr. Russell reported the hours of operation for the Transfer Station will be added to SCTV  
5 the following day and the Town will look at additional hours for over Christmas.

6  
7 Chief Breen reminded viewers they would be updating the Town web site for those who have  
8 web access at work, and reviewed the emergency contact details. He then spoke about the  
9 dangers of alternative heat sources and urged caution when using these. In addition he  
10 reported the Ingram Senior Center will be open, and Animal Control and the animal shelter  
11 can help with pets as they are not allowed at shelters. He informed everyone of the  
12 presidential declaration of a state of emergency, explaining this means FEMA has been  
13 authorized to assist with certain expenditures, and he outlined the procedure for how  
14 communities become eligible under the Stafford Act. Chairman Roth spoke about the  
15 importance of keeping records under these situations so that the community can recover  
16 financially.

17  
18 Selectman Lyons added his congratulations to the staff involved in the emergency operations,  
19 asking Mr. Sistare what the options for funding are.

20  
21 Mr. Sistare responded there will be an assessment this week, and he will issue a directive that  
22 expenditure between now and the end of the year will be for emergencies only. Selectman  
23 Lyons asked about the process regarding over expenditure of the bottom line in an  
24 emergency such as this and Mr. Sistare stated he would have to look at the procedure to  
25 determine what they need to do.

26  
27 Selectman Lyons enquired as to what metric or criteria would he used to say when they are in  
28 recovery. Chief Breen responded, speaking about the dangers which still exist. He also  
29 clarified for home owners they are responsible for the cost and for organizing repair to lines  
30 which are down on their property, explaining about the process for inspection of these and  
31 urging residents to begin the process and to contact inspectors (providing the 24 hour  
32 telephone number 890-2027). He reported inspectors are co-coordinating with National Grid  
33 to put residents on a list for approval and also provided a telephone number for National Grid  
34 that home owners can call with questions, and reminded them they can also call the Fire  
35 Department if they require assistance or have any queries.

36  
37 Selectman McBride spoke about the Unitel web site which he thought was better and Chief  
38 Breen stated he would share the information with National Grid.

39  
40 Chairman Roth thanked residents for their co-operation.

#### 41 42 **5. Town Manager's Report**

43 Mr. Sistare stated he will keep the Board updated on finances by e-mail. He passed on his  
44 thanks to employees, naming staff members, and confirming they would be holding  
45 discussions to follow up on what they have learned for the future.

1 **6. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence**

2 Selectman McBride stated they should budget in 2009 for certain buildings like the Senior  
3 Center to be provided with generators.

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5 Selectman Hargreaves thanked Sally Sweet for the Toys for Tots drive.

6  
7 **7. Old Business Tabled/Pending**

8 There were no items to be discussed.

9  
10 • **Additions/Requests by the Public**

11 There were no items under this topic.

12  
13 **Upcoming Meetings**

- 14 ○ January 5, 2009  
15 ○ January 12, 2009  
16 ○ January 26, 2009

17  
18 • **Upcoming Events**

- 19 ○ See above under Selectmen Reports for detail.

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21 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

22 *Move to adjourn the meeting*

23 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

24 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

25 **The motion carried unanimously.**

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28 Without further business, the Board moved to Non-public session at 8:40 p.m.

29  
30 Notes/Minutes Taken by: Sandra Maxwell

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32 Approved: Board of Selectmen

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34 Date: January 5, 2009

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