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**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Meeting of
March 2, 2009**

7 The Board of Selectmen held a meeting on Monday March 2, 2009 at Salem Town Hall, 33
8 Geremonty Drive, Salem, NH.

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

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14 **CALL TO ORDER**

15 Chairman Roth began by calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She joined the Board in the
16 Pledge of Allegiance, and requested a moment of silence for Town Manager J, Sistare's mother
17 who had passed away. The Board then introduced themselves.

18
19 **1. Chairman Comments**

20 Chairman Roth extended the sympathy of the Board and the Town to Mr. Sistare and his family
21 for the recent loss of his parents.

22
23 Chairman Roth reported this would be her last meeting as chairman of the Board and announced
24 dates of the next Board meeting, election and Town Meeting, encouraging everyone to vote in
25 the election.

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27 **2. Meeting Minutes**

28 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

29 *Move to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Non-Public Session on February 9,*
30 *2009*

31 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

32 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

33 **The motion carried unanimously.**

34
35 **MOTION:** by Selectman Lyons

36 *Move to accept the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular meeting on February 16, 2009*

37 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

38 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

39 **The motion carried unanimously.**

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41 **3. Amendment of Ambulance Billing Policy**

42 Chairman Roth explained Chief Breen and Ms. Savastano had proposed amendments to the
43 Ambulance Billing Policy and handed over to the Chief for further information. Chief Breen
44 provided some historical information on the billing policy and explained he had come before the
45 Board to ask them to accept the new billing policy proposed by Ms. Savastano, Finance Director
46 and himself and to increase the existing fees as per schedule 'A' included in the draft of the

1 proposed policy. He explained the last increase to these fees took place in 2005, provided details
2 of the proposed changes as well as the reason for the increases. Chief Breen handed out a copy
3 of the Federal Hill-Burton Income Levels as further explanation of the allowable billing. He also
4 explained he had included in the Board's packet for their information a copy of a hardship
5 application form being proposed which will formally record requests for assistance, stating there
6 was also a proposal to form a Hardship Committee to review these requests before forwarding a
7 recommendation to the Board. He stated these would permit a more consistent approach to
8 dealing with write offs.

9
10 In response to a request by Chairman Roth, Ms. Savastano confirmed this policy was the next
11 step in an attempt to deal more effectively with write offs for ambulance billing. There followed
12 a discussion on the proposed hardship policy. In response to a query from Selectman
13 Hargreaves, Chief Breen stated he would check on whether 'Free Care' of Massachusetts covers
14 the transportation of Massachusetts residents who may require the assistance of the ambulance
15 service while in Salem.

16 **MOTION:** by Selectman Hargreaves

17 *Move that the Board of Selectmen do hereby amend the current Ambulance Billing Policy and*
18 *adopt the revised policy dated March 2, 2009 attached hereto, and further that the Board of*
19 *Selectmen hereby authorizes the increase of the Town of Salem's Ambulance Billing Fees as*
20 *contained in the attached fee schedule with the new rate schedule to be effective April 1, 2009*

21 **SECOND:** Selectman McBride

22 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

23 **The motion carried unanimously.**

24
25 Chief Breen spoke further on HPPA exemption regarding discussion of billing and the proposed
26 Hardship Committee.

27 28 **4. Setting Poll Hours for Town Meeting**

29 Chairman Roth reported the polling hours will be set from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and the
30 second Deliberative Session is scheduled for March 14, 2009 in the Salem High School
31 Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. She also announced the second warrant is available on the town web
32 site, and the Town Report will also be available on the web site as well at the Town Hall. The
33 Board agreed which members would check each of the polling locations prior to the ballot.

34 Selectman Hargreaves announced that absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk.

35 **MOTION:** by Selectman McBride

36 *Move to set the polling hours on Tuesday March 10, 2009 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.*

37 **SECOND:** Selectman Hargreaves

38 **VOTE:** 5-0-0

39 **The motion carried unanimously.**

40 41 **5. Motions and Seconds for 2nd Deliberative Session**

42 The Board went through the warrant articles for the Town Meeting, moving and seconding these.

43 44 **6. Town Manager's Report**

45 Chairman Roth announced that Mr. Sistare could be contacted this week via Ms. M. Witley if
46 required

7. Selectmen Reports/Correspondence

Selectman McBride encouraged residents to support the Operating Budget and the Bridge Bond in the election as these are important for residents and the town.

The Board members stated they had enjoyed their time serving on the Board. Chairman Roth thanked those who have put themselves up for election on behalf of the town.

Chairman Roth reported that the meeting in Concord to discuss the Governor's budget which she had been scheduled to attend that day had been cancelled due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for next week. She also reported she would be testifying before a Senate Sub-Committee on Tuesday on behalf of the town in support of extended gambling, and Police Chief Donovan would be testifying before the same committee on safety issues.

8. Old Business Tabled/Pending

There was none.

• Additions and/or Requests by Public or Board by Vote

In response to a query from resident Jeff Hatch, Selectman McBride reported the life expectancy of the proposed road repair to be addressed by the bond would be between seven and 10 years. The resident suggested Mr. Puff should be available to speak on this at Town Meeting.

• Upcoming Meetings

- March 14, 2009 – 2nd Deliberative Session
- March 16, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Organizational Meeting
- March 23, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting
- April 6, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting
- April 13, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting
- April 20, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Meeting

• Upcoming Events

- March 10, 2009 – Election

MOTION: by Selectman Hargreaves

Move to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: Selectman McBride

VOTE: 5-0-0

The motion carried unanimously.

Without further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Notes/Minutes Taken by: Sandra Maxwell

Approved: Board of Selectmen

Date: March 16, 2009