

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 9, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo. Chairman Collins was absent and it is duly recorded.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the November 21, 2005 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian

Safety Committee Minutes (December 14, 2005). A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded Mr. Audette to accept the December 14, 2005 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian.

Application for Common Victualler's License: Daily Bread Bakery Café', 76 Church Street, Whitinsville, [Christopher Sohigian]. Mr. Sohigian introduced himself to the board. He indicated that he hoped to open the Café [with seating for 20 people] on or about February 1, 2006, offering breakfast, lunch and pastry items. Mr. Sohigian further advised that the hours of operation would be from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday-- hours would be from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Selectmen wished him well with his business. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the Daily Bread Bakery Café's Common Victualler's License. Vote Yes/ Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Audette and Ampagoomian.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Montecalvo informed the Town Manager, Michael Coughlin of the numerous phone calls he received regarding sidewalk plowing and recommended some ideas of handling this situation for next year. Mr. Coughlin then informed Chairman Collins that the situation could be resolved this year. The Town Manager further advised that he has ordered a complete review of the DPW, which will be rendered at the next Selectmen's meeting. With respect to that review, it was pointed out that compared to 20 other peer communities Northbridge has far less than what is needed. He further remarked that our equipment is so old that the DPW Director has to lease a tractor to get the job done for the remainder of this year. Continuing, Mr. Coughlin stated that a new program - "District Improvement Financing Project"- has been introduced that would designate specific areas of the town as District Improvement areas and seek funding for improvements to the targeted areas. **Selectman Audette/1)** asked the Town Manager about the Moon Hill road situation [town plows turning around in private driveways]. The Town Manager responded that it has already been taken care of. **2)** asked about the FEMA update. The Town Manager responded that he will be meeting with FEMA on Wednesday, January 11th @ 9:30a.m. Town Manager mentioned that FEMA should step up to the plate with respect to individuals and private businesses that have not been answered to. **Selectman Davis** submitted his concerns to the Town Manager this morning because he was out of the office and will discuss them with the Town Manager later this week. **Selectman Ampagoomian** inquired about Streetscape and the status of the Town Hall handicapped bathrooms. The Town Manager replied that the bathrooms will be completed in 4 weeks.

Town Manager's Report. **1)** Announced that the Rockdale Youth Center will be re-opening on January 17th. Congressman Neal was able to spearhead a \$10,000 grant from Intel for the Youth Center. **2)** Also noted that the Governor won't introduce the House One Budget until the end of the month. Town Manager will introduce the FY '07 budget at the Selectmen's meeting on February 27th. **3)** On January 23rd all Town Departments will be present to submit their goals and objectives for 2007. **4)** An in-depth review of the DPW will be presented on January 23rd. **5)** On February 7th, benchmarking will take place. Town Manager wants to keep Northbridge ahead of the curb on qualifying for the District Improvement Program.

Meeting adjourned: 7:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
January 25, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

As part of a badge requirement, Cub Scouts [Pack 150] took a tour of Town Hall and then joined the Selectmen's meeting to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Commendations: Police, Fire, and DPW [October 15, 2005 Flood]. Public Safety Commendations were presented to Captain David White of the Northbridge Fire Department, Officer Stephen Buma of the Northbridge Police Department, and Richard Brooks of the Department of Public Works, for their outstanding life saving efforts during the October 2005 flood. In addition, a joint citation was awarded to 12 members of the Northbridge Fire Department for their shared rescue efforts during the October 2005 flood. Officer Daniel Lamoreaux of the Northbridge Police Department also received a Public Safety Commendation for his role in thwarting a robbery that occurred at Village Variety in Whitinsville.

Presentation: Senator Louis P. Bertonazzi Foundation. Present: Mr. Tom Cullen and Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk. Mr. Cullen advised that he was here to represent the Lou Bertonazzi Foundation. He noted that Mr. Bertonazzi [former State Rep.] was hosting a contest among the towns that he used to represent in order to increase awareness of elections as well as participation in elections. Mr. Cullen announced that whichever town had the highest percentage of votes in the ~~last~~ next 4 elections would be awarded \$1,000 and a banner to be displayed in their respective Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the December 5, 2005 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Selectmen: Sharon Susienka, Retirement Board. Chairman John Meagher of the Northbridge Retirement Board notified the Board of Selectmen that Mrs. Susienka's term was due to expire on February 24, 2006 and asked the Board to consider reappointing her to another three-year term. Chairman Collins also noted that he was in receipt of a letter from Mrs. Susienka stating that she was interested in seeking reappointment to the Retirement Board for another three-year term. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to reappoint Sharon Susienka [as the Selectmen's appointee] to the Northbridge Retirement Board for another three-year term. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Special Town Meeting. 1) A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to set a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium. Vote yes/Unanimous. 2) A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to lease a multipurpose tractor with snow plow attachment and other equipment to be used by the Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Unanimous. 3) A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to close the Special Town Meeting Warrant, Friday, February 10, 2006 at Noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant [Tuesday, May 2, 2006]. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant on Friday, March 17, 2006 at Noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission/Vote to reauthorize the resolution. It was explained that the purpose of reauthorizing the resolution was to show support for the joint application by the 24 communities along the Blackstone River to maintain the designation of the area as a National

Heritage Corridor. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to reauthorize the resolution. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Town Manager's Report. Mr. Coughlin informed the Finance Committee members present that copies of all Department Head Goals and Objectives for FY 2007 have been placed in the Finance Committee mailbox. He also reviewed numbers for Local Aid/Chapter 70.

PRESENTATION: FY 2007 DEPARTMENT HEADS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. Please see attached document for details. Mr. Coughlin announced that he would develop a budget that would bring about as many of these goals as possible. He also expounded on the District Improvement Financing Program [DIF] as mentioned by Jennifer Dulmaine, Community Development Program Director.

Citizens Comments/Input. 1) **Carrie Maynard, 266 Church Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that she recently heard on a local cable television show that the Carpenter Road causeway could possibly be closed in the future by the Whitinsville Water Company. She voiced her concerns about the fact that Northbridge emergency vehicles would be unable to access that area and as a result the Town of Sutton would have to respond to emergencies in that location, which would take longer. 2) **Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned a recent incident that occurred in which someone's address and social security number was aired on Cable. She cautioned everyone about "Identity Theft" and suggested that people should take care not to dispose of personal information in their household trash.

Selectmen's Concerns: Selectman Davis asked about the status of a complaint by a Moon Hill Road resident accusing Town of Northbridge DPW vehicles of turning around in her driveway. The Town Manager assured Mr. Davis that the DPW Director has responded to that situation.

Open Session Adjourned: 11:07 PM

The Executive Session was initially cancelled and the public meeting was adjourned. Shortly thereafter, the Public Meeting was reconvened at 11:10 PM and a motion for an Executive Session was called for and passed.

Executive Session. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B #3 [Litigation – NHS Mediation], not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; Mr. Davis/Yes; Mr. Audette/Yes; Mr. Montecalvo/Yes; and Mr. Collins/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 11:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

s/

*** At their meeting of February 27, 2006, the BOS voted to amend the January 25, 2006 minutes as follows. Under the section titled Presentation, Line 6, strike the word "last" and insert the word "next".**

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
February 6, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Commendations [new quarterly program] were presented to the following town employees for their exemplary work; Laura Woeller, Maureen Kemp, Constance Duquette, and Barbara Kinney.

Representative George N. Peterson, Jr. announced the House One Budget was released and proceeded to discuss the preliminary numbers for Chapter 70 and Lottery Aid. He also mentioned that revenues came in far ahead of what was anticipated and therefore, record levels of local aid would be given back to the cities and towns. Representative Peterson informed the Board of Selectmen that the house budget should be in place with hard numbers as of June 30th. The Board asked several questions with respect to various topics including Local Aid figures, Retired Teachers Pension, State Owned Land, School Choice, Community Policing, MBTA Costs to the Community, Public Safety, Income Tax rollback, and FEMA – local aid to help the community. Town Manager Coughlin announced that he would be meeting with the Superintendent on Wednesday to discuss the funding in Education. The Town Manager also praised Representative Peterson for delivering the preliminary numbers of the Governor's budget to the Northbridge Board of Selectmen.

Representative Peterson thanked a delegate from Mass Highway District 3 for meeting with him last Friday, February 3rd. The following Mass Highway projects moving forward with development ~~*are~~ at Plummer's Corner, the bridge over the Mumford River, and Alternatives [renovation of the old mill]. Representative Peterson mentioned that the Mass Highway Department would be contacting the Town Manager to discuss the status of the Sutton Street project along with a site visit. Selectman Montecalvo requested Representative Peterson to provide him with information on the Health Reform costs at a later date.

Approval of Minutes. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the December 19, 2005 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Town Manager: 1) **Donna Gosselin, Administrative Assistant** - Sharon Susienka, Assistant to the Town Manager, introduced Donna Gosselin as the new Administrative Assistant for the Town Manager's Office and provided the Board with a brief summary of Ms. Gosselin's qualifications and past work experience. A motion made and seconded to affirm the appointment of Donna Gosselin as the Administrative Assistant in the Town Manager's Office. Vote yes/Unanimous. 2) **Catherine Bertolet, Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper** - Jen Dulmaine, Community Development Program Director, introduced Catherine Bertolet as the new Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper for the Office of Community Development. Ms. Dulmaine provided the Board of Selectmen with a brief summary of her qualifications. A motion made and seconded to affirm the appointment of Catherine Bertolet as the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper in the Office of Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearing. 7:05 p.m./FY 2006 Community Development Block Grant Application (Proposed Activities). Present: Ms. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director. Chairman Collins then read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Ms. Dulmaine began her presentation by providing the Board and audience with an update of all ongoing Community Development Block Grant Programs.

FY '01-'02:

Downtown Improvement Project Phase I and II: [100% complete]. This program provided new sidewalks, granite curbing, street trees, ornamental lights (Cross Street to Johnson Ave.) and drainage along Church Street. All funds have been utilized.

FY '03:

a) Whitin Community Center Outreach Scholarship Program: [100% complete]. This program provided youth and family memberships to the WCC to income eligible persons.

b) Mentoring Partnership Program: [100% complete]. This program provided mentors to children and youth ages 8-18 to

aid in their need for positive guidance and role models.

c) Housing & Rehabilitation Program: [14 units are 100% complete]. This program provided funding in the form of deferred payment loans to income eligible property owners to rehabilitate 14 housing units – both single and multi-family dwellings.

d) Commercial Rehabilitation/Sign and Facade Program: [Still open]. This program provided businesses with the opportunity to improve their storefronts as well as their signage. There are currently twelve signs completed and five remaining.

FY '04:

a) Streetscape: [100% complete]. This project provided ornamental lighting, benches, and trash receptacles in downtown Whitinsville.

b) Whitin Community Center Outreach Scholarship Program: [100% complete]. This program provided youth and family memberships to the WCC to income eligible persons.

c) Mentoring Partnership Program: [100% complete]. This program provided mentors to children and youth ages 8-18 to aid in their need for positive guidance and role models.

d) Housing & Rehabilitation Program: [14 units are 100% complete]. This program provided funding in the form of deferred payment loans to income eligible property owners to rehabilitate 14 housing units – both single and multi-family dwellings.

FY '05:

a) Whitin Community Center Outreach Scholarship Program: [30% complete]. This program provided 78 family memberships to residents of Northbridge.

b) Mentoring Partnership Program: Funding was not provided for this program in the FY '05 grant.

c) Housing & Rehabilitation Program: No funding for this program until FY '04' funds are fully expended.

d) Senior Center/ADA Bathroom: Second Floor bathroom, working on the bid documents at this time.

Continuing, Mrs. Dulmaine informed the Town of Northbridge that there were changes to the CDBG application. *[See attached Exhibit A]*. The major points of the changes consist of the bonus points. Any application that can demonstrate activities in a targeted geographic area has the opportunity to earn 10 additional points. Since the town proposes two activities in a Target Area, the town will receive 10 additional points. The Target Area is vague at this time, but will be defined at the next meeting. With respect to the FY 2006 application, the proposed projects are as follows: 1) Neighborhood Infrastructure Project- to include new sidewalks, roadways and drainage in the "Village" section of Northbridge (Border Street, A Street, B Street, C Street, D Street, part of Main Street and part of N. Main Street). An inventory of the buildings and infrastructure will also need to be completed for this application, in order to substantiate the Slums and Blight Designation. 2) Targeted Housing Rehabilitation Program- this program will consist of rehabilitating units of housing that meet the guidelines of the Northbridge Rehabilitation Program. These guidelines consist of income guidelines and project thresholds for repairs.

The Community Development Strategy *[See attached Exhibit B]* outlines the plans and documents that the town uses in order to prioritize projects that are put forth to the town. To be discussed in detail at the next meeting: 1) Community Development Strategy, 2) Target Area and 3) Detailed Project Line Item Budget.

Special Town Meeting [March 14, 2006]/Vote to place articles on warrant. Mark Anderson, Heritage Design Group and Fire Chief Gary Nestor gave a presentation on a site feasibility study that was done for a new fire station. Chief Nestor stated that the proposed site was studied about four years ago. He indicated that the new fire station facility would be located on Main Street and that the response time would be the same as it is now. Chief Nestor further advised that the proposed new station would be a 21,000 sq. ft. building with 7 bays for vehicles, training facilities, and a dispatch area. It would also provide room for growth and that overall the proposed location would be a great fit for the department. Mr. Anderson assured the Board that there are no 21E issues on the proposed site. Chairman Collins thanked Mr. Anderson for his assistance in providing the ~~*design~~ site plans for a new fire station at no cost. Mr. Audette and Mr. Montecalvo inquired about traffic lights at the intersection of Main Street and the new station. Chief Nestor informed the Board that there would be. Mr. Davis expressed his disappointment to Mr. Anderson about not forwarding the data he had asked for to the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee. Selectman Davis further voiced his concerns to the Board of Selectmen for not including the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee in the design phase and site planning for the project. Town Manager Coughlin commended Heritage Design for stepping up to the plate and donating their services to the Fire Chief and the Town. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian, to place articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for a Middle School Roof and a Police Station Roof. Vote yes/Unanimous. Selectman Davis inquired about 1) the status of the applications for the roof projects and whether they have been submitted to the USDA and 2) what the terms of the repayment

would be. Mr. Coughlin responded that some of the paperwork has been submitted. Mr. Davis further inquired about the source of funding for the projects and whether it would be by borrowing, bonding, grant and/or debt exclusion. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to place an article for a new Fire Station on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote Yes/Messrs. Audette, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Collins. Vote No/Mr. Davis. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to place an article to acquire land for a new Fire Station on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote Yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo, to place three zoning articles [as presented by Atty. Henry Lane] on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote Yes/Unanimous.

Central Mass. Striders/Request to hold the 18th Annual Whitin Five Road Race, Thursday November 23, 2006. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department. Vote Yes/Unanimous.

Report on Budget Benchmarking. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. introduced Mr. Ken Strachan of Municipal Benchmarking LLC of Waltham to those present. Mr. Strachan presented the benchmarking results comparing the Police, Fire, DPW and School Departments between Northbridge and 20 peer towns. *Document on file in the Town Manager's Office.* Mr. Coughlin thanked Ken Strachan for doing a great job at presenting the preliminary report to the Board of Selectman. Mr. Coughlin noted for the record that the Finance Committee had been invited to listen to the presentation and each of them had a packet in their mailbox for review.

Report on DPW Management Review. Present: Mr. Jared Clarke and Mr. Dave Hanlon who presented an in-depth analysis of the Northbridge Department of Public Works. *Document on file in the Town Manager's Office.* Mr. Hanlon commented on the facilities and infrastructure of the building(s), and how they need to be brought up to code. He also stated that morale is an issue, which could be due in large part to the poor facilities, tools and equipment being used by the Department of Public Works personnel. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Coughlin thanked Mr. Clarke and Mr. Hanlon for providing such a valuable report to the Board.

Comprehensive Fiscal Management Goals. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. presented his Comprehensive Fiscal Management Goals to the Board for their review. *Please see attached document for details. [Exhibit C].* Mr. Coughlin informed the Board that the Finance Committee also received a copy of the goals for their review.

Citizen's Comments/Input. None.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Davis presented his concerns to the Town Manager to follow up on. **Selectman Ampagoomian** thanked the town employees for attending tonight's meeting. **Selectman Audette** brought forth a complaint from a citizen in respect to the handicapped parking at Wal-Mart.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. commented on the upcoming By Law Review Committee Meeting (February 23rd) at which he will present information on the Budgetary and Capital Planning Procedures for their review and consideration.

Executive Session. There was no Executive Session scheduled this evening, however, Selectman Davis inquired about a matter from the previous Executive Session with respect to the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee. The Town Manager responded that he spoke with Mr. Barbadora and would update the Board individually and privately. Selectman Montecalvo suggested they go into an Executive Session for five to ten minutes this evening. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation – N.H.S. Mediation), not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, and Mr. Collins/Yes.

Open Session adjourned: 10:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

*** At their meeting of February 27, 2006, the BOS voted to amend the February 6, 2006 minutes as follows. Under the section titled Representative, Second Paragraph, Line 2, strike the word "are" and insert the word "at". Also, under the section Special Town Meeting, Line 8, strike the word "design" and insert the word "site".**

**Board of Selectmen
February 14, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge High School Media Center, 427 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo. Chairman Collins was absent and it is duly recorded.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

Special Town Meeting [March 14, 2006]/Vote to sign Warrant. A motion was made and seconded to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

s/

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
February 27, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Selectman Montecalvo was absent and it is duly recorded. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, & Audette.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

January 9, 2006

A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the January 9, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

January 25, 2006

Selectman Davis requested that the January 25, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: Under the section entitled Presentation, Line 6, strike the word "last" and insert the word "next." A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the January 25, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/ Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

January 25, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette, to approve but not to release the January 25, 2006 Executive Session Minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

February 6, 2006

Selectman Davis requested that the February 6, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: Under the section entitled "Representative," Paragraph 2, Line 2, strike the word "are" and insert the word "at." Also, under the section entitled "Special Town Meeting," Line 8, strike the word "design" and insert the word "site." A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the February 6, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/ Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

February 6, 2006 [Executive Session]

Selectman Davis requested that the February 6, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: To insert the following verbiage at the end of the paragraph: "The Board agreed to refer this matter to the Building, Planning, & Construction Committee. The Building, Planning & Construction Committee is to provide the Board of Selectmen with a report within 30 days". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/ Mr. Audette, to approve but not to release the February 6, 2006 Executive Session Minutes as amended. Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

February 14, 2006

Selectman Davis requested the February 14, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: By deleting the following language: "meeting adjourned." A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the February 14, 2006 Minutes as amended. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Public Hearing. 7:05 p.m. Continued ...FY 2006 Community Development Block Grant Application (Proposed Activities). Present: Ms. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director & Mr. Wayne Darragh, Community Opportunities Group. Chairman Collins read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to re-open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/ Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Mrs. Dulmaine provided informational packets to the Board of Selectmen, which included the following topics: **1)** Community Development Strategy, **2)** Target Area, and **3)** Preliminary Budgets. Mrs. Dulmaine presented the Board

with a brief summary on what the Community Development Strategy was about and then opened the floor to the Board with any questions they may have with respect to the six strategies listed in the document. Chairman Collins inquired about Strategy #2 – The Upgrade of Public Facilities, and whether funding was available for the Town Hall Building including new windows, and updating the heating system of the building. Mr. Darragh advised Chairman Collins that the funds being discussed tonight [Community Development Block Grant Funds] could not be used for this type of work, however, he informed the Board that the town could go through the Massachusetts Preservation Partnership Fund to obtain funding for new windows. The Selectmen informed Mr. Darragh that they submitted an application for that purpose in the past but the Town was denied funding. At the conclusion of this portion of the public hearing, Mr. Darragh asked for a motion to approve the Community Development Strategy provided by Mrs. Dulmaine including the two additional priorities for Town Hall: windows and an updated heating system. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the amended list of priorities within the Community Development Strategy as submitted by the Office of Community Development. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Next, Mrs. Dulmaine advised that a Public Workshop was held on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, for the residents and citizens of the Targeted Area: Approximately seventeen people were in attendance. She discussed with them the projects that were being recommended. In addition, the plans and studies were available for the public's viewing.

Targeted Housing Rehabilitation Program

Mr. Darragh informed the Board of Selectmen that since 1995, the Town of Northbridge has had a Housing Rehabilitation Program that's been run on a town-wide basis. He noted that this program provides funding in the form of deferred payment loans to income eligible property owners to rehabilitate both single and multi-family unit dwellings. Mr. Darragh also informed the Board that several changes have occurred at the state level with respect to the application process, that being, any application demonstrating activities in a targeted geographic area could potentially earn bonus points on the application. Accordingly, two such activities have been proposed in the FY 2006 CDBG Application. Continuing, he advised that the Office of Community Development is proposing to run a Targeted Housing Rehabilitation Program and a Targeted Neighborhood Infrastructure Program in the area known as New Village [A Street, B Street, C Street, D Street, Border Street, a portion of Main Street, a portion of N. Main Street, and possibly a portion of Crescent Street]. The housing rehabilitation program that will run in this target area will mirror the program that runs now. As is customary, there are income limits that define the eligibility of participants in addition to the property having to have one major code violation in order to be eligible. Mr. Darragh reported that at this time there were 16 requests for applications and guidelines for this targeted housing rehabilitation program. In addition, he pointed out that the Office of Community Development utilizes the lottery system for providing assistance to potential program participants as to which units will be completed first. The work will be publicly bid on, all contractors will be licensed and insured, and will have to provide a Certificate of Liability Insurance. Chairman Collins asked whether prevailing wages were required for this type of project and Mr. Darragh informed him that the contract was between a private homeowner and a contractor, therefore, prevailing wages do not apply in this instance.

Targeted Neighborhood Infrastructure Project

Mrs. Dulmaine informed the Board that they hired an engineering firm to develop a cost estimate for the Neighborhood Infrastructure Project for the following streets: Border Street, D Street, C Street, B Street, A Street, portion of Main Street, a portion of N. Main Street, and potentially a portion of Crescent Street, due to the number of children walking to school from this neighborhood. She also explained that this project would be phased-in over time due to the quantity of funds needed in order to complete the amount of linear feet of sidewalk, roadway, and drainage. Mrs. Dulmaine further advised that as part of the application process, a Building and Infrastructure Inventory has been completed to determine that the targeted area meets the Slums and Blight designation for the proposed infrastructure project. At least 25% of the buildings and infrastructure must achieve a poor or fair grading in order to meet the definition of Slums and Blight. In closing, Mrs. Dulmaine asked for a motion to certify that the targeted area meets the state's definition for blighted area according to the M.G.L. Chapter 121A. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to certify that Border Street, D Street, C Street, B Street, A Street, portion of Main Street, portion of N. Main Street and Crescent meets the state's definition of a Slums and Blight target area. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the application

certification forms as required and to allow Wayne Darragh to submit the Town's FY 2006 CDBG Application outline. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian, to approve the submittal of a multi-activity application for the Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Neighborhood Infrastructure Project in the designated target area generally referred to as New Village and as defined in the information handout. The application request will be for up to \$1 Million. Such application will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development prior to the grant deadline of March 29, 2006. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian, to authorize the Chairman Russell D. Collins and other elected/appointed officials to sign application certification forms as required. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins. Before voting, Selectman Davis requested further clarification with respect to who the elected/appointed officials would be. Mrs. Dulmaine responded they could include the Treasurer/Collector and Town Accountant. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

There being no further comments from those present, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Police Department/Request to post "No Trespassing" sign on the Town property near the Pleasant Street Church. Chairman Collins requested clarification from Lieutenant Warchol as to the reasoning for the "No Trespassing" request. Lt. Warchol briefly reported on the numerous vandalism problems they've had near the Pleasant Street Church. Lt. Warchol informed the Board of Selectmen that the "No Trespassing" hours would be from 9:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian, to approve the "No Trespassing" sign on the Town property located near the Pleasant Street Church. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Safety Committee Minutes [February 15, 2006/Vote to Accept]. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette, to approve the February 15, 2006 Safety Committee Minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette & Collins.

Department Head Monthly Reports. Town Manager Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. announced that the Department Heads were present to illustrate the important highlights of monthly activities for the month of January 2006. That being said, Mr. Coughlin stated that going forward, the department heads would continue to present the highlights of monthly activities within their departments but on a quarterly basis.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Davis inquired about the 21E Report from Heritage Design regarding the Fire Station Land or whether the applications to the USDA [on the roofs] have been submitted.

Items for Future Agenda.

Town Manager's FY 07 Budget Presentation, March 6, 2006

Open Session adjourned: 9:21 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 6, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo & Audette.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

FY 07 Town Manager's Budget Presentation

Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. and School Superintendent, Mr. Paul Soojian presented their preliminary budgets for FY 2007.

The Board of Selectmen asked Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Soojian questions, however, they advised that they needed additional time to review the material in more depth. *Please see attached document for details.*

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 13, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Point of Order. Selectman Audette called a point of order to discuss the comments made by Mr. Sal D'Amato, a member of the Finance Committee, that took place during a public meeting on March 8, 2006. Selectman Audette voiced his concerns (for himself only) with respect to Mr. D'Amato's unprofessional demeanor that was exhibited by him at end of the Finance Committee meeting. Selectman Audette stated he thought it was a very good meeting but was disturbed and very upset with the use of profanity and the lack of respect shown towards the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Audette asked Ms. Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to take action on Mr. D'Amato for the behavior he displayed during the meeting. He also asked that if the Town moderator is watching to take action. Selectman Audette publicly asked Mr. D'Amato to resign from the Finance Committee.

Ms. Powers stated, "She was out of the room in the hall with Chairman Collins" when Mr. D'Amato's unethical conduct transpired. She mentioned that she didn't see the tape as it was clipped on Saturday night. She also reiterated what Selectman Audette said about the progress that was made at the meeting between the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

Chairman Collins voiced his disapproval of the comments and gestures made towards him at the same meeting by Mr. D'Amato. He felt that the conduct of Mr. D'Amato was unbecoming of a public official. Chairman Collins then informed Ms. Powers that the tape would be forwarded to the town moderator for review.

Selectman Davis was upset that no one took the time to contact Mr. D'Amato to defend himself, yet someone had time to put together a two-page document.

Selectman Ampagoomian commented briefly on what happened and thought it was inappropriate behavior. He also mentioned that Mr. D'Amato should have been notified by the Chairman of the Finance Committee to be present at tonight's meeting to defend himself.

Mr. Andy Todd, from the Finance Committee, commented briefly on the meeting and how he enjoyed the interchange between the Finance Committee, Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. and the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that the meeting was still an open meeting. He stated, "The tape should continue to run until the open meeting is properly adjourned and that the public has a right to hear everything that is going on". He also stated, "That under Section 7-10 of the charter, governing Removals and Suspension, that the Chairman would forward this issue to the appointing authority for proper handling". [Harold Gould, Town Moderator]

Sharron Ampagoomian provided the Board with an explanation on what happened with the video equipment and how she instructed Mr. Todd to turn the recording off. She stated, "that she is sorry for what happened, but it was not her fault and she did not deliberately do this ". She was very shocked and upset that the whole thing even took place.

Approval of Minutes.

February 27, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the February 27, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

March 6, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the March 6, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearing. None.

Appointments. None.

Special Town Meeting [March 14, 2006]/Vote position on articles. The board decided to vote their positions on the following articles: **Article 1 [Middle School Roof].** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 1. Vote yes/Unanimous. Finance Committee voted to support Article 1. **Article 2 [Police Station Roof].** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 2. Vote yes/Unanimous. Finance Committee voted to support Article 2. Selectman Davis asked if the funding (\$3 million) from the United States Department of Agriculture would be given up front, during, or at the end. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., replied that the Treasurer would go out for a bond anticipation note. **Article 3 [Tractor with attachments – 5 year lease].** Ms. Powers asked the Town Manager if the \$30,000 funds were available. She had some concerns about the free cash and heard it's around \$200,000. She noted \$100,000 would be used for Article 8. Ms. Powers then asked the Town Manager Coughlin about the \$90,000 that's been the subject of some matter with the Building Committee. Town Manager responded by telling Ms. Powers this was sent to Powers & Sullivan (auditing firm) who is reviewing the issue. Ms. Powers stated, "They don't want to use free cash that they don't have". With that said, the Finance Committee suggested they would give Dick Sasseville, DPW Director, the authority for a 5-year lease. This way, it would allow Mr. Sasseville to go out and bid on the equipment and appropriate the money in May, unless between now and tomorrow night they have an assurance from the Town Manager on the \$90,000. The Town Manager informed Ms. Powers they would not have the assurance on the \$90,000 by tomorrow night because it's a report that would have to come from the auditors. With that said, Mr. Coughlin suggested it could be a housekeeping end of the year transfer from a department that has money leftover. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 3. Vote yes/Unanimous. Finance Committee voted to support Article 3. **Article 4 [Zoning Amend: R3 and R1 to R6].** Denis Latour informed the Board of Selectmen of the Planning Board's Public Hearing that took place last week. Those present at this meeting were: Barbara Gaudette, Harry Berkowitz, Ed Palmer and himself. Denis stated, "Barbara, Ed, and himself voted against the rezoning and Harry Berkowitz voted for the rezoning". They felt it was not planned out enough. Mr. Latour suggested the land could be used in the future for a new fire station, DPW, or an expansion of the High School. Chairman Collins alluded to the fact that the individuals on the Planning Board were taken aback by this plan. Mr. Latour commented that the planning board thought it should be a comprehensive plan and look at zoning the whole piece and not by piece mail. Chairman Collins informed Mr. Latour the land was once zoned residential (R1). Harry Berkowitz informed the Board of Selectmen that in 2001 he pushed to have this land rezoned as I1. Mr. Berkowitz discussed his concepts of putting an industrial park in and then stated, "The market was there at that time". The cost of building the roads became prohibited without a lot of tenants moving in and this is a problem with industrial sites as it becomes very expensive to develop. Mr. Berkowitz mentioned a concern of his and how the Town could be looking at another 40B. Ms. Barbara Gaudette discussed the reasons for her voting against the rezoning articles. 1) Development plan, 2) too many condo units in Northbridge and is there really a need for more, 3) Industrial land – no land left to build upon in Northbridge, 4) Northbridge needs more affordable housing, right now Northbridge is at 7% and the state requires 10%. Ms. Gaudette stated, "this is a short-term idea to make that property marketable". She then stated, "Northbridge is the most populated town per acre in the Blackstone Valley area and that the town should be looking at the entire picture, plan big, don't make short term things based upon the perceived market". Chairman Collins talked about Heritage Park and how they give the town \$450,000 worth of taxes per year. Ms. Gaudette interrupted him by asking how many units Heritage Park has, and Chairman Collins replied, "279 units". Ms. Gaudette was upset and tried to defend the point she was trying to get across with respect to taxes being less at Heritage Park vs. Marston Road. Ms. Gaudette asked several questions with respect to the Executive Session minutes and why they haven't been released and how come the Planning Board wasn't involved in the process. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., explained why the minutes weren't released due to the change in Town Managers. He informed Ms. Gaudette that the Selectmen would vote at the end of the meeting to have them released. Selectman Davis asked *Mr. Latour if they would feel more comfortable if Articles 4, 5 & 6 were passed over until they could get a better understanding of the whole process. He then stated, "a key person, the Executive Director of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, was not aware the land was being rezoned". A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis not to support Article 4. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette & Davis. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo & Collins. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 4. Vote yes/Messrs. Collins & Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Davis & Audette. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. Finance Committee voted not to support Article 4. **Article 5 [Zoning Amend: I1 to R3].** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette not to support Article 5. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette & Davis. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo & Collins. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Collins to support Article 5. Vote yes/Messrs. Collins & Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Davis & Audette. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. Finance Committee voted not to support Article 5. **Article 6 [Zoning Amend: I1 and R3 to B3].** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette not to support Article 6. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette & Davis. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo & Collins. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. A motion/Mr.

Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Collins to support Article 6. Vote yes/Messrs. Collins & Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Davis & Audette. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian. Motion doesn't carry. Finance Committee voted not to support Article 6. **Article 7 [Fire Station Land – Gift].** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 7. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Audette, Davis & Collins. Abstain/Ampagoomian. Finance Committee voted to support Article 7. The Finance Committee recommended the following language be deleted from the article, "for fire station purposes" and the Board concurred. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to amend Article 7 as recommended by the Finance Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Audette, Davis & Collins. Abstain/Ampagoomian. **Article 8 [USDA Loan – New Fire Station].** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 8. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Audette, Davis & Collins. Abstain/Ampagoomian. Finance Committee voted to support Article 8. The Finance Committee recommended deleting the following language from the motion: "and to authorize the Building, Planning & Construction Committee to expend, upon approval of the Board of Selectmen, any such grant and/or loan funds received, without the necessity of further appropriation". The Board concurred with this recommendation. **Article 9 [Paving of Birch Street].** Chairman Collins asked Mr. Dick Sasseville, DPW Director, his thoughts on this article; the cost factor, and who's handling. Mr. Sasseville spoke briefly on the matter by telling the Board he provided the estimate. The Board discussed the scope of the petition article and Ms. Powers requested that the petitioner amend the motion. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 9. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 9.

Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 2, 2006]/Vote to place articles on the warrant. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to place Board of Selectmen-sponsored articles on the May 2, 2006 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Armenian Apostolic Church/Request to hang a banner over Church Street. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to grant permission to the Armenian Apostolic Church to hang a banner over Church Street from April 9, 2006 to April 24, 2006 in honor of "Martyr's Day". Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Collins. Abstain/Mr. Montecalvo.

FY 2003 Community Development Block Grant/Request to execute a Discharge of Lien on property located at 229 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to discharge lien on property located at 229 Church Street, Whitinsville, Ma. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizen's Comments/Input. Denis Latour brought forth his request again to the Board of Selectmen for reconfiguration of signage located at different entrances to Northbridge regarding current athletic achievements by private and public schools in town. A brief discussion followed and Chairman Collins suggested that a representative from the Whitinsville Christian School be present to discuss this matter at a future meeting.

Ms. Powers requested a copy of the draft articles on the warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting.

Sharron Ampagoomian pointed out that the new telephone books that were distributed to the town had multiple mistakes listed for the Town of Northbridge departments.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Audette asked the Board if the Executive Session minutes are being voted upon tonight or 2 weeks from now after they've had time to review. Town Manager Coughlin explained that Selectman Davis and Selectman Audette have to abstain from voting on the minutes, prior to July 05 as they did not serve on the Board at that time. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to release the Executive Session minutes as follows: June 21, 2004, July 12, 2004, July 26, 2004, August 9, 2004, August 30, 2004, September 13, 2004, October 4, 2004, February 14, 2005. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Ampagoomian & Collins. Abstain/Messrs. Davis & Audette.

Selectman Davis inquired about the status on the removal of telephone poles on Church Street. Town Manager Coughlin responded by saying he met with Mr. Peterson [Mass. Electric], however, the contractor was out last week and couldn't review the situation. Mr. Sasseville stated, "They are waiting for resolution on the warranty issue and whether or not the problem would be covered by them or the town".

Selectman Davis wanted to know when the Building Committee was coming back before the Board of Selectmen, as they had requested them back in 30 days (it's been 45) to discuss the school. Town Manager Coughlin informed the Board that Mr. Barbadora met with Mr. Murray on several of the issues and are making progress. Selectman Davis also raised the issue on the discussion they had in an Executive Session on JMJ Realty Reimbursement and where that stood. Mr. Coughlin mentioned that it was in the process of being resolved and the Board of Selectmen had approved a settlement. Selectman Davis mentioned that he has 14 items in his future agenda file and will forward to the Town Manager so they can be added to

an agenda in the future; Items such as: Whitinsville Water Company, Capital Plan, and the District Improvement Financing Program.

Selectman Audette inquired about the handicapped bathrooms and whether or not they will be marked men and women. Town Manager Coughlin informed the Board they would indeed be marked "men and women". Town Manager then proceeded to mention the storage area space located on the first floor would now be turned into a small conference room. Mr. Coughlin also informed everyone that Mr. Bob Thayer would be relocating his office to a vacant area on the first floor so that he could be closer to the financial team.

Mr. Coughlin mentioned they were looking into moving the Veterans Services in the future to the Veterans Hall on Hill Street. He's been discussing this issue with Mr. Fitzpatrick at Valley Tech. as Mr. Fitzpatrick and his team will be coming in on March 24th to assess the town building.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. spoke briefly about the monthly departmental reports. He reiterated that the department heads would present their budgets on a quarterly basis. He noted for the board to pay close attention to the Town accountants' accomplishments this month.

Executive Session. None.

Open Session adjourned: 8:51 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

*** At their March 27, 2006 Meeting the Selectmen voted to amend the March 13, 2006 minutes as follows: Page 2, Line 37, delete the words "the Finance Committee" and insert the words "Mr. Latour".**

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 14, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 6:55 PM, at the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager, and David J. Doneski, Kopelman & Paige, P.C.

The purpose of this meeting was for the Board to reconsider their votes regarding their positions on Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant, which will be acted upon this evening.

Selectman Audette stated that he had just informed Chairman Collins and Town Manager Coughlin that he changed his mind with respect to his position on Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. As such, he requested that the Board vote to reconsider their positions on those articles. He further explained that following the Selectmen's meeting the night before [Selectman Audette voted not to support Articles 4, 5, and 6], he thought about things and thus decided to change his vote on the three zoning articles [Art. 4, 5, and 6]. That said, a motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to reconsider the Board's votes on Articles 4, 5, and 6 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 4, Article 5, and Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Audette, and Collins. Vote no/Mr. Davis. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to adjourn. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 6:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 27, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

March 13, 2006

Selectman Davis asked the Board to amend the minutes as follows: Page 2, Line 37, delete the words "the Finance Committee" and insert the words "Mr. Latour". The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the minutes as amended for March 13, 2006. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the March 13, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

March 14, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the March 14, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Request by Town Manager Coughlin to release all Executive Session Minutes 1/04 to 5/05. Town Manager Coughlin requested the Board of Selectmen to release all Executive Session minutes and, as such, challenged all other Boards to do the same. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to release all Executive Session Minutes from January 2004 through May 2005. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Ampagoomian & Montecalvo. Abstain/Messrs. Davis and Audette.

Request by Town Manager Coughlin to release all Executive Session Minutes 6/05 to 2/06. A motion/ Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Davis to release all the Executive Session minutes from June 2005 through February 2006. Selectman Davis offered the following amendments: **1)** requested that the July 25, 2005 Executive Session minutes be amended by deleting the words "West Street" and keeping the words "future school must be considered" and he also asked for clarification with respect to the last paragraph and suggested that it be deleted. The Board agreed with those revisions. **2)** Selectman Davis requested that the August 22, 2005 Executive Session minutes be amended by mentioning the 2 fire stations, a DPW Facility, a new Middle School, and two roof replacements as part of the Board's discussion during that meeting. **3)** informed the Board that during the September 26, 2005 meeting, Mr. Davis excused himself from the Board and left the room during the St. Patrick's discussion and requested that the record reflect that he did so. The Board concurred. **4)** inquired about JMJ Realty Trust and whether the Board voted on the reimbursement of taxes during the October 24, 2005 and/or the November 7, 2005 meetings. Town Manager Coughlin remarked that there was no formal vote made that night. Vote on the above motion and amendments: Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearing. Class II License/Worcester County Trikes, Inc., 33 Providence Lane, Linwood, MA 01525 [Gerald J. Ouillette, Jr.]. Chairman Collins read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Ouillette explained that the reason he applied for a Class II License was so that he could buy/sell used motorcycles and accessories as well as to convert 2-wheeled motorcycles to 3-wheeled trikes using conversion kits. There were no comments from those present. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion /Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant a Class II License to Worcester County Trikes, Inc. with the stipulation that the hours of operation be: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays: 8AM – 5PM; Thursdays: 8AM – 8PM; Saturdays: 8AM – Noon; and Closed on Sundays [per Special Permit 30-SP-05 granted by the ZBA 9/15/05]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/Announcement by the Town Manager. Town Manager Coughlin announced that Lt. Walter J. Warchol would be the new Chief of Police of Northbridge. The Town Manager then discussed the process for selecting a new Chief of Police and noted that Lt. Walter Warchol was the only individual who passed the exam, scoring an 88. He underwent through a thorough interview process with Captain Thomas Greene of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, Shrewsbury Police Chief Wayne Samson, and Southbridge Police Chief Daniel Charette. Mr. Coughlin stated that the official

appointment would go before the Board on April 10th for affirmation. Lt. Warchol thanked everyone for their support and stated that he was aware of the challenges that lie ahead and the responsibilities would not be taken lightly. He also pointed out that Lt. Timothy Labrie would be assisting him in his responsibilities as Chief of Police. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Lt. Walter Warchol on his promotion and wished both him and Lt. Labrie good luck.

Request by Planning Board to hold workshop April 25, 2006 @ 7 P.M. on rezoning. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to co-sponsor a zoning workshop with the Planning Board on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7 P.M. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant [May 2, 2006]/Vote to sign. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to sign the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant [May 2, 2006]. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chairman Collins questioned Articles 15 & 16 and some of the verbiage. Town Manager Coughlin explained that a multi-member board voted to put those articles on the Spring Annual Town meeting and that Ken Taylor met with him last Friday to discuss those articles.

Verizon [Cell Tower]/Vote to issue building permit. Selectman Davis questioned the taxes owed by the property owner. Town Manager Coughlin requested the Board of Selectmen support this matter and to issue the building permit. Selectman Montecalvo voiced his concerns and questioned why the Board would want to vote now to issue the permit prior to knowing all the details about the issue. Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that the Building Inspector brought this matter to his attention because it was his policy not to issue building permits to entities that owed taxes. However, Mr. Coughlin noted that this was a case whereby the property owner owed the taxes and not the lessee (Verizon). A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to issue a building permit for Verizon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (March 15, 2006)/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the March 15, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes –Site Visits [March 22, 2006]/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/ Mr. Audette to approve the March 22, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/ Unanimous.

Playground & Recreation/Request to use the Whitinsville Town Common from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Thursday evenings (7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, and 8/17) for their Summer Concert Series. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chairman Collins inquired about the parking. Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that users would have to abide by the new town common policy.

DPW Budget, Labor Management Agreement, Present/Future Facility. Mr. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, prepared and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2007 DPW Budget, Labor Agreement, and the proposed location for a future DPW Highway Division facility. He indicated that the proposed location of the facility would be adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant [Providence Road] on property formerly known as Youngsma's Farm. At the conclusion of Mr. Sasseville's presentation, the Board made the following motions: A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the labor agreement for the Department of Public Works union employees. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to support the FY 2007 DPW budget as presented. Vote yes/Unanimous. With respect to the proposed future location of a new DPW facility, Selectman Montecalvo questioned the motion to survey the land as he felt they should hold off on voting until they had time to review all relevant information. Selectman Davis suggested getting the Building, Planning & Construction Committee [BPCC] involved. Selectman Audette then asked at what point would the Building, Planning and Construction Committee would get involved. Chairman Collins informed them that the BPCC would not get involved until the Town had first acquired the land. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to explore the property adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant as a potential future site for a Public Works Facility. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Collins, Audette. Vote no/Messrs. Davis and Montecalvo.

FY 07 Budget; Guidance on Use of One-Time Revenues; Annual Town Meeting; Present: Paul Soojian, Superintendent of Schools & Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager. Town Manager Coughlin briefly discussed the FY '07 Budget, the guidance on use of one-time revenues and the importance of going forward with the Annual Town Meeting in May. Superintendent Paul Soojian briefly talked about the School Department's budget and concurred with the Town Manager to move forward with the annual town meeting in May. Superintendent Soojian was concerned about the

impact it would create if the budget were not approved on time. He noted that the deadline for the School District to notify non-professional status teachers of non-renewal was June 15th. Thus, the School District would be forced to issue layoff notices, which would make these individuals eligible for unemployment over the summer. Superintendent Soojian further indicated that this would be a great waste of funds if they were to rehire those individuals back in the Fall. He also mentioned the ramifications of not having a decision on the budget and/or any potential override prior to the end of June. Should the meeting be held in May, he further advised that the School District would be able to act accordingly by making cost effective decisions, preparing for either the impact of reductions or completing the hiring process and obtaining the best candidates to work with our students, should the budget request prevail. Mr. Carroll Paine, School Committee Chairman, concurred with the Superintendent's comments. Selectman Montecalvo asked the Superintendent if the \$840,000 was enough to maintain the status quo. Mr. Soojian stated that the \$840,000 was the shortage. Selectman Audette inquired about the 2½ levy limit and the override, and what would happen in FY 2008. Selectman Davis wanted to know if the school was projecting another override next year. He then recommended that the budget be projected out more than one year. Superintendent Soojian stated that it was almost impossible to project budgets for ensuing years and whether the School District would need more funds. Regarding an override, Town Manager Coughlin advised that only the Board of Selectmen had the authority to place an override on the ballot. He discussed the Stabilization Fund and the required two-thirds votes needed for an override along with the effect it would have on the town's people. Continuing, Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that a joint meeting between the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen would be held on April 10th to discuss guidance on one-time use of revenues. Mary Frances Powers, Finance Committee Chair, spoke briefly about an override and how it would be permanent until rescinded. She also mentioned how the Finance Committee was looking for a plan they could look at for the next 3 years. Selectman Montecalvo asked the Town Manager if he knew what the total budgeted dollars needed for the Town and School were. Town Manager Coughlin responded that he would have to get that figure to him. In addition, he pointed out that the Town would have to utilize their own resources first because voters would not support an override if the Town had a lot of money in the bank. Selectman Montecalvo commented that the Town could only plan one year at a time because of not knowing what the State was going to give the Town for aid each year. Town Manager Coughlin proposed to have a joint meeting on April 12th with the School Committee, Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen in order to get a global picture on the entire budget.

Citizen's Comments/Input. **Sharron Ampagoomian** briefly mentioned that the cable contract was coming up soon and that all complaints must be documented; that if residents were having problems with their cable service to please contact the Town Manager's office so that it could be documented.

Mr. Mark Lamontagne, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, thanked the management team for their support and for settling the DPW union contract fairly.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** Announced that the Board of Health would be conducting a Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs at the Northbridge Fire Station on April 1, 2006. Cats will be tested from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. and must be in a carrier. Dogs will be tested from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and must be on a leash. The cost is \$10.00 [cash only]. **2)** Announced that the Whitinsville Community Center would be conducting a child identification program on April 8th--a joint venture between Beginning Bridges and the Massachusetts Free Masons--this free program will allow your child to be video taped, voice taped, and fingerprinted. DNA samples and Dental impressions would also be done. **3)** Received a concern from a citizen regarding the cable show "3 on 11". The citizen was offended by a comment that was made by one of the individuals who appeared on that show. **Selectman Davis 1)** Wanted to know if a vote for the debt exclusion [on the 2 roofs] would be on the ballot. Chairman Collins commented that there was not enough time to place it on the ballot for the upcoming election. Town Manager Coughlin suggested that a Special Election be held for that purpose. **2)** Inquired about the status of the \$90,000.00. Town Manager Coughlin responded that Powers and Sullivan made an inquiry into that matter and recommended that a journal entry be made to correct it. He also noted that it would not affect the current free cash. **3)** Inquired about the ruling from the Attorney General and whether the Town had a Health Agent on board yet. Town Manager Coughlin informed everyone that a scheduled meeting between Mr. Mascoop and him did not take place; however, Steve Garabedian would be filling in on an acting basis as Health Agent.

Town Manager's Report. The Town Manager thanked the Superintendent and his staff along with the Chief of Police for the Internet Safety session that was recently held at the High School. He said it was excellent and that the 2 police officers gave excellent presentations. He also mentioned two important dates: **1)** Student Government Day would be held on April 11, 2006, and **2)** Saturday, April 1, 2006, the Playground and Recreation will be cleaning up the Vail and Linwood Fields [8 A.M. until Noon].

Mass Highway – Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that Selectman Montecalvo and Selectman Ampagoomian attended a meeting with Mass Highway. He also stated that on Friday, March 31, 2006 at 10 A.M., a working session would be held with Mr. Richard Sasseville and Mr. Arthur Magowan on 2 important projects--**1)** Plummer's Corner design and **2)** Sutton Street Reconstruction. The Town Manager informed the Board that Mass Highway has also approved aid for two bridge projects—The Ross Rajotte Bridge over the Blackstone River - approved at \$1.5 million dollars and the Douglas Road Bridge over Mumford River.

FEMA/MEMA – Town Manager Coughlin reported that some money from FEMA/MEMA came in to the Town for the flood that occurred in October. He also mentioned the actions taken by FEMA/MEMA on claims submitted by Northbridge residents--that FEMA/MEMA had denied several claims from residents. Mr. Coughlin then suggested that the Board meet with the Town of Millbury and the Town of Northbridge's attorneys and possibly file suit against the City of Worcester. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned to the Board that he spoke with Congressman Neal in Washington regarding FEMA and how they were not living up to their expectations. In addition, he indicated that a letter/memo would be forthcoming from the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

regarding a meeting, which would take place in May at the Cocks 'N Kettle for all the Southern Worcester County towns.

A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr.Ampagoomian to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
April 10, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

As part of a badge requirement, Cadet Girl Scouts [Troop 351] joined the Selectmen's meeting to lead The Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

March 27, 2006

A minor error was brought to the attention of the Town Manager's staff and therefore, a set of revised minutes was provided to the Board prior to their meeting. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the March 27, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/Announcement by the Town Manager. Town Manager Coughlin announced that Walter J. Warchol would be the next Chief of Police of the Town of Northbridge. Next, Chief Warchol presented the Board with his vision statement for the Northbridge Police Department. He thanked his family and friends for their ongoing support. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to affirm the appointment of Walter J. Warchol as Chief of Police of Northbridge as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Whitin Community Center/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from June 3rd through June 17th to advertise the annual "Picnic in the Park" [Saturday, June 17th]. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above banner request as noted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Presentation: Superintendent of Schools, Paul Soojian gave a PowerPoint presentation with visual aides about his reorganization plans for the Balmer and Primary Schools. In summary, Mr. Soojian recommended combining the two schools and making them both K-4, thus utilizing and making better use of the available space in the Primary School. After the presentation, Town Manager Coughlin requested authorization to contact the Puccio's in order to re-open negotiations with respect to acquiring property for a new elementary school.

Department Heads' Quarterly Reports. Department Heads presented their quarterly reports for the period of January 2006 to March 2006. Reports are on file in the Town Manager's office.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Ampagoomian** inquired about the ornamental lighting around Memorial Square as it is very dark in that area. Ms. Dulmaine responded that there would be some added lighting in the area in the near future. **Selectman Davis** 1) asked about the status of the Northbridge Middle School and Police Station Roofs. Town Manager Coughlin responded that the applications were being prepared for submittal to the USDA. 2) Inquired about who authorized the replay of the March 8th Finance Committee Meeting? Selectman Ampagoomian stated it was a citizen's request. 3) Position on override – Selectman Davis responded that he had no position at this time. **Selectman Audette** asked if there was a timetable on the roofs. He also asked if Mr. Murray could attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting to provide an update on the roofs. Town Manager Coughlin responded by reiterating that it was a priority. Chairman Collins advised that he would ask the Building, Planning and Construction Committee for an update.

A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 10:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
April 24, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell D. Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

April 10, 2006

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the April 10, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2006 Annual License Renewals – Bowling, Billiards, Pool Tables. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above mentioned license renewals subject to the payment of all outstanding liens. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Transfer of Common Victualler License from Subway Sandwiches & Salads [Leonard Mills, Mgr.] to Dimple A. Desai, Inc. d/b/a Subway of Whitinsville. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the transfer of common victualler license from Subway Sandwiches & Salads [Leonard Mills, Mgr.] to Dimple A. Desai, Inc. d/b/a Subway of Whitinsville.

Relay for Life [ERA- Michele Bethel]/Request to hold the Relay for Life Toll Booth Fundraiser on 4/29/06 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M./Vote to approve. *Selectman Davis suggested a policy be put in place with respect to toll booth fundraisers and further requested that this matter be placed on Items for Future Agenda for discussion". A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the Toll Booth Fundraiser subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department. Vote yes/ Unanimous.

Department of Public Works/Updated Listing of Private Ways/Vote to approve. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, advised this was a requirement of the Code of Bylaws Section 6-114. He went on to explain that the reason most of these roads have remained as private ways was because they do not meet the standards to become a public way. **(Please see attached list)** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the updated listing of Private Ways. Vote yes/Unanimous.

FY 99 Community Development Black Grant Program/2 Subordination of Liens for property located at 69 Plantation Street. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the 2 Subordination of Liens for the property located at 69 Plantation Street, Northbridge, MA, as recommended by Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager, Office of Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Budget Report – Town Manager & Superintendent of Schools. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., spoke briefly on the future of the municipal and school department budgets. Superintendent Soojian discussed the proposed school budget and the cuts that would need to be made if they do not make up the \$839,158 shortfall. He mentioned that the School Committee debated for a while [at a previously held meeting] on an offer the Finance Committee made and the School Committee decided to stand by their original proposed budget and bring it to the Town Meeting for the residents to vote upon. Town Manager Coughlin explained that he and Superintendent Soojian would remain united and would be attending the Town Meeting with their original proposal to let the voters decide. School Committee Chairman, Carroll Paine, concurred with the Town Manager and Superintendent on defending the proposed budget and how he felt it was reasonable, fair and well thought out. Selectman Davis asked about the discrepancy of the grant money *~~1.45 million~~[\$1,045,000] and whether the school choice money was included in that amount or not. Superintendent Soojian informed the Selectmen that it was not in the grant money, and was, in fact, funds that were set aside for potential increases for contracts that are currently in negotiation [\$350,000]. Selectman Audette indicated that it would be nice to know what the recommendations were of the Finance Committee before Town Meeting in the hopes they could have some form of cooperation between the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. He wished the Superintendent good luck.

Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials: Present: Thomas Farley, Joseph Williamson, Spaulding Aldrich, Philip Cyr, and

Lawrence Long. 1) **Rededication of the Ross Rajotte Bridge – May 20, 2006.** It was announced that the rededication of the Ross Rajotte Memorial Bridge would take place on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 11 A.M. 2) **Dedication of the Charles Mantel Memorial Square [June 10, 2006]** – The dedication of the Charles Mantel Memorial will take place on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at 11 A.M. (located at the intersection of Country Club Drive and Fletcher Street). A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to support the dedication of the Charles Mantel Memorial Square. Vote yes/Unanimous.

In closing, Mr. Cyr also mentioned that the Rockdale Memorial would be fixed and ready for Memorial Day.

Blackstone Valley Bike Trail. Chairman Russell D. Collins introduced Mark C. Jewell, Outdoor Recreation Planner of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Mr. Jewell presented the Board of Selectmen with an update of the Blackstone Valley Bike Trail. He also updated the Selectmen on the status of where the project currently stands and provided them with a timeline for completion of the bike trail.

Citizen's Comments/Input. **Mr. Paul Buma, 218 Hill Street, Whitinsville,** questioned the transfer of the \$90,000 from free cash. Town Manager Coughlin informed Mr. Buma that the transfer was made from free cash shortly after the Town Meeting in June 2004. He further stated that the question was answered in an opinion letter issued by Powers & Sullivan, which was later reviewed by the Department of Revenue. Neil Vaidya, Acting Town Accountant, also confirmed that the transfer was made and the issue would be resolved with a journal entry.

Mr. Leon Bousquet, 1341 Hill Street, Whitinsville, [President, Northbridge Youth Soccer Association] spoke briefly about the Linwood and Balmer soccer fields. He advised the Board of Selectmen of the fields being declared unsafe by the President of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and the Midland Soccer Association. The Board advised Mr. Bousquet to attend the Planning Board meeting on April 25, 2006, to discuss possible locations for other fields. **Caryn Gagner, 22 Piedmont Street, Whitinsville,** presented a complaint to the Board of Selectmen with respect to a situation that occurred at a recent Playground and Recreation meeting. She claimed an individual was prevented from attending their meeting. **Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, Whitinsville,** reminded the Board that if any individual has a complaint in regards to the cable company to please contact the Town Manager's Office to file such complaints.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Montecalvo** suggested that a Pandemic task force be put together before it's too late. The Board concurred. **Selectman Ampagoomian** discussed the following: 1) an article that was placed in the Telegram and Gazette on Thursday, April 20, 2006, referencing the Board of Selectmen being dishonest in the handling of an article at the March 14, 2006 Special Town Meeting. He found the article to be misleading and offensive. 2) wanted to stress to the people of Northbridge "medical waste is dead". **Selectman Davis** inquired on the following: 1) the school and police roofs, 2) Building, Planning and Construction Committee and when they will be coming back to discuss the status of the fields at Northbridge High School.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Coughlin briefly discussed Student Government Day and thanked all those involved for doing a great job.

Items for Future Agenda. Selectman Ampagoomian suggested forming a Community Preservation Act Committee Advisory Panel.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 9:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

* At their meeting of May 8, 2006, the BOS voted to amend the April 24, 2006 minutes as follows. Under the section titled

Relay for Life, add the following verbiage "Selectman Davis suggested a policy be put in place with respect to toll booth fundraisers and further requested that this matter be placed on Items for Future Agenda for discussion". Also, under the section titled Budget Report, Line 10, strike the number [1.45 million] and insert the number [\$1,045,000].

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
May 1, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell D. Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Audette, and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 1, 2006]/Vote positions on warrant articles. Article 1 (FY '06 Budget Amendments): Town Manager Coughlin reviewed a couple of requests for transfers from the following departments: DPW-\$28,300 Reserve Fund to the DPW Streetlight Account and **Playground and Recreation** - transfer from Playground and Recreation Personnel to Playground and Recreation Expenses. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 1. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 2 (FY 07 Omnibus Budget):** The Town Manager explained that there were three budget line items to be paid attention to: **a) Line Item 10B [Planning]:** The Town Manager recommended that approximately \$40,000 be restored to Line Item 10B in order for the Planning Board to move forward with their Master Plan including a Storm Water Management Guide Book and additional staffing. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support the recommendation of the Town Manager with respect to Line Item 10B. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo and Collins. Vote no/Mr. Davis. **b) Line Item 20 [Education]:** Mr. Coughlin suggested that Line Item 20 (Education Budget) be restored to the School Committee's recommendation of \$21+ Million. Chairman Collins then pointed out that during a recent get together with Senator Moore, there was a lot of discussion about next year's budget and that the Senator assured the Board Of Selectmen that they were working diligently on the budget process for next year. In addition, Chairman Collins mentioned that there were several factors that will influence FY '08 such as the recalculation of Local Aid, the addition of Wal-Mart's taxes, and new growth. Selectman Audette mentioned that he attended the last Finance Committee meeting and that some of them do recognize the Town needs an override. Selectman Davis stated that he intends to support the Finance Committee's recommendations on all budget line items. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support the Education budget amendment as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote yes/ Messrs. Audette, Collins, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian. Vote no/Mr. Davis. **c) Line Item 21A - DPW Expenses:** Town Manager Coughlin requested that the 2 new positions [Working Foreman and Facilities Maintenance worker] be restored as recommended by the Managerial Study. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support the recommendation of the Town Manager with respect to Line Item 21A. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Collins and Audette. Vote no/Mr. Davis. **Article 3 (Sewer Enterprise - \$2,292,752):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 3. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 4 (Water Enterprise - \$829,480):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 4. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 5 (Treasurer/Collector/Compensating Balance Agreement(s)):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 5. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 6 (Chapter 90):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 6. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 7 (Recycling Committee - revolving account):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 7. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 8 (Septic Management Loan Program):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 8. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 9 (Assessors – full list/measure \$210,000):** Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor, explained the purpose of this article and mentioned that it is a requirement of the Department Of Revenue that the Town conduct a cyclical data collection inspection and analysis for all properties in the Town of Northbridge every 9 years. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 9. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 10 (Accept Chapter 32, Section 7 (e) Disabled Retirees (Veterans) allowed same benefits as non-disabled retirees):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 10. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 11 (Board of Health – Intermunicipal Agreement):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 11. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 12 (Bylaw Amend/Route 146 Overlay District):** Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, and Attorney Henry Lane explained the details of this article and the impact it would have on the Town were it to be passed at Town Meeting. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo **not to** support Article 12. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Collins, Montecalvo, and Audette. Vote no/Mr. Davis. **Article 13 (Bylaw Amend/Use Regulations - Aquifer Protection District):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 13. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 14 (Bylaw Amend/Delete – Limited Redevelopment Overlay District provisions):** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to **pass over** Article 14. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 15 (Playground & Recreation: Create a revolving fund):** The Town Manager noted that he received a letter from Caryn Gagner that indicated the members of the Playground and Recreation Commission wished to pass over Articles 15 & 16 at this time. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to **pass over** Article 15. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 16 (Playground & Recreation: Phase III**

Master Plan - \$75,000): A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to **pass over** Article 16. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 17 (Petition Article: Amend Zoning Map / Heritage (H) to Business One (B-1) Off Cross St., Whitinsville):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 17. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 18 (Petition Article: Amend Zoning Map / Business Two (B-2) and Residential Three (R-3) to Business One (B-1), Off Church Street, Whitinsville):** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 18. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 19 (Petition Article: Bylaw Amend 173-12 Table of Area Regulations [Footnote #8 – setback requirements]):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 19. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Article 20 (Petition Article: Amend Zoning Map / Industrial One (I-1) to Residential One (R-1) Off Church Street Ext. and Quaker Street along Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park:** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to **pass over** Article 20. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens Comments/Input. Ken Taylor, 9 Central Ave., Northbridge, Chairman, Playground and Recreation Commission. Mr. Taylor explained the reasons why the Commission decided to pass over Articles 15 and 16 was due to the fact that they felt a revolving account [Article 15] was not needed at this time. In addition, the Commission also wanted to be able to show actual progress with the funding they have already secured before asking for additional funding [Article 16].

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Montecalvo inquired as to who would be attending the Blue Mass. **Chairman Collins** requested 2 issues be referred to the Safety Committee: **1)** Parking in front of Unibank – Mr. Collins explained that some people are parking there all day and felt that time limits should be established. **2)** He also pointed out a safety concern at the corner of Goldthwaite Road and Hill Street - bushes hanging out to far and blocking view.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. reminded everyone that the Town Meeting is tomorrow [Tuesday, May 2, 2006]. He went on to say "thank you" to all Department Heads for their tremendous efforts in assisting in the budget process.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 8:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
May 8, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Russell D. Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, and Montecalvo. Selectman William Audette was absent and it is duly recorded.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

April 24, 2006

Selectman Davis requested that the April 24, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: **1)** Under the section titled Relay for Life, insert the following verbiage "Selectman Davis suggested a policy be put in place with respect to toll booth fundraisers, and further requested that this matter be placed under Items for Future Agenda for discussion. **2)** Under the section titled Budget Report, Line 10, strike the number [1.45 million] and insert the number [\$1,045,000]. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the April 24, 2006 minutes as amended by Selectman Davis. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, and Collins.

May 1, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the May 1, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, and Collins.

7:05 PM - Public Hearing/Mass Electric Company [Petition for Manhole and Duct Locations/Plan No.

2006-31: Thomas Street/Installing a new hand pole across from Pole #2 to service House No. 33]. Due to there being no representation from, Massachusetts Electric Company, the Board of Selectmen deferred the Public Hearing until the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting on May 22, 2006 at 7:05 P.M. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to postpone the Public Hearing until May 22, 2006 at 7:05 P.M. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, and Collins.

Appointments/Announcement by the Town Manager – Town Manager Coughlin announced his intent to appoint Mr. Neil Vaidya as the Town Accountant for Northbridge, for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2006. The Town Manager then recognized Mr. Vaidya's hard work and accomplishments and commended him on his dedication to achieving his goals and objectives. The Town Manager mentioned that Mr. Vaidya was just informed by the Massachusetts Municipal Auditors and Accountants Association that the certification committee met to review and confirm the results of the most recent examination and notified Mr. Vaidya that he passed the legal portion of the certification process on his first attempt. Mr. Vaidya spoke briefly and thanked the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, his family and everyone at the Town Hall for their continued support. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Mr. Vaidya on his appointment as Town Accountant.

Alternatives' [21st annual "Valley Friendship Tour", Saturday, June 10, 2006]/Request to briefly close Hill Street at the start of each race beginning at 8 A.M., 9 A.M., and 10 A.M. Chief Warchol advised the Board of Selectmen that they never had any issues or problems with respect to the above. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the above request subject to safety requirements of the Police, Fire, and Public Works Department. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, and Collins.

Special Town Election [June 13, 2006]/Vote to place override question on the ballot. Selectman Davis asked for clarification with respect to the quorum requirements needed for voting to place an override question on an election ballot. Town Manager Coughlin responded that just a quorum of the Board of Selectmen was needed for such matters. Continuing, the Town Manager spoke briefly about the Town Meeting held Tuesday, May 2, 2006, and the overwhelming number of parents, residents, and employees who attended that meeting. Next, he talked about the options available for funding town services or a certain level of services but stressed that the citizens of Northbridge should be the ones to decide. Mr. Coughlin indicated that the funding would need to come from three sources: **1)** a transfer from the Stabilization Fund, which was approved last Tuesday evening [May 2nd], **2)** \$500,000 in free cash [to be certified in the Fall,] and **3)** a \$1Million override. That said, the Town Manager asked for the support of the Board of Selectmen by voting to place an override question on a special election ballot. Superintendent Paul

Soojian concurred with the Town Manager and asked for the Board of Selectmen to support and place an override question on the ballot. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to call a special town election, in accordance with section 21c (g) of chapter 59 of the general laws, to seek voter approval for a proposition 2 ½ override in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of funding the operating budgets of the town and the public schools for fiscal year 2007. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian, and Collins.

Citizens Comments/Input. 1) **Playground & Recreation Commission Members: Caryn Gagner, 22 Piedmont Street, Whitinsville, Bridget Curley, 146 Union Street, Linwood, Craig Bachman, 36 Cedar Street, Linwood, and Bruce Frieswick, 32 Highland Street, Whitinsville,** requested a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, School Superintendent and the Playground & Recreation Committee to discuss the school fields. Superintendent Soojian suggested that the Playground and Recreation Commission attend their next meeting in June. Caryn Gagner will contact Superintendent Soojian on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 to schedule the best date and time to meet.

2) **Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Heritage Drive,** removed himself from the Board and appeared as a private citizen to discuss an article that was placed in the Telegram and Gazette on May 3, 2006, by Mr. Paul Buma. Mr. Coughlin asked that Mr. Buma retract his letter to the editor and apologize to the Town Accountant Neil Vaidya for the accusations made.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Ampagoomian** thanked Denis LaTour, Planning Board and Karen Rosati, School Committee for their dedication in servicing their community. Both Denis and Karen will not be running for re-election this year. **Selectman Davis** asked the status of: 1) police and school roof; 2) land tax's on Providence Road [Verizon Tower]; Chairman Collins replied this was all set. 3) Pucchio Land negotiations. **Selectman Davis** also inquired about three issues from Executive Sessions: 1) Mediation on field litigation, 2) JMJ Realty Reimbursement, 3) St. Patrick's Lease. **Selectman Montecalvo** mentioned that he would attend a meeting with Selectmen from various towns at the Cocks N Kettle on Thursday, May 11, 2006 to discuss being more unified. Also, he mentioned that a workshop would be held in June for newly elected Selectmen. This workshop will benefit the newly elected Selectmen because the topics being discussed will include; what their duties are and their approach as a Selectman. **Chairman Collins** commended the work by Chief Warchol and Chief Nestor's department on a structure fire that took place in town.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Coughlin reported that he and Selectman Montecalvo attended the Blue Mass in Worcester where former Police Chief Thomas Melia was honored. The Town Manager then commended the Public Safety Personnel: Chief Warchol, Lieutenant Labrie, Chief Nestor, and all of their men for a great job they did at the Town Meeting last week with respect to their handling of the overflow crowd. He also applauded Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk, and her staff for checking in every person in a professional manner. Lastly, he praised the babysitters for a job well done so that the parents with small/young children could attend the Town Meeting. At the conclusion of his report, Town Manager Coughlin distributed the Department Head Monthly Reports to the Board of Selectmen for some light reading.

Items for Future Agenda. Selectman Davis suggested a policy be put in place with respect to tollbooth fundraisers. Selectman Ampagoomian requested a policy be put in place on how we distribute and hang banners on the Town Hall fence. Note: It was brought to the Board's attention that an Eagle Scout will be handling this project by means of a "Message Board".

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo, and Collins.

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Davis, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
May 22, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Marzec and Montecalvo.

Also present: Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager, and David Doneski, Town Counsel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen:

Vice Chairman Ampagoomian turned the gavel over to Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., Town Manager, to proceed with the reorganization of the Board. Mr. Coughlin polled the Board of Selectmen for **Nominations for Chairman:** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to nominate Charles Ampagoomian as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Hearing no further motions for the position of Chairman, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to close nominations. The Town Manager called for a vote on the main motion: Vote yes [to elect Charles Ampagoomian as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen]/Unanimous. Chairman Ampagoomian assumed the Chair and called for **Nominations for Vice-Chairman:** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to nominate William Audette as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Hearing no further motions for the position of Vice-Chairman, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close nominations. Chairman Ampagoomian called for a vote on the main motion: Vote yes [to elect William Audette as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen]/Unanimous. Chairman Ampagoomian called for **Nominations for Clerk:** A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis to nominate James Marzec as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Hearing no further motions for the position of Clerk, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close nominations. Chairman Ampagoomian called for a vote on the main motion: Vote yes [to elect James Marzec as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen]/Unanimous.

Chairman Ampagoomian welcomed James Marzec as the newly elected member of the Board. He also thanked Russell D. Collins for serving on the Board of Selectmen for the past 12 years.

Approval of Minutes.

May 8, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the May 8, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Mr. Marzec.

7:05 PM - Public Hearing/Mass Electric Company [Petition for Manhole and Duct Locations/Plan No. 2006-31: Thomas Street/Installing a new handhole across from Pole #2 to service House No. 33]. Present: Vivian Liu, Mass. Electric Company. Chairman Ampagoomian read the Public Hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/ Unanimous. Ms. Liu explained that the reason for the above petition was to install a new handhole from Pole #2 to service House No. 33 on Thomas Street. There were no comments from those present. Selectman Montecalvo asked for clarification on what a handhole was as compared to a manhole. Ms. Liu explained that a handhole was for secondary and was located underground whereas a manhole was for primary, which is above ground. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to grant permission to locate manholes, wires, and ducts, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the following way: Thomas Street.....installing a new handhole across the street from pole #2 to service house #33 as per plan P2006-31. Said manholes and ducts to be installed substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked--Massachusetts Electric Company, Plan No. 2006-31 dated March 17, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Town Manager – Town Manager Coughlin asked the Board of Selectmen to affirm the appointment of Neil Vaidya as Town Accountant for the Town of Northbridge. Neil Vaidya thanked the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and the people at Town Hall for their vote of confidence in him. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to affirm the appointment of Neil Vaidya as Town Accountant as recommended by Town Manager Coughlin. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (May 16, 2006)/Vote to approve. Selectman Davis asked why the Selectmen have to approve the Safety Committee Minutes when they do not even attend the Safety Committee meetings. Selectman Montecalvo

explained that the Board of Selectmen must approve any recommendations made by the Safety Committee and therefore can vote to reject and/or revisit any issue they feel necessary. The Selectmen may also vote to amend the Safety Committee minutes. In addition, he clarified the fact that the Selectmen do not vote to "approve" the minutes, they only vote to "accept" them [if they agree with the recommendations outlined in the minutes]. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the recommendations of Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of May 16, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Selectman Davis suggested that the "Citizens' Comments" portion of the Selectmen's Meeting be moved to the top of the agenda as opposed to the bottom of the agenda. Selectman Audette concurred with Selectman Davis. Selectman Montecalvo feels that it should be left alone; that the Selectmen should be able to conduct their business first because Citizens' Forum can tend to be lengthy. Selectman Davis pointed out that in the Selectmen's policy and procedures manual all items to be brought forth under Citizens' Forum should be presented to the Town Manager no later than 4 P.M. on the day of the Selectmen's meeting. He asked that the Town Manager review the policy and add this to the future agenda. Town Manager Coughlin concurred with Selectman Davis that the policy and procedures in the Selectmen's manual should be followed. Chairman Ampagoomian asked that the Citizens' Forum policy be televised on Channel 12 so that the residents of the Town of Northbridge can understand the procedures that need to be followed when speaking during this session. Town Manager advised the Board of Selectmen that the Citizens' Forum should be what the Selectmen want. Selectman Montecalvo suggested that Chairman Ampagoomian present a proposal about this matter at the next meeting for the Board to review.

Citizens' Comments/Input. 1) **Paul McKeon, 500 Benson Road, Northbridge** advised the Board of his concerns with respect to the "Road Opening Permit Rules and Regulations". He presented the Board of Selectmen with a document for their review. Continuing, Mr. McKeon stated that it cost him \$125 to pull a license [just for the piece of paper]. He agreed that the Town was entitled to charge fees for the services rendered, however, he didn't understand how the Town could charge anyone for just a piece of paper. Selectman Montecalvo suggested this matter be referred to Town Counsel for review. Chairman Ampagoomian concurred. Mr. McKeon mentioned that he brought this before the Board two years ago and never received a response back. 2) **Jim Pyne, [JMJ Realty Trust]** presented some paperwork for the Board of Selectmen to review. Town Manager informed Mr. Pyne that his check would be available for pickup tomorrow at the Town Hall. Mr. Pyne stressed his concerns for the length of time it took for the Town to reimburse him. Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that he hadn't contacted Mr. Pyne directly because Town Counsel was in contact with Mr. Pyne's Attorney, Mr. Lane. 3) **Carrie Maynard, 266 Church Street, Northbridge**, complained about the lack of field space for town sports. She noted that the Worcester Crush team refused to give up the field space. Chairman Ampagoomian advised Mrs. Maynard that a joint meeting between the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Parks and Recreation Committee would be meeting soon to discuss this issue further.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Davis** 1) presented the Board with an action plan containing the following items; DPW facility, Fire Station, and roofs. He suggested these items be placed on the next agenda for discussion. 2) he mentioned giving the Building Committee the task of finding the developmental costs of the West Street School site and begin negotiations with the property owner [Mr. Jolles]. **Selectman Marzec** 1) brought forth a citizen complaint on a Title 5 issue and asked about an entry on Page 14 of the Annual Town Report. In response to Mr. Marzec's question, DPW Director, Richard Sasseville responded that the Sutton Street reconstruction project (which was suppose to occur several years back) includes extensions of the sanitary sewer system. 2) Streetscape project – inquired on the status of when the poles are coming down. Chairman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Marzec the project should be completed by October 2006. **Selectman Audette** 1) thanked Mr. Russell Collins for his many years of service and dedication to the Town of Northbridge. 2) suggested that Mr. Russ Vanderbaan come in and speak to the Board of Selectmen regarding Health Insurance benefits for the Town. Chairman Ampagoomian will place this under Items For Future Agenda. 3) Debt exclusion and the status of the roofs. Town Manager Coughlin informed Selectman Audette the paperwork would be filed with the USDA this week as they are coming in to visit with him. He also mentioned that all debt exclusions would need to be placed on a separate ballot. Selectman Audette wanted to know about the implementation of the DPW facility. Mr. Peter Barbadora clarified that there has only been some broad based studies done on a new DPW facility. Selectman Davis asked that Mr. Sasseville and Mr. Barbadora attend the next meeting to discuss the DPW facility in more depth. 4) Streetscape damage – inquired about the status of Ken Couture's claim as he is still not satisfied with the Town's response. Mr. Sasseville mentioned the Insurance Company was awaiting more information from Mr. Couture before anything can be resolved. 5) Mentioned that the Memorial Day Parade would take place on Sunday, May 28th at 1:00 P.M. at the American Legion in Rockdale and on Monday, May 29th at 10:00 A.M. beginning at Pinegrove Cemetary.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Coughlin commended former Chairman Russell D. Collins for his time serving on the Board of Selectmen. He then congratulated James Marzec on being elected as the new Selectman for Northbridge. Lastly,

he congratulated and thanked the Town Clerk and her staff for running a great election.

Executive Session. A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 8:35 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 8:42 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 9:16 P.M.

Return to Open Session:

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reconvene in open session at 9:18 P.M. Vote yes/Unanimous

Chairman Ampagoomian provided a brief synopsis of what occurred in Executive Session.

#1 High School – The School Committee, Building, Planning & Construction Committee and David Doneski, Town Counsel agreed to pursue the lawsuit regarding the School fields.

#2 Wastewater Treatment Plant – Agreed to authorize the execution of the settlement agreement with the Surety Company. Town will obtain a \$90,000.00 credit from contractor. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to authorize the execution of the settlement agreement with Surety Company. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

#3 Architectural Access Board – [Town vs. AAB] Town missed the deadline date for completion of Handicapped Bathrooms and thus Town is being fined a total of \$4,000.00. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to pay the fine in the amount of \$4,000.00 to the Department of Public Safety. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 9:23 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 5, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Marzec, and Montecalvo.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

May 22, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the May 22, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

May 22, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the May 22, 2006 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

July 25, 2005 [Executive Session]

Selectman Davis requested that the July 25, 2005 minutes be amended as follows: Under the footnote, "delete the entire number 2 statement."

September 26, 2005 [Executive Session]

Selectman Davis requested that the September 26, 2005 amended minutes be amended as follows: "Mr. Davis was not present for any of the discussion on St. Patrick's Church."

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen – Council on Aging [two vacancies]: Leon Duquette, 30 Walker Street, and Kenneth Guertin, 583 Mendon Road. Present: Constance Dion, Chairman –Council on Aging. Mr. Guertin introduced himself and gave a brief history of his life/business career. Next, Mr. Duquette introduced himself and gave a brief synopsis of his life/business career. Connie Dion mentioned how excited she was to have these two gentlemen come forward to serve on the Council on Aging and further stated that both of them are going to be an asset to the Committee. Selectman Montecalvo has known these two gentlemen for many years and said they will both do an excellent job. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to appoint Mr. Leon Duquette and Mr. Kenneth Guertin to the Council on Aging for a three-year term. Vote yes/Unanimous

Blackstone Valley Community Church/Request to use the Town Common on Saturday, July 15, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. for the fourth annual "Uncommon Day on the Common." A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department and Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Unanimous.

The Village Congregational Church (Pastor Robert G. Sherwood)/1) Request to use the Town Common for the Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Rain date: 10/01/06 from 12 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.). A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the above request. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Request to block off Church Street from in front of the Church to the intersection of Park Street.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department and Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Unanimous.

FY 2003 Community Development Block Grant/Request for partial release of lien on property located at 538 Cooper Road, Northbridge, MA. Ms. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director, advised the Board of Selectmen that the owners hardly owe anything on their property and would like to transfer a small portion of land to their son. She recommended that the Board of Selectmen approve a partial release of the lien on this small portion of land. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the partial release of lien on property located at 538 Cooper Road, Northbridge, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

FY 1996 Community Development Block Grant/2 Subordination of Liens for property located at 69 Plantation Street, Northbridge, MA. Ms. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director, mentioned that the Board of Selectmen had previously

approved these subordinations; however, due to the fact that the lender had changed as well as Board members, they had to be re-approved. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the two subordinations of liens for property located at 69 Plantation Street, Northbridge, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

DPW Building Needs – Mr. Richard Sasseville, Director of Public Works gave a presentation on the current conditions of the Department of Public Works facilities. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that the original presentation was given to the Board of Selectmen back in the Year 2000; however, he has since updated some of the information for tonight's meeting. He proceeded to inform the Board of Selectmen on each of the facilities and how they've deteriorated over the years. He stressed that the new DPW facilities must meet the operational needs and the environmental requirements that apply to the DPW. Selectman Audette inquired about the wetlands located on town owned property at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and whether or not the DPW would have enough space for a new facility. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that a site assessment would have to be done on both the town owned parcel and the adjacent privately owned property. Peter Barbadora of the Building, Planning, & Construction Committee mentioned that a partial survey had already been done some time ago by Guerriere & Halnon. Selectman Montecalvo and Selectman Davis asked how many acres were actually buildable on this property. Mr. Barbadora responded, roughly 3 to 5 acres. Mr. Sasseville explained to the Board that he needs at least three buildings. The Selectmen all concurred that the DPW department needs to change location and get off the river. Selectman Montecalvo asked what the priority was, the Fire Station or the Department of Public Works. Selectman Davis mentioned that Mr. Neal Mitchell had prepared a proposal for construction of a metal building for a new DPW facility. Selectmen Davis, Marzec, and Audette felt that the DPW should be moved first since the Town already has a site. Mr. Barbadora asked if both the DPW and Fire Station projects could be moved forward. Chairman Ampagoomian asked about the metal building proposed by Mr. Mitchell and whether it would last 50 years. Mr. Barbadora said that most DPW facilities in the state have metal buildings. He also mentioned that a feasibility study could be done before the next Town Meeting, however, funding could be a problem. DPW Director Sasseville pointed out that there was leftover money from the sale of gravel that could be used towards the study [around \$100,000].

Fire Station Roof – Selectman Davis suggested that Mr. Peter Barbadora of the Building, Planning, Construction Committee find out the cost of replacing the fire station roof. Selectman Audette asked if the Town was planning to keep the Fire Station building. Chief Nestor mentioned that he received an estimate 2 to 3 years ago for around \$100,000, however, it didn't include architectural fees, roof decking, or asbestos removal. Selectman Audette asked that the Fire Station building be placed on the next agenda under discussions. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that when Mr. Barbadora receives a cost to repair and patch the roof, that he contact the Town Manager's Office so that this matter can be placed on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda.

Community Preservation Act Study Committee – Chairman Ampagoomian recommended forming a 5-member Community Preservation Act Committee and suggested that interested individuals currently not serve on any other boards so that they would have a non-biased approach. Chairman Ampagoomian announced that anyone who would like to participate could contact the Town Hall to get a copy of the Preservation Act for review and consideration.

Citizen's Forum – Chairman Ampagoomian presented the Board with a copy of the Selectmen's policies and procedures manual pertaining to Citizen's Forum. A conversation ensued as where to place Citizen's Forum on the agenda and whether there should be a time limit. The Selectmen agreed that citizen's questions and concerns be sent to the Chairman or Town Manager prior to the Selectmen's meeting so that they could have time to review and prepare an appropriate response, which would help alleviate some of the lengthy discussions that take place. It was further agreed that the Citizen's Forum discussion would be placed under "Decisions" [for a vote] at the next Selectmen's meeting. Continuing, Chairman Ampagoomian also mentioned that the "Selectmen's Concerns" category needs to be addressed as well, however, there was nothing in the Selectmen's policies and procedures manual that addressed that topic. Selectman Davis again stated that an "Old Business Category" should be developed and placed on the agenda so that old business items could be addressed and not forgotten about. Selectman Ampagoomian advised that this item be placed on the next agenda under "Discussions."

Citizens' Comments/Input. 1) **Mr. Ken Couture, 426 Hill Street**, voiced his concerns about the lack of response he has received on his claim from the Town of Northbridge with respect to property that was damaged during the Streetscape project. Mr. Couture felt the town has mishandled his claim and was here tonight to answer questions the Board of Selectmen may have relative to his claim. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned that a letter was received by the Town Manager's office, which detailed what the Insurance Company was looking for from Mr. Couture. Selectman Montecalvo then read aloud the letter sent to Ms. Sharon Susienka from Heather Crockett detailing the information sent to Mr. Couture and the lack of response on his part. A copy of the letter was given to the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Couture for their review. Chairman Ampagoomian stated that the Insurance Company was still waiting for information and until Mr. Couture provided this

information, the claim could not be settled. After discussion, Mr. Couture agreed to contact Heather Crockett at the Insurance Company to discuss his claim. Chairman Ampagoomian further requested that Mr. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, contact John Wagner, Streetscape Designer, and ask that he contact Mr. Couture for discussion. **2) Mrs. Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street**, spoke briefly about not airing certain tapes, such as a recent 5 hour long Finance Committee Meeting. She wanted people to know that this particular meeting was not aired on the Cable TV because the tape ran out before the meeting was over.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Marzec/1)** thanked the folks that sent him condolences on the recent passing of his father. **2)** mentioned the Union Street flooding issue and requested that this issue be put on a future agenda. **Chairman Ampagoomian** announced that the dedication for the Charles C. Mantel Memorial would take place on Saturday, June 10th at 11 A.M. at the intersection at Country Club Drive and Fletcher Street; everyone was invited to attend.

Items For Future Agenda. Selectman Davis asked for an update from the Town Manager/Chairman on the Four Town Group and where they stand on it.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
June 19, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, and Marzec. Chairman Ampagoomian noted that Selectman Montecalvo would be present later in the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

June 5, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the June 5, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Marzec, and Ampagoomian

July 25, 2005 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the July 25, 2005 amended Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Messr. Marzec

September 26, 2005 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the September 26, 2005 amended Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Messr. Marzec

Appointments: Introduction of Don Bunker, General Manager, Whitinsville Water Company. Mr. Leonard White introduced Don Q. Bunker as the General Manager of the Whitinsville Water Company. He gave an overview of Mr. Bunker's 13 years of business experience in the Water industry along with mentioning that Mr. Bunker was a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, Mr. Bunker has been an instructor in water works practices for the New England Water Works Association since 1993. Mr. White informed the Board of Selectmen that on April 5, 2006, Mr. James Ouellet informed Mr. White about a consent order from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection stating that the Whitinsville Water Company had until September 30, 2009, to construct a water treatment facility. This was a shock to Mr. White as this was a pristine water supply and they were now condemning it as ground water under the influence of surface water and as such, it would need to be treated. Mr. White explained that ground water under the influence means microscopic particles that are on their way to the underground wells, which contribute one million gallons of water a day to the Whitinsville Water Company's distribution system. He further stated that for every day the Whitinsville Water Company does not comply they would be penalized for non-compliance. Mr. White then went on to mention the need for a rate increase for the Whitinsville Water Company. He pointed out that the last rate increase took place 9 years ago in 1997. The Water Company has hired a rate case consultant and has since provided them with a proposed rate increase in the range of 23-33%. The Whitinsville Water Company admitted to waiting to long for a rate increase but it was the current energy crisis, compounded with the Department of Environmental Protection order to construct a treatment plant that made it imperative to proceed with this increase at the earliest possible moment. He also noted that the Whitinsville Water Company had put money aside to invest in a treatment plant some day. Selectman Davis asked what groundwater under the influence of surface water meant. Mr. Bunker responded that there were different regulations for groundwater and surface water. Groundwater under the influence of surface water was subject to surface water treatment regulations. He also pointed out that rules haven't changed, however, testing has. Selectman Davis also asked if the water was safe and Mr. Bunker responded "yes." Selectman Marzec asked how water quality tests were performed. Mr. Bunker explained that water samples are filtered through a special lab quality filter and are viewed under a microscope by a state-certified microbiologist. Chairman Ampagoomian requested that the Whitinsville Water Company keep the Town Manager apprised of when the Public Hearing would take place on the rate increase.

Annual Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. The Board was provided with a list of persons who wished to be reappointed to their respective boards/committees as well as those who requested not to be reappointed. Selectman Marzec announced that he would not be asking for reappointment to the Board of Health. Selectman Davis requested that Mr. Neal Mitchell be added to the list of reappointments. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to add Neal Mitchell's name to the list of names to be reappointed by the Board of Selectmen. No vote was taken on the motion offered. Town Manager Coughlin explained his interpretation of the policy contained in the Selectmen's manual with respect to appointments. He then noted that another individual has come forward to serve, therefore, when a seat is contested, an interview would be

conducted at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Chairman Ampagoomian concurred with the Town Manager. Selectman Audette mentioned that he spoke to Neal Mitchell about his reappointment along with the other applicant. He stated that the applicant indicated he would step aside if Mr. Mitchell was really interested in being reappointed. Selectman Audette mentioned he still had the email from the applicant and that politics were involved and didn't understand why they had to wait to reappoint Mr. Mitchell. Selectman Marzec concurred with Selectman Audette. After the Town Manager brought this matter to the Board's attention, the Chairman called for a vote on whether or not to include Mr. Mitchell's name for reappointment. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to include Neal Mitchell's name in the list of names to be reappointed. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec and Davis. Vote no/Messrs. Audette and Ampagoomian. There being a tie vote, motion doesn't carry. Continuing, Chairman Ampagoomian called for a motion to reappoint the individuals who indicated they wished to be reappointed [see attached listing]. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the revised list of Selectmen's appointments as indicated on the handout provided to the Board of Selectmen prior to tonight's meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, Audette, and Ampagoomian.

Annual Appointments/By the Town Manager. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to affirm the FY 06 annual reappointments by the Town Manager [as indicated on the list provided in the agenda packets]. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Davis, Audette, and Ampagoomian.

Selectman Davis asked if all individuals that submitted a Talent Bank application had been contacted. Town Manager Coughlin explained that it would be up to the Board of Selectmen to decide whether or not they should interview [at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting, July 10, 2006] for the 2 vacant Board of Health positions. The Board agreed that they would interview for the 2 vacant positions. Selectman Davis asked that Town Manager Coughlin present the names of the individuals interested in the Board of Health vacancies to the Board of Selectmen for review and consideration.

Revised Agenda Outline/Vote to move Citizens' Comments/Input after Decisions. Chairman Ampagoomian clarified that the motion was to place the Citizens' Comments/Input category on the agenda following Decisions [not before the Decisions]. That said, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to revise the order of business on the Selectmen's agenda by moving Citizen's Comments/Input after Appointments but before Decisions. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, and Audette. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian.

St. Patrick's Church/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from September 8, 2006 through September 23, 2006 to advertise their annual Fall Festival. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request to hang the Fall Festival banner across Church Street from September 8, 2006 through September 23, 2006. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette, Marzec, and Ampagoomian.

Chairman Ampagoomian asked that the record show that Selectman Montecalvo joined the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

FY '07 Water and Sewer Rates. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director. Mr. Sasseville gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current water and sewer rates and provided his recommendations for FY '07 water and sewer utility rates. With respect to the FY '07 water rates, Mr. Sasseville recommended no change. As far as the FY '07 sewer rates, he recommended a 10% rate increase over FY '06 rates. Based on Mr. Sasseville's presentation the following motions were offered; **Water Rates:** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to set the FY '07 water rates as recommended by the DPW Director [no increase] with the understanding that if and when the Whitinsville Water Company increased their rates that the Town would revisit this issue. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Sewer Rates:** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to increase the FY '07 sewer rates by 10% as recommended by the DPW Director. Vote yes/Unanimous.

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
WATER SYSTEM

-
SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER SERVICES

-
Effective Date: July 1, ~~2001~~2006

-
RATES FOR METERED SERVICE

-
QUARTERLY METER RATES

Subject to the minimum quarterly charges as specified below, the meter rates for water sold quarterly will be:

Per Hundred
Cubic Feet

For the first 1,000 cubic feet per quarter	\$2.890
For the next 14,000 cubic feet per quarter	2.786
For all in excess of 15,000 cubic feet per quarter	1.301 1.561

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER SERVICES
EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2006

Minimum Quarterly Charge Per Meter:

Size of Meter (Inches)	Water Allowance (Cubic Feet)	Minimum Charge Per Quarter
5/8	1,000	\$ 28.90
3/4	2,200	55.37
1	3,600	86.26
1-1/4	4,500	106.11
1-1/2	7,000	161.26
2	11,500	260.53
3	27,800	510.67 618.75
4	50,000	810.59 965.29
6	110,000	1,621.19 1,901.89
8	180,000	2,566.89 2,994.59
10	265,000	3,715.24 4,321.44

Each meter shall be billed in accordance with the above rate schedule. Whenever a customer is served by more than one connection to the Town's mains, the consumption as shown on the meter on each service connection will not be added together under one billing, but will be billed separately in accordance with the above rate schedule.

MINIMUM CHARGE FOR SHUTTING OFF OR TURNING ON WATER SERVICE
\$25.00

RATES FOR PRIVATE FIRE SERVICESAVAILABILITY

These rates are available to customers of the Northbridge Water System for Private Fire Service. For purposes of this rate, the term fire protection valve shall mean and include either: a) any gate valve attached to any pipe that has the purpose of delivering water to one or more sprinkler heads; and/or any post indicator valve.

<u>RATES</u>	<u>Per Quarter</u>
For each 4" or smaller fire protection valve	\$ 156.51
For each 6" fire protection valve	250.11
For each 8" fire protection valve	344.00
For each 10" fire protection valve	625.27
For each private hydrant	141.13

CONNECTION FEES FOR NEW SERVICES

A connection fee for a new service connection to Residential, Commercial or Industrial premises will be charged by the Northbridge Water System at the time application is made for service, as follows:

<u>Meter Size</u>	<u>Fee</u>
5/8 Inch up to 2 Inch (160 gallons per minute)	\$ 1,200.00 1,800.00
3 Inch (315 gallons per minute)	2,363.00
4 Inch (500 gallons per minute)	3,750.00

6 Inch (1,000 gallons per minute)	7,500.00
8 Inch (1,600 gallons per minute)	12,000.00
10 Inch (2,300 gallons per minute)	17,250.00

The connection fee for a new service connection for an existing residential premise occupied prior to July 1, 1997 is \$150.00.

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR WATER SERVICES TO MUNICIPAL OR DISTRICT WATER SYSTEMS

-
Effective Date: July 1, 2001+2006

-
RATES FOR METERED SERVICE

-
This rate schedule is applicable to the sale of water by the Northbridge Water System to other municipal, public or private water systems located outside the limits of the Town of Northbridge.

MONTHLY METER RATES

Subject to the minimum monthly charges specified below, the meter rates for water sold monthly will be:

	Per Hundred Cubic Feet
For all water sold per month	\$ 2.786

Minimum monthly charge per meter:

The minimum monthly charge per meter shall be \$139.30 which will include an allowance of 5,000 cubic feet of water per month. This minimum shall apply regardless of the size of the meter.

Each meter shall be billed monthly in accordance with the above rate schedule. Whenever a customer is served by more than one connection to the Town's mains, the consumption as shown by the meters on each service connection will not be added together under one billing, but each meter will be billed separately in accordance with the above rate schedule.

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE
SEWER SYSTEM

-
SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR SEWER SERVICES
QUARTERLY BILLING CYCLE

-
Effective Date: July 1, 2006

QUARTERLY RATES

The rates for sewer services that are billed quarterly will be:

For the first 2,000 cubic feet used or fraction thereof	\$ 61.42
For each additional 100 cubic feet thereafter	3.79
For residential customers only, the rate for each additional 100 cubic feet used in excess of 4,000 cubic feet shall be reduced by 25-percent to	2.84

Each sewer service shall be billed in accordance with the above rate schedule. Quarterly usage shall be determined using 100-percent of the quarterly metered water consumption figure to arrive at sewer usage.

CONNECTION FEES FOR NEW SERVICES

A connection fee for a new service connection to Residential, Commercial or Industrial premises will be charged by the Northbridge Sewer System at the time application is made for service, as follows:

<u>Type of Connection</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Existing single family residence	\$ 770.00
Existing multi family residence (first unit)	770.00
Each additional existing unit	440.00
New single family residence	6,600.00
New multi family residence (first unit)	6,600.00
Each additional unit	5,500.00
Commercial or Industrial (minimum)	7,700.00
Commercial or Industrial (whichever is greater)	385.00 per fixture

The term "fixture" as used above is defined as: water closets, urinals, lavatories, service sinks, laundry sinks, washing machines, dishwashers, garbage disposal units, etc.

The term "existing residence" as used above is defined as one that was occupied prior to July 1, 1997.

Whenever a commercial or industrial premise is served by more than one connection to the Town's mains, the connection fee schedule above shall apply to each connection. The total number of fixtures will not be added together to determine the connection fee.

Ms. Kristoff mentioned that Eastern Bank was awarded the bid since they came in at the lowest rate of 3.844%. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign the above bond anticipation notes for the purposes and amounts stated. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Policy Regarding Selectmen's Concerns. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned there was no policy at this point in time regarding Selectmen's Concerns, and he would like Board members to submit their ideas to him in writing. The Board concurred. Chairman Ampagoomian stated that this would be put under "decisions" at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Update on the 4-Town Committee. Present: Paula Brouillette, Douglas Board of Selectmen, advised that the objective of the 4-Town Committee [Douglas, Sutton, Northbridge, and Uxbridge] was to standardize zoning among the four Towns. She stated that the group recently hired a consultant to help decide the best use of land along Route 146. She also noted that Gary Bechtholdt has been excellent to work with.

Citizens' Comments/Input. None

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Audette/1) mentioned he spoke to Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and she suggested that a meeting be set up with the School Committee, Town Manager, Superintendent and Finance Committee to discuss the budget. In response to Selectman Audette's concern, the Town Manager recommended that he, Superintendent Soojian, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee meet initially to discuss the magnitude of the Town's financial situation. **2)** he also pointed out that a rumor was going around about there being another override vote. **Selectman Marzec/1)** indicated that a number of citizens had contacted him regarding the override vote and mentioned the lack of information given to individuals in the town. A suggestion was made that the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen publicize such events better. **2)** inquired about the Sutton Street sewer reconstruction project and when the project would begin. **3)** Union Street issues. **Selectman Davis/ 1)** mentioned the submission of the USDA packet for the roofs; **2)** Weinberg letter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting under discussions and that the Town Manager present a report on where in either State law or the policy manual he was allowed to keep a letter from members of the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Coughlin advised that the Town's deficit currently stands at 1.4M. He also noted that the School Department would take responsibility for \$400,000 of the deficit.

Items For Future Agenda. July 10, 2006

- I. Appointments:
- 1) Building, Planning & Construction Committee
 - 2) Town Attorney
 - 3) Board of Health
 - 4) Independent Auditors

Executive Session. Selectman Davis made a suggestion that the following issues be added to the Executive Session:

Weinberg Letter and St. Patrick's Lease. Brian Maser, Town Counsel, noted that those items would have had to be added at the time the agenda was created and posted. Selectman Davis asked that two Executive Sessions for those purposes be scheduled for the next meeting on July 10, 2006. A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Police Union Negotiations) and #3 (Litigation – High School); not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

A motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session adjourned: 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
July 10, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Chairman Ampagoomian announced that on July 16, 2006 at 11:00 a.m., the National Guard will be holding a send-off ceremony for approximately 125 members of the 101st Engineering Battalion as they are being deployed to Kosno. The ceremony will take place at Wakefield High School, 6 Farm Street, Wakefield, MA (Lake Street, Whitinsville). The members of the Board are cordially invited to attend.

Approval of Minutes.

June 19, 2006

Selectman Davis requested the June 19, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: By adding two comments he made at the last Board of Selectmen Meeting. 1) submission of the USDA packet for the roofs, and 2) Weinberg letter. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the June 19, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

June 19, 2006 [Executive Session]

Selectman Davis requested the June 19, 2006 Executive Session minutes be amended by adding the following information under the section entitled High School, second paragraph, sixth line, change the words "Attorney's fees" to "field construction costs" and in the eighth line change the words "legal fees" to "reconstruction costs". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the June 19, 2006 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned he needed some clarification from Attorney Doneski regarding Selectman Davis' suggested revisions. Attorney Doneski mentioned that he could not answer unless they were in an Executive Session. Selectman Audette suggested waiting to approve the 6/19/06 Executive Session minutes until the next meeting so they have time to get clarification from Attorney Doneski. Chairman Ampagoomian advised that Selectman Davis and Selectman Marzec would have to withdraw their motions. Selectman Davis and Selectman Marzec withdrew their motions to approve the June 19, 2006 Executive Session minutes pending clarification. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to place the June 19, 2006 Executive Session minutes on the July 24, 2006 agenda for approval. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearing. 7:05 p.m./Set Liquor License Violations hearing for August 7, 2006 per Chief of Police. Present: Walter J. Warchol, Chief of Police. Chief Warchol briefly discussed how the Northbridge Police Department conducted an investigation of the illegal sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 21. Chief Warchol assigned the investigation to Lieutenant Timothy Labrie, Officer Stephen Buma and Detective Donald Roy. Two individuals under the age of 21 assisted the officers in the investigation. They entered 16 licensed establishments in Northbridge and successfully purchased alcohol in 6 of these establishments: The China Pacific Restaurant, The Grill, Jubes Family Restaurant, Sparetime Recreation, The Trading Post Market and Village Variety. Chief Warchol asked the Board of Selectmen to hold a Public Hearing so that evidence could be presented on these violations. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to hold liquor license violations hearings on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7 P.M. in the Selectmen's Chambers. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Building, Planning & Construction Committee (Annual Reappointment): Neal Mitchell. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to reappoint Mr. Neal Mitchell to the Building, Planning and Construction Committee for a three-year term. Vote yes/ Unanimous. **Board of Health (Annual Reappointment): Scott Chase.** At this time, Selectman Jack Davis raised a Point of Order in regards to Mr. Chase's appointment and noted that he was under the impression that Mr. Chase was already reappointed at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Marzec concurred. That said, a motion/Mr.Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to reappoint Mr. Scott Chase to the Board of Health for a three-year term. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Board of Health (2 vacancies/3 applicants): Steven Garabedian, Christopher Cella, and James Gosselin.** The Chairman announced there were 3 candidates applying for two vacancies on the Board of Health. The candidates, Steven Garabedian, Christopher Cella and James Gosselin, introduced themselves to the Selectmen and each provided a brief review of their qualifications and reasons for wanting to serve on the Committee. Following a brief question and answer period relative to filling the two vacant positions, Chairman Ampagoomian called for nominations for Mr. Garabedian. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to appoint Mr. Garabedian to the Board

of Health for a three-year term. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/yes, Mr. Marzec/no. Chairman Ampagoomian called for nominations on Mr. Cella. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Mr. Cella to the Board of Health for a three-year term. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Montecalvo/no, and Mr. Ampagoomian/no. Chairman Ampagoomian called for nominations for Mr. Gosselin. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo. No second, motion dies. There being no further nominations, Mr. Garabedian and Mr. Cella were appointed to the Board of Health for three-year terms. **Town Counsel (Annual Reappointment): Kopelman & Paige [1-year term].** Selectman Audette requested a breakdown/history of the itemized billing for the Town. When asked, Attorney Doneski stated that Kopelman & Paige charges \$145.00 per hour. Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. advised that the Selectmen could monitor the itemized bills on a monthly basis and that he would supply the fiscal year totals to each Board member. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to reappoint Kopelman & Paige as Town Counsel for a one-year term. Role Call Vote: Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. Selectman Davis mentioned that he ran into Mr. Frieswick and wanted to make sure that Mr. Frieswick was reappointed to the Playground and Recreation Committee. Chairman Ampagoomian and the Town Manager advised that Mr. Frieswick could be reappointed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting if need be.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Bill Cundiff, 68 Windsor Ridge Drive, briefly spoke about dealing with Kopelman & Paige and mentioned that the Town could receive an itemized bill by project matter. Mr. Cundiff works in the Town of Douglas and has dealt with Kopelman & Paige through his place of employment. **Robert A. Parker, Jr., 20 Nolet Street, Linwood,** mentioned that he was appalled and disappointed with the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager for not placing him on the agenda as he requested three weeks ago. That said, he requested to discuss the Union Street drainage. Mr. Parker explained that in November of 1999, a report was done and said no one has done a thing in over 7 years. He also mentioned that the Town failed to negotiate an easement with their property. Mr. Parker then presented the Board with pictures of the flood that he had taken last year. Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that Mr. Sasseville ordered a study by Earth Tech so that they could conduct a hydrological study to help with the resolution of the drainage problems in the Union Street area. Town Manager also mentioned that he visited the Union Street site several times and agreed that they need to alleviate this situation. He further informed Mr. Parker that the DPW crew couldn't be placed out there until the area dries out. Selectman Davis inquired about a letter that was sent by the Town Manager to Attorney Amy Silverstein on September 29, 2005, and whether Mr. Collins ever followed up with her. Selectman Marzec suggested that the DPW should start working on this soon before the frost sets in. Mr. Parker said that someone from the Board should have contacted him to discuss this situation prior to attending tonight's meeting. Selectman Montecalvo noted it would be very costly to fix this situation and asked where the money would come from. Mr. Parker then suggested that the Board of Selectmen sit down and negotiate an easement. Chairman Ampagoomian said the DPW has a plan and they need to work on this first. He also said that if an easement was needed, the Town Manager would look into it. Chairman Ampagoomian told Mr. Parker that he would keep him informed.

Common Victualler's License Application: David White d/b/a/ Blackstone Valley Business Center, 98A Church Street, Whitinsville. Mr. David White introduced himself and spoke briefly about his new business "Blackstone Valley Business Center". He mentioned his business involves collaborative advertising, web sites, marketing and graphic design. The business would also contain a coffee shop with pastries. Mr. White indicated that operation would be 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Board of Selectmen wished him well. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to grant a Common Victualler's License to David White d/b/a Blackstone Valley Business Center, 98A Church Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Special Town Meeting: 1) Vote to set date [September 26, 2006]. 2) Vote to close warrant Friday, August 25, 2006 at Noon – both postponed to July 24, 2006. Present: Town Manager Coughlin, Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Andrew Todd, member of the Finance Committee. Selectman Montecalvo inquired about an email that was sent to individuals about the override not being needed because of the Town's deficit was \$100,000.00. Town Manager Coughlin interjected and advised Selectman Montecalvo that the Town should deal with the defeat of the override and move forward. He mentioned that the more important thing was to turn the page and deal with the business at hand. Continuing, Town Manager Coughlin talked briefly about the revenue budget that was produced by the Finance Committee and that he included (in the Selectmen's packet) the final numbers from the State. He further mentioned that he met with Mary Frances Powers {Chairman of the Finance Committee}, Andrew Todd {Member of the Finance Committee}, and Paul Soojian {Superintendent of Schools} to discuss the current deficit. They discussed establishing a financial working group. Ms. Powers suggested a proposal for the individuals serving on the working group; the group would consist of 8 representatives; 2 members from the Finance Committee, 2 Board of Selectmen, 2 from the School Committee, Superintendent Paul Soojian and Town Manager Michael Coughlin, Jr. The committee would be responsible for finding solutions to the goals established for Fiscal Year 07 and to formulate a plan for Fiscal Year '08. Ms. Powers then mentioned that the Finance Committee would

like a vote by the Board of Selectmen to accept the concept of the working group. Town Manager Coughlin stated that the working group individuals would be helping to deal with more of the contentious issues such as: the reductions in the municipal and school budgets and closing out dormant accounts. The Selectmen all agreed that they were in favor of supporting this new group. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support the concept of formulating a financial working group as outlined above. Vote yes/Unanimous. Town Manager Coughlin suggested postponing the vote to set the Special Town Meeting until the July 24, 2006, Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Davis asked the Town Manager why the business to be conducted at the Special Town Meeting couldn't be deferred until the Fall Annual Town Meeting on October 24, 2006. The Town Manager responded that most of the budget reductions should be made at the September 26, 2006 meeting. Selectman Davis understood the argument but mentioned he didn't agree with it. Mr. Todd suggested that the Selectmen appoint 2 members to the working group committee tonight. Chairman Ampagoomian concurred and suggested Selectman Marzec and Selectman Montecalvo as his choice because of their financial backgrounds. Selectman Davis concurred. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to appoint Selectman Montecalvo and Selectman Marzec to the financial working group committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 24, 2006] A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Fall Annual Town Meeting warrant on Friday, September 8, 2006 at noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

DPW Facility Site Design A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to direct the Building, Planning and Construction Committee to complete the development of a site design for the proposed DPW Facility including a detailed analysis of the Department's operational needs and an evaluation of the suitability of the proposed site as authorized by vote of the Town under Article 17 of the June 8, 2004 Town Meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Fire Station Roof Repair or Replace – Application to USDA. Mr. Peter Barbadora and Mr. David Morrow mentioned they would not be receiving the report on the cost estimate of the roof until Wednesday, July 12th or Thursday, July 13, 2006, therefore, this discussion will be deferred to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting on July 24, 2006.

Safety Committee Minutes (June 21, 2006)/Vote to approve. Selectman Audette asked Selectman Montecalvo to give a brief overview of the Safety Committee Meetings to the Board of Selectmen during their Board meetings. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned he would. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of June 21, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from July 21, 2006 through July 28, 2006 to announce the welcoming home of Jonathan Van Etten. Present: Tom Farley and Andy Williamson. Mr. Farley mentioned that the Trustees received a letter from Mr. Van Etten's father requesting to hang a banner over Church Street to welcome home his son, Jonathan Van Etten, Airforce Staff Sergeant, who would be returning home from Germany on July 24th. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the above request to hang a banner across Church Street from July 21st through July 28th to announce the welcoming home of Jonathan Van Etten. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Northbridge High School [Class of 2007]/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from September 27, 2006 through October 15, 2006 to announce "Homecoming" at Northbridge High School. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request to hang a banner across Church Street from September 27, 2006 through October 15, 2006 to announce "Homecoming" at NHS. Vote yes/Unanimous.

FY'99 Community Development Block Grant Program/Request to discharge lien on property located at 69 Plantation Street, Northbridge, MA. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager, Community Development Block Program, informed the Board of Selectmen that there were 2 liens on the above property and 1 was recently paid off. She asked the Board of Selectmen to discharge the smaller lien that has been paid off on the property located at 69 Plantation Street. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the discharge of lien on property located at 69 Plantation Street, Northbridge, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Policy Regarding Matters brought forth under "Selectmen's Concerns". Chairman Ampagoomian briefly discussed amending the Town of Northbridge Board of Selectmen's Policy and Procedures Manual. He suggested inserting a new category entitled "Selectmen's Concerns" with the following language under Section II Meeting Policy: Each meeting the Board will provide a topic entitled Selectmen's Concerns in which members of the Board will have an opportunity to comment on any issues or questions they deem important. It will be the prerogative of the Chairman of the Board to table any matter for discussion at a future meeting of the Board of Selectmen. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to amend the Town

of Northbridge's Board of Selectmen's Policy and Procedure Manual as noted above. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Marzec 1)** mentioned that an individual on Linwood Avenue had some concerns about the drainage basin [School Department Drainage] and would like for this topic to be placed on the next agenda. **2)** asked whether Mr. McKeon received a copy of the letter regarding the fee charge he inquired about. **Selectman Montecalvo** announced the Summer Concert Series. **Selectman Davis 1)** inquired about the St. Patrick's Lease payment. Town Manager Coughlin informed Mr. Davis the payment was going out tomorrow. **2)** Has there been a response to the DPW Director's letter sent to Mr. John Dyer? Mr. Sasseville, DPW Director, informed Mr. Davis that the letter was sent to Mr. Dyer, however, it was sent back as undelivered due to a change of address. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that he would send out another letter to Mr. Dyer's correct address.

Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Coughlin suggested that Chairman Ampagoomian sit down with Mr. Dyer to continue negotiation on the property located on Providence Road [adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant]. The Town Manager then passed out a document listing some timeframes with respect to Capital projects, for the Board of Selectmen to review. He also mentioned that he and Mr. Montecalvo would be meeting with the West End School Property owner, Mr. Jolles [July 11, 2006 @ 11:00 A.M.] to discuss negotiations on the land for the new Fire Station. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting, a vote to set the debt exclusion for November 7th would have to take place in order for the Town to comply with the required deadline.

Items For Future Agenda. July 24, 2006

- 1) Vote to place articles {Roof, Budget Amendments} on the Special Town Meeting Warrant
- 2) Department Heads – Quarterly Reports Presentation {April, May, June}
- 3) Vote to set the Debt Exclusion for November 7, 2006

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session adjourned: 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
July 24, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

July 10, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the July 10, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted.
Vote yes/Unanimous.

Chairman Ampagoomian announced some changes to the agenda: 1) Under appointments, the Board of Selectmen will vote to reappoint Mr. Bruce Frieswick to the Playground and Recreation Committee. 2) Executive Session (#3 - Litigation: High School) will be postponed to a later date due to the absence of Attorney Vena.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Normand Armstrong, 558 Sutton Street, Northbridge. Mr. Armstrong indicated that he was here to represent the 11 houses on Sutton Street that still do not have water and sewer hookups. Continuing, he voiced his discontent with respect to the delay of the Sutton Street Sewer project. Mr. Armstrong noted that ten years ago, this project was a priority, however, he stated that he was upset with how long the project has been delayed since money [\$800,000] was appropriated long ago. He also pointed out that the residents on Sutton Street were told the delay was due to the lack of Chapter 90 funding. Mr. Armstrong then asked that someone [Board of Selectmen, DPW Director, or the Town Manager] provide him with a timetable and keep him abreast of any future correspondence the Town has with the State regarding this project. Chairman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Armstrong that his questions might be answered later in the meeting when the Sutton Street Sewer Project is discussed.

Public Hearing. 1) 7:05 p.m./ Trinity Auto Brokers [J. William Gifford]. Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Gifford informed the Board of Selectmen that he was just looking to transfer his Class II License from 277 Church Street, Whitinsville, to 194 Church Street, Whitinsville. There being no public comments, Selectman Davis asked why there was an addendum made to his original application. Mr. Gifford responded that he didn't have enough time for a site plan review [which would be needed for him to display 7 or more cars on his lot] so he had no choice but to go with the 6-car limit as no site plan would be needed. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the Change of Location for Trinity Auto Brokers [J. William Gifford] from 277 Church Street, Whitinsville, to 194 Church Street, Whitinsville. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) 7:15 p.m./ Arcade Package Store [David Wnukowski].** Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Wnukowski stated that his reason for moving the package store from its current location in the Plaza to the other side of the Plaza was because his landlord needed the space so that the Department of Social Services office could expand their facility. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further comments, A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve Arcade Package Store [David Wnukowski] for a Change of Location from 159 Church Street, Whitinsville, to 185 Church Street, Whitinsville [Unit 16-6]. Vote yes/ Unanimous.

Annual Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Bruce Frieswick. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reappoint Mr. Bruce Frieswick to the Playground and Recreation Committee for a three-year term. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Shelley Buma, 40 Heritage Drive, Whitinsville. Ms. Buma 1) questioned Chairman Ampagoomian with respect to the Citizens' Comments 5 minute limit rule. She would like to know when this policy was put in place and when the vote was taken on this new policy [who made and seconded the motion]. Chairman Ampagoomian informed Ms. Buma this took place 5 weeks ago. She then requested copies of the minutes in which someone made the motion and seconded. 2) made the Board of Selectmen aware of a proposal with respect to the old 15-acre Church Street extension landfill. She mentioned that an application had already been filed with the DEP and submitted by SEEMASS Corporation and the Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation of Springfield. Ms. Buma stated she was concerned about the dumping of incinerator ash and suggested that the Board of Selectmen be aware of the Town Bylaw 9-401 [approved at the

June 24, 1971 Town Meeting], which prohibits this type of activity. She then requested that the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen thoroughly review the proposal as submitted and provide comments to the DEP. Chairman Ampagoomian informed Ms. Buma that the proper boards would handle that matter and make appropriate comments. **Kristine MacNeil, 26 Kennedy Circle, Northbridge**, asked what it would take to have an override question put on the November ballot. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that it would have to be approved tonight. Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that only the Board of Selectmen would have the authority to place a question on the ballot. **Lisa Hazerjian, 73 June Street, Northbridge**, asked that if an auditor came in and stated the deficit was \$1.4 million, wouldn't that be the deficit. Town Manager Coughlin responded that the Financial Advisor came in and certified that the deficit was presently \$1.4 million. Mrs. Hazerjian asked if the \$900,000.00 in stabilization was still going towards education. Chairman Ampagoomian said yes, however, it's up to the School Superintendent to exercise that. **Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Mary Thompson, Member of the Finance Committee**. Ms. Powers spoke briefly about how the wrong message was being sent to the community by stating again and again that an independent auditor verified the \$1.4 million deficit. She suggested that the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, and Superintendent of Schools stop saying there was a \$1.4 million deficit. Ms. Powers mentioned that the working group will agree on what the revenues are and the two Senior Administrators [Paul Soojian and Michael Coughlin] would be making recommendations on the cuts. The Finance Committee would not be making any decisions/recommendation on the cuts.

Armenian Apostolic Church/1) Request to hang a banner over Church Street from August 7, 2006 to August 21, 2006 to advertise their Annual Picnic to be held Sunday, August 20, 2006. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the above request as presented. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, and Audette. Abstain/Messrs. Montecalvo and Ampagoomian. **2) Request for one-day Wines and Malt Liquor License for the Annual Picnic, August 20, 2006.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the above one-day license request. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, and Audette. Abstain/Messrs. Montecalvo and Ampagoomian.

Special Town Meeting: Selectman Marzec had some concerns as he felt that it might be premature in setting a date for the Special Town Meeting since the working group committee has not had the opportunity to get together. Selectman Davis concurred. Town Manager Coughlin explained the reasons for having the Special Town Meeting would be in order to shrink the \$1.4 million deficit; some reductions would need to be made before the Fall Town Meeting. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo to set the Special Town Meeting for 9/26/06, seconded/Mr. Audette. Prior to taking a vote, Mr. Audette declared that he wanted to further discuss this issue. Town Manager Coughlin reiterated the fact that by having the Special Town Meeting (before the Fall Annual Town Meeting), they could close out some dormant accounts to help minimize the budget gap. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to set the date for a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, September 26, 2006. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/No, Mr. Marzec/No, Mr. Davis/No, Mr. Ampagoomian/No, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes. Vote: 4-1 [No]. Motion doesn't carry.

Debt Exclusion/Vote to place questions on State Election Ballot [November 7, 2006]. Selectman Davis suggested that the two questions be consolidated into one. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to place the following debt exclusion question on the State Election Ballot for November 7, 2006: Shall the Town of Northbridge be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition Two and One-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for replacement of the roofs and associated work at the Northbridge Middle School and Northbridge Police Station? Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (July 19, 2006)/Vote to approve. Selectman Montecalvo gave the Board of Selectmen a brief overview of the Safety Committee Meeting that took place on July 19, 2006. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of July 19, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Streetscape Update. Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Community Development and Gary Bechtholdt, Community Planning and Development. Ms. Dulmaine presented her quarterly report along with the updates on the Streetscape project to the Board of Selectmen. She briefly discussed the completion of the National Grid underground work and mentioned that the poles will remain in place until Verizon completes their portion of the underground wiring and necessary hookups. The Memorial Square Lighting Improvements Project is underway and will include 15 ornamental lights, monument lighting, etc. around the Park and Town Hall. Ms. Dulmaine also mentioned that 3 sets of banners have been ordered for the Town of Northbridge: [maroon and white] Village of Whitinsville – Historical District, Village of Whitinsville, and the Village of Rockdale. Mr. Bechtholdt, Director of Community Planning and Development, noted that the banners were part of a grant program from the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Selectman Montecalvo asked when the Streetscape Project would be completed and Ms. Dulmaine responded that she was hopeful it would be done by January 2007, but they have until June 30, 2007 to expend all funds.

Department Heads' Quarterly Reports: Community Planning & Development, Fire, Police and DPW. The above Department's presented their quarterly reports for the period of April 2006 to June 2006. Reports are on file in the Town Manager's office. *Selectman Davis requested that a report be submitted by the DPW Director on the Operation Review by the Government Consulting Group dated February 2006.

Pine Knoll/Attorney Doug Resnick. Chairman Ampagoomian suggested that since Attorney Resnick was not present for tonight's meeting, this topic would be tabled until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for August 7, 2006.

South Grafton Water District [Guerriere & Halnon]/Request for access to the Northbridge Water System. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that since there was no representation from Guerriere and Halnon and Pine Knoll [Attorney Doug Resnick], a letter should go out to each of them making sure they are present for the next Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for August 7, 2006.

Sutton Street Project. Mr. Richard Sasseville, Director of Public Works, gave an overview of what transpired with the Sutton Street Sewer Project and why it came to a halt. He mentioned the Board of Selectmen approved the request of the reconstruction of Sutton Street back on December 3, 1994. The project request was submitted to the Mass. Highway Department and from there they received approval from the State. The company, Earth Tech, designed the reconstruction of Sutton Street and the Town appropriated funds for the water line and sewer main extensions. However, the design stopped 5 to 6 years ago because of Mass. Highway's rigid design standards [pavement width, shoulders, bicycle lanes, sidewalk widths]. In addition, the impact of widening the streets was going to affect local property owners from Cooper Road to Route 122 (Rockdale). The project was then put on hold because of non-support from the community. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that he would be meeting with Earth Tech to modify the design within the new design criteria and this project would then be back on track. Mr. Sasseville also suggested having public meetings for the abutters to see what new changes are going to be made and hopefully gain public approval.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Davis 1)** asked if the letter has been forwarded to Mr. Paul McKeon. Town Manager Coughlin replied "yes". **2)** Any word from the Building, Planning and Construction Committee on the Linwood Avenue basin, did we get the check? Town Manager responded that was the issue we needed to discuss with Attorney Vena.

Town Manager's Report. None

Executive Session. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) and M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #6 (Land Acquisition) to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 10:11 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 10:20 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 10:44 P.M.

Return to Open Session: 10:45 P.M.

Fire Station Roof [Repair or Replace]. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to repair the Fire Station Roof. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Vote to instruct the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee to conduct site analysis pursuant to Article 8 at March 14, 2006 Special Town Meeting. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to instruct the Building, Planning, and Construction Committee to conduct site analysis pursuant to Article 8 at March 14, 2006 Special Town Meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session adjourned: 10:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

*** At their meeting of August 7, 2006, the BOS voted to amend the July 24, 2006 minutes as follows. Under Department Heads' Quarterly Reports insert the following, "Selectman Davis requested that a report be submitted by the DPW Director on the Operation Review by the Government Consulting Group dated February 2006".**

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 7, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Presentation by Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials to Jonathan Van Etten, Veteran, U.S. Air Force.

The American Legion, Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials, and the Board of Selectmen formally welcomed home Mr. Jonathan Van Etten, 196 Pollard Road, Northbridge, who recently returned from service in Iraq. Chairman Ampagoomian and Andy Williamson [American Legion] both presented Mr. Van Etten with a certificate of commendation thanking him for his service to our country during his tour of duty in Iraq.

Announcement/Statement by the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr., and Superintendent of Schools, Paul Soojian, announced that the full day kindergarten program would be restored. Mr. Coughlin presented his plan to close the Town's current deficit [approx. 1.4 million] while preserving our children's future. He discussed the revised revenues (closing out of old accounts, revised free cash, charging the enterprise funds, additional ambulance revenue), budget reductions (school department, municipal, article 9), and Blackstone Valley Tech monies (proper budget assumptions, revise BVRVTHS budget & revenue). The Town Manager then recommended what the next steps should be – responsible decision-making; 1) brief the Chairman of the Finance Committee, 2) meet with the Financial Group, 3) pass the plan at the Fall Annual Town meeting, and 4) passing the override for Fiscal Year '08. Superintendent Soojian thanked everyone including the Town Manager, his staff, and the Selectmen for their time and effort that has gone into restoring the full day kindergarten program. He mentioned that it was imperative that this plan be passed at the Fall Annual Town meeting and suggested that they get an adequate funding package for FY 2008. Mr. Paine, School Committee Chairman, concurred with the Superintendent and reiterated that it was vital to the community that this plan be approved at the Fall Annual Town Meeting. Selectman Audette asked the Town Manager and Superintendent about the \$400,000 that was supposed to be given back to the Town [from the School Dept.] The Town Manager responded that none of the choices were easy but each of the Department Heads went back to review their budgets to see where cuts could be made. The Town Manager and Superintendent are also proposing to charge the Water and Sewer Enterprise accounts in addition to using the Blackstone Valley Tech monies. Selectman Audette asked if the full-day kindergarten program was restored, how would it be funded. Mr. Soojian responded that if this revised budget is balanced at the Fall Town Meeting [if the override and plan passed], this is how it will be funded, however, if the override does not pass then he would have to lay off teachers and/or make other reductions. He also mentioned that the focus of the working group was to make sure that the numbers are correct and to begin focusing on Fiscal Year '08.

Approval of Minutes.

July 24, 2006

Selectman Davis requested that the July 24, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: Under Department Heads' Quarterly Reports, insert the following sentence, "Selectman Davis requested a report be submitted by the DPW Director on the Operation Review by the Government Consulting Group dated February 2006". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the July 24, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

July 24, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve but not release the July 24, 2006 Executive Session Minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearings. Liquor License Violations Hearings. Present: Chief Walter Warchol and Lieutenant Timothy Labrie. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing procedures for liquor license violations aloud. He then mentioned that the following six (6) establishments: China Pacific Restaurant, The Grill, Jubes Family Restaurant, Sparetime Recreation, Trading Post Market, and Village Variety sold alcohol to persons under the age of 21. Next, Chief Warchol provided an overview of how the investigation was conducted and what his recommendations were with respect to the appropriate punishment each establishment would receive. He stated that an investigation into the Sale of Alcohol to Persons under the age of 21 took place on the evening of Friday, June 30, 2006, and that Lt. Timothy Labrie, Detective Donald Roy, and Officer Stephen Buma

were assigned to the investigation. Continuing, he noted that the officers were assisted by two persons under the age of 21 and that both subjects attempted purchases of alcohol at sixteen (16) licensed establishments in Town. After that, Lt. Timothy Labrie read the facts of each case that involved the sale of alcoholic beverages to a person/persons under the age of twenty-one for all six (6) establishments. Note: A detailed report on what occurred at each establishment is on file in the Town Manager's Office. **Public Hearing #1: China Pacific Restaurant. Present: Attorney Gerald Shugrue and Fuan Wing Lee, Manager.** Attorney Shugrue was present on behalf of his client, Mr. Fuan Wing Lee, Manager of the China Pacific Restaurant. Lt. Labrie read aloud the circumstances of what occurred at this establishment on the evening of the violation and as a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended suspending the China Pacific Restaurant's liquor license for (2) consecutive Mondays. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police to suspend the China Pacific Restaurant's liquor license for 2 consecutive Mondays. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/no, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. **Public Hearing #2: The Grill. Present: Mr. Francis Carelli, Manager.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/ Unanimous. Lt. Labrie read aloud the circumstances of what occurred at this establishment on the evening of the violation and as a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended that a written reprimand be issued to The Grill since this was their first offense. Mr. Carelli then informed the Board of Selectmen that the bartender who served the minors has since quit and that he was very sorry about what happened. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police to issue The Grill a written reprimand due to this being their first offense. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis /yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. **Public Hearing #3: Jubes Family Restaurant. Present: Mr. Richard Joubert, Manager.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Lt. Labrie read aloud the circumstances of what occurred at this establishment on the evening of the violation and as a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended that a written reprimand be given to Jubes Family Restaurant since this was their first offense. Mr. Joubert spoke briefly about his family owned business and how deeply sorry he and his wife were about this incident. He mentioned that the majority of his waitresses were tips certified and the ones that were not will be by the end of the month. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police to give Jubes Family Restaurant a written reprimand due to this being their first offense. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. **Public Hearing #4: Sparetime Recreation. Present: Mr. Kenneth Couture, Manager.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/ Unanimous. Lt. Labrie read aloud the circumstances of what occurred at this establishment on the evening of the violation and as a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended that a written reprimand be given to Sparetime Recreation since this was their first offense. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette, to accept the recommendation of the Chief of Police to give Sparetime Recreation a written reprimand due to this being their first offense. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. **Public Hearing #5: Trading Post Market. Present: Mr. John America, Manager.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Lt. Labrie read aloud the circumstances of what occurred at this establishment on the evening of the violation and as a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended suspending the Trading Post Market's liquor license for ten (10) days due to the audacity of the clerk knowingly selling to a minor. Mr. America said he was very sorry for what happened and that he intends to get rid of the clerk who sold the minors alcohol. As a result of the severe penalty recommended by Chief Warchol, the Board discussed developing a consistent policy for imposing penalties for alcohol violations. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. As a result of the earlier penalty discussion, a motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette, to suspend the Trading Post Market's liquor license for two (2) consecutive Mondays. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes. **Public Hearing #6: Village Variety.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There was no one present for the Village Variety Hearing. Chief Warchol mentioned that Village Variety was recently shut down and as a result, their alcohol license was ordered surrendered in June. Mr. Paul McKeon, Chairman of the Board of Health, informed the Selectmen that his Board had to shut down Village Variety due to their electric service being shut off and thus creating a terrible smell. Mr. McKeon further mentioned that the place has pretty much been abandoned. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chief Warchol stated that his Department does not have the actual license because it was not posted on the premises. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to suspend Village Variety's license indefinitely. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/ yes, Mr. Audette/yes, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/yes.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Election Officers. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to appoint the

Democratic, Republican and Unenrolled Election Officers as listed in the Selectmen's agenda packets. Vote yes/Unanimous. **By the Town Manager. Denis Latour/Fence Viewer.** As Mr. Latour felt it was important that the Selectmen and Town Manager be made aware prior to his appointment, he informed them that he was under investigation by the Ethics Commission because he was Chairman of the Planning Board while the Streetscape Project was going on and was a recipient of grant monies. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to affirm the appointment of Mr. Latour as Fence Viewer as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, Whitinsville, spoke briefly about pedestrians trying to cross Church Street in the vicinity of the Cable Studio but that people drive so fast in that area that no one stops to let the pedestrians cross. Selectman Audette mentioned that those individuals should be using the crosswalks. Selectman Montecalvo requested Mrs. Ampagoomian to put something in writing and that he would present it at the next Safety Committee Meeting. Selectman Davis then asked Ms. Ampagoomian if the main entrance door to Town Hall was corrected to her satisfaction. Ms. Ampagoomian responded that it was not. **Bill Audette, 78 East Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that the VFW Hall on Hill Street was in need of some repairs. He indicated that there were individuals who were willing to donate their time and materials to make such repairs. Mr. Audette explained that there would be no cost to the Town until such time when Kenneth Trajanowski [Veterans Services] is housed in the building, which could be as early as this Fall. He further mentioned that the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans would accept these gifts/donations on behalf of the Town and then attend a future meeting [after completion] and schedule an open house. It was also noted that a formal vote would be needed in the future to accept the donations. Chairman Ampagoomian asked if a vote to accept the gifts/donations needed to be made prior to any work being done to a Town building. Selectman Montecalvo responded yes. Mr. Audette mentioned that the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans lease the VFW Hall from the Town [a Town building] and that the individuals/businessmen who were planning to donate these gifts would only donate them to the Veterans, not the Town. The Town Manager stated that he would have to relay Mr. Audette's information to Town Counsel and get their opinion on this matter. In closing, Mr. Audette remarked that the Veterans were responsible for the interior of the VFW Hall and the Town was responsible for the exterior of the building.

Northbridge Firefighters/Request to hold a "boot drive" at Memorial Square on Saturday, August 19, 2006, from 8:00 A.M. – 12 Noon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Rain date: August 26, 2006. Selectman Davis mentioned that back on May 8, 2006, the Board of Selectmen were supposed to discuss a policy for handling future "boot drives". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation [NRC]. Present: Kenneth Foley, President, Paul Mahoney, Eugene Bernat, and Alan Benevides – Environmental Consultant from Woodward & Curran. The Town Manager mentioned that per the Board's request, the Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation was here to discuss the old Quaker Street landfill [across from Oosterman Gas]. Mr. Ken Foley, provided some background information about the Corporation. He explained that they found the property owner and negotiated a purchase and sales agreement. Mr. Foley further indicated that NRC planned to either develop the property or sell it. He pointed out that NRC entered into a consent order (after 9 months) with the Massachusetts DEP memorializing the remedial plan. He also indicated that there were back taxes owed on this property in the amount of \$52,000.00 and would like to negotiate a payment plan with the Town in order to pay them. Continuing, he noted that his Company had already invested in excess of \$200,000.00 in this property. Selectman Montecalvo interjected and asked if Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation was concerned [because they had not yet paid the back taxes] that someone might come along, pay the taxes, and then that individual would own the land. Mr. Foley said he was not aware that could happen and thanked Mr. Montecalvo for his concern. Mr. Foley stated that NRC had all the necessary permits from the DEP to cap the landfill and that he [and his partners] have a good reason to abide by the DEP regulations—that his house and his partners' houses were being used as collateral for a performance bond in the amount of \$835,000.00. Selectman Davis asked: **1)** how long they anticipated this project to take. Mr. Foley responded that the project has to be completed by the end of 2008 per a mandate by the Department of Environmental Protection. **2)** what was the number of trucks anticipated coming/going to/from the site. Mr. Foley estimated around 17 trucks per day on average (give or take). **3)** if Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation had a topography map of what the site will look like once it was completed. Mr. Foley answered that the drawing Selectman Davis had was not an accurate one. Mr. Benevides, Environmental Consultant for Woodward & Curran, responded that the Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection have the master plan, which shows the finished elevation to be around 40 feet at the highest elevation on the site. Selectman Davis mentioned that he did not want this site to be the highest point in Northbridge and Mr. Foley assured the Board of Selectmen that it would not be the highest but that it would be a hill. Mr. Foley will provide the Selectmen with a copy of the plan and topography. **4)** what fill would be put on the land, such as ash. Mr. Foley responded that the fill that would be used in capping the landfill was called urban fill (materials not suitable for a soccer field, but less contaminated than what was there

now). The Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation said that they would like to work with the Town and the community on this site. Selectman Audette asked **1)** if NRC was associated with Pond View in Providence, RI. Paul Mahoney and Kenneth Foley responded that they had never heard of Pond View.

2) has the Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation read the Town Bylaw 9-401. Selectman Audette then proceeded to read the Town Bylaw to them.

South Grafton Water District [Guerriere & Halnon]/Request for access to the Northbridge Water System. Present: Normand J. Gamache, Jr. Mr. Gamache represents Brookmeadow Village and advised that this project would connect the South Grafton Water District to the two adjoining water districts. He remarked that the interconnection of water districts was viewed as a benefit because those involved would have access to alternative water supplies. He said that Brookmeadow Village proposed to connect the South Grafton Water District main on the west side of Providence Road to the Grafton Water District main on the east side of Providence Road. He also explained that this connection would take place within the limits of the Town of Grafton, but it would provide the South Grafton Water District with an access to the Northbridge Water System. Mr. Gamache further noted that these alternative sources of water would only be utilized on an emergency basis. Chairman Ampagoomian suggested this item be placed under Decisions on the next meeting agenda.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Audette suggested setting consistent standards for liquor license violators. Chief Warchol felt that the Board of Selectmen should review each case individually since every case was unique and different. He also suggested that once the evidence was provided [past and present] by the Northbridge Police Department, the Board of Selectmen could then decide on a penalty for the offender. **Selectman Marzec/1)** said he will email BOS with information [from Jen Dulmaine] about the Streetscape Project; **2)** brought forth a citizen's complaint regarding Plummer's Corner; **3)** commended the Town Manager for handling the heat wave we just experienced in a quick manner; **4)** Northbridge/Uxbridge POP Warner Football Team – need a field to play on along with more football players. **Selectman Davis/1)** Asked about the Weinberg discussion. The Town Manager mentioned that Atty. Weinberg had not contacted him yet. **2)** Asked if the Building, Planning and Construction Committee had been notified of the Board's vote with respect to the site analysis. The Town Manager responded that the memo had been sent. **3)** have the applications for the roofs been sent out yet. The Town Manager responded no. **4)** Kopelman & Paige – Riley Report, Selectman Davis would like to receive a report from the Treasurer's Office addressing the delinquent taxes.

Executive Session. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation); not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 10:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
August 21, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Executive Session. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:02 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:05 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:12 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:16 P.M.

Approval of Minutes.

August 7, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the August 7, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 7, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve but not release the August 7, 2006 Executive Session Minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Neal Mitchell, 1041 Sutton Street. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that he is a volunteer member of a committee currently under investigation by the State Ethics Commission. He explained to the Board of Selectmen that he thought he should come in and address any issues or concerns that people may have because of all the rumors about him. He also stated that he was disappointed with whoever filed the complaint with the Ethics Commission because all he did was try to help the Town of Northbridge and his fellow neighbors by offering his services. Mr. Mitchell provided his services to Mr. Denis Latour, owner of the Pythian Building, and now feels that he is being attacked by individuals in Town because of that. **Jeff Dufficy [Owner of the former Baker Building],** spoke in support of his colleague, Neal Mitchell. He mentioned that he was upset that someone in the Town would try to hurt Mr. Mitchell as he was only trying to help the Town out by being a good citizen/neighbor. **Shelley Buma, 40 Heritage Drive,** brought up the following two issues: 1) with respect to the Citizen Comments/Input portion of the Selectmen's meetings, and after researching that issue, she informed Chairman Ampagoomian that no vote was ever taken on the five-minute rule. 2) the purpose for being at tonight's meeting was to discuss the Quaker Street landfill and challenge the Town Manager on his prior knowledge about this project.

Fall Annual Town Meeting [October 24, 2006]/Vote to place articles on warrant [Draft #1]. Selectman Davis requested clarification on who was sponsoring these articles and the Town Manager responded that the Board of Selectmen was. Ms. Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee spoke briefly about meeting their deadlines and receiving requested information in a timely manner so they can produce the financial booklets for the Town Meeting on time. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to place articles 1-10 on the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette, Marzec, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian. Vote no/Mr. Davis.

VFW Hall, 875 Hill Street/Approval of Lease between Town of Northbridge and Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans (Vote to be taken after Executive Session). Selectman Audette, member of the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans, excused himself from the Board. Selectman Davis requested this issue be discussed now, in Open Session, not in Executive Session as originally planned and offered a motion to negotiate [in open session] the lease for the VFW Hall, 875 Hill Street, Whitinsville, with the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans. A motion/ Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to ~~approve~~ discuss the lease for the VFW Hall between the Town of Northbridge and Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/no, Mr. Ampagoomian/no, Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Marzec/yes. Mr. Audette abstained from this vote. There being a tie vote, the motion does not stand.

South Grafton Water District [Guerriere & Halnon]/Request for access to the Northbridge Water System/ Vote to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the South Grafton Water District. Present: Normand J. Gamache, Jr. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement between the Town of Northbridge and the South Grafton Water District. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pine Knoll. Present: Attorney Steve Rodolakis and Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Northbridge Housing Authority. Attorney Steve Rodolakis pointed out that Pine Knoll, located off Sutton and Gendron Streets, was one of the first projects built under the Town's Senior Living Bylaw and that the development would contain one hundred and two (102) condominium units restricted for people over the age of 55. Attorney Rodolakis further advised that in order for the Town to get credit towards their affordable housing stock, 10% of the units are required to be kept affordable, thus, in this case, Pine Knoll would provide eleven (11) such units. Before closing, he mentioned that he would need the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen's signature as well as the Chairman of the Housing Authority's signature on the Units -Only Application. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to sign the Units-Only application to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Finance Team: Fiscal Year 2005 Audit Management Letter. Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant, Deborah Kristoff, Treasurer/Collector, and Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor. Mr. Vaidya reported that he received the Management Letter from the Town's Auditors. He then reviewed the areas where improvements and/or partial improvements were made as well as pointing out issues that still need to be resolved. Ms. Kristoff and Mr. Fitzgerald both concurred with Mr. Vaidya on how well they interact with each other. The Selectmen commented by stating that once they have the opportunity to review the Management Letter in more detail, they could have some further questions and/or comments.

Delinquent Tax Collection. Deborah Kristoff, Treasurer/Collector. Because of a recent transaction involving Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation and the old Quaker Street Landfill, Chairman Ampagoomian inquired about how an individual or company could buy a piece of property and not know there was a lien on the property for back taxes. Ms. Kristoff explained how the process works and informed the Board of Selectmen that land can still be purchased even when there is a lien on the property. She also confirmed that the lien was still in place and that the Treasurer could enter into a payment agreement for back taxes [25% be paid in installments] however, it doesn't mean that the Town would have to issue any permits. The Board of Selectmen asked 1) how can this be prevented from happening again, and 2) in the future, to notify the Board of delinquent tax offenders. Ms. Kristoff offered to provide them with a list on an annual basis.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Audette/1) praised Gail Anderson and Connie Dion for doing such a great job at the Senior Center. **2)** citizen approached him and felt that the Town Manager should break away from the School Department. **3)** suggested that the Financial Working Group set up some parameters. **Selectman Marzec/1)** 100% Disabled Veteran's Tax Abatement – contact the Assessor's Office; **2)** Ethics Commission Investigation on Mr. Latour and Mr. Mitchell. **Selectman Davis/1)** asked if the applications for the roofs had been submitted to the USDA? The Town Manager said they are due to go out tomorrow. **2)** would the mitigation funds have to be appropriated at Town meeting? The Town Manager responded no. **3)** is one of the Executive Sessions on the Weinberg Case? The Town Manager responded yes. **4)** reported that Berkowitz Trucking applied for a tonnage increase and wanted to know if the Board of Selectmen would be involved in any way. The Town Manager said they would not but that the Board of Health would be handling that matter. **5)** asked if Mrs. Thompson would like to speak in reference to a comment made by the Town Manager earlier in the evening. Mrs. Thompson spoke briefly to clarify her offer in helping the Town Accountant's office. **6)** requested a timeline and update from the Building, Planning and Construction on the charge we *got gave them on the West Street School. **Chairman Ampagoomian** mentioned that the Church Street lights were not working properly. Mr. Sasseville, DPW Director, will look into this.

Executive Session. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) and M.G.L. Chapter 39,S. 23B #6 (Lease Negotiations)-- to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 9:15 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 9:25 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 10:25 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 10:26 P.M.

VFW Hall, 875 Hill Street/Approval of Lease between Town of Northbridge and Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans (Vote to be taken after Executive Session). A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the lease between the Town of Northbridge and the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/yes, Mr. Montecalvo/yes, and Mr. Marzec/yes. Abstain/Mr. Audette.

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to authorize the Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans to make improvements at the 875 Hill Street address as presented in the plans shown. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/yes, Mr. Montecalvo/yes, and Mr. Marzec/yes. Abstain/Mr. Audette.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session Adjourned: 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

*** At their meeting of September 11, 2006, the BOS voted to amend the August 21, 2006 minutes as follows. Under the section titled VFW Hall, Line 6, strike the word "approve" and insert the word "discuss". Under the section titled Selectmen's Concerns, Line 13, strike the word "got" and insert the word "gave them".**

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
September 11, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Moment of Silence – 5th Anniversary September 11, 2001 – As it was the 5th Anniversary of September 11th, Fire Chief Gary Nestor and Police Chief Walter Warchol read a prepared speech about the events that took place on September 11, 2001 [with respect to the terrorist attacks in the sky, on the World Trade Center and Pentagon]. Both Chief Nestor and Chief Warchol asked for a moment of silence in honor of the 5th Anniversary of September 11th.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

August 21, 2006

Selectman Davis requested that the August 21, 2006 minutes be amended as follows: Under the section titled VFW Hall, Line 6, strike the word “approve” and insert the word “discuss”. Under the section titled Selectmen's Concerns, Line 13, strike the word “got” and insert the word “gave them”. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the August 21, 2006 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 1]

At this time, Selectman Davis made a motion to amend the Executive Session 1 minutes, however, Town Manager Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. informed Selectman Davis that the Executive Session 1 minutes could only be amended during an Executive Session. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to hold the Executive Session minutes until the Board of Selectmen can amend them at the next Executive Session. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 2]

At this time, Selectman Davis made a motion to amend the Executive Session 2 minutes, however, Town Manager Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. informed Selectman Davis that the Executive Session 2 minutes could only be amended during an Executive Session. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to hold the Executive Session minutes until the Board of Selectmen can amend them at the next Executive Session. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Before the meeting began, Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned a phone call he received from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mary Frances Powers. She requested to be placed on tonight's agenda, however, her request was denied because the topic was too lengthy due to an already full agenda. A special meeting between the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, in the new Conference Room located on the ground floor of Town Hall.

Appointments/By the Town Manager: Mark Kuras, Sewer Superintendent. Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. spoke briefly about the length of service [25 years] Mark Kuras has already dedicated to the Town of Northbridge. He also mentioned that Mr. Kuras is a hard worker and holds all the licenses needed to be the next Sewer Superintendent. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, indicated that Mark is very qualified and has endured all the difficulties and challenges that this position brings. Mr. Sasseville highly recommended that Mr. Mark Kuras be the next Sewer Superintendent due to his qualifications. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Mr. Kuras on his promotion as Sewer Superintendent. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to affirm the appointment of Mark Kuras as the Sewer Superintendent as recommended by the Town Manager. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/Board of Selectmen: Board of Registrars [Temporary Appointment]: Ms. Doreen Cedrone mentioned that in order to balance the Board of Registrars they need to appoint a Democrat as a registrar. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to appoint Mr. Ampagoomian as a Temporary Registrar per M.G. L. Chapter 51, Section 20, as requested by Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Audette and Marzec. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian.

Town Manager presentation to Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk – Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that Ms. Cedrone has received her certification on being a Certified Municipal Clerk. Chairman Ampagoomian presented Ms. Cedrone with a certificate of recognition for completion of her certification course. Ms. Cedrone thanked the Board of Selectmen.

Resignations: 1) Northbridge Republican Town Committee – Todd C. Buckley. Chairman Ampagoomian asked that a letter be sent to Mr. Todd C. Buckley thanking him for serving and dedicating his time to the Town of Northbridge. **2) Playground & Recreation – Caryn Gagner.**

Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that Caryn Gagner has submitted her resignation and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to her as well. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to accept the resignation of Caryn Gagner. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. **Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee members** mentioned they were at tonight's meeting to try and determine if the numbers they came up with were on track with the Town. The Finance Committee passed out a document and asked that Town Manager Michael Coughlin, Jr., Superintendent of Schools Paul Soojian, and the Town Accountant Neil Vaidya, take a few minutes to review the document. Ms. Thompson reviewed the document and highlighted areas of importance. She indicated that right now they are looking at facing a deficit of around \$3.3 million dollars. The Finance Committee is concerned that next year they won't be able to make this deficit up without an override. Town Manager Coughlin thanked the Finance Committee and mentioned that the numbers were close. He also passed out some material for the Finance Committee to review, as they were not present at the last Working Group Meeting. Ms. Powers requested that an article be placed on the warrant; however, Town Manager Coughlin mentioned that the article in question is the exact verbiage as Article 3 on the present warrant. **Patrick Conlin**, 402 Church Street, Whitinsville, filed a complaint about the bus schedule and was referred to the School Committee [Carroll Paine] by Chairman Ampagoomian.

FY 1990 Community Development Block Grant/Subordination of Lien for property located at 23 Haringa Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the Subordination of Lien for property located at 23 Haringa Avenue, Whitinsville, MA, as recommended by Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager, Office of Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

FY 1998 Community Development Block Grant/Request to execute a Discharge of Lien on property located at 2297-2299 Providence Road, Northbridge, MA. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to discharge lien on property located at 2297-2299 Providence Road, Northbridge, MA as received by Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager, Office of the Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes [August 22, 2006]/Vote to accept recommendations. Selectman Montecalvo briefly updated the Board of Selectmen on what was discussed at the August 22, 2006 Safety Committee meeting. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of August 22, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Common Victualler's License Application: Northbridge Donuts, Inc. d/b/a/ Dunkin Donuts, 1144 Providence Road, Northbridge [Thomas Denesowicz]. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve a Common Victualler's License to Northbridge Donuts, Inc. d/b/a Dunkin Donuts, 1144 Providence Road, Northbridge [Thomas Denesowicz]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Northbridge Association of Churches/Request to hold the annual Blackstone Valley Cropwalk, Saturday, October 14, 2006 @ 9:00 AM. Present: Ms. Carolyn Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell informed the Board of Selectmen that the walk would begin at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Whitinsville and end at the Evangelical Congregational Church in Uxbridge [a total of 3 miles]. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Vote to layout the following roads or portions thereof as public ways. Present: Gary Bechtholdt. A motion/ Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo, to layout a portion of Samuel Drive (Reservoir Heights) as a public way based upon the recommendations of the Planning Board. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Ampagoomian, Davis, and Audette. Abstain/Mr. Marzec. A motion/ Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette, to layout the following roads: Kennedy Circle (Presidential Farms), a portion of Lincoln Circle (Presidential Farms), a portion of Brookway Drive (Graystone), Arthur Drive, a portion of Prospect Street (The Hills at Whitinsville), Marston Road (The Hills at Whitinsville), Nathaniel Drive (The Hills at Whitinsville), Hillcrest Road (The Hills at Whitinsville), Morgan Road (The Hills at Whitinsville) or portions thereof as public ways based upon the recommendations of the Planning Board. Vote yes/Unanimous.

St. Camillus Health Center/Request for One-day Wines and Malt License for a fundraiser event on October 27, 2006 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Present: Bonnie Dryden. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the above one-day license request on October 27, 2006 from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Audette, and Marzec. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian.

FY 2005 Management Letter/Present: James Powers/Powers & Sullivan, Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant, Deborah Kristoff, Treasurer/Collector, Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor, and Robert Thayer, Systems Administrator. Mr. James Powers of Powers & Sullivan provided the Board of Selectmen with an overview on the results of the audit his Company performed for the Town of Northbridge. Mr. Powers briefly went through each of the following areas: **1)** Role of the Town Accountant; **2)** Reconciliation of Treasurer/Collector's Cash and Receivables to the General Ledger; **3)** Student Activity Accounts; **4)** Chapter 90; **5)** Reconciliation of the Detail Receivable ledgers to the Collector's Control Accounts; **6)** General Journal Entries; **7)** Automation of Treasurer's Office; **8)** Maintenance of a Comprehensive Debt Schedule; **9)** Betterment Receivable Maintenance; **10)** Treasurer/Collector's Pursuit of Tax Foreclosures; **11)** Oversight of the Whitinsville Water Company; **12)** Use of a Lockbox to Process Municipal Payments; **13)** Internal Control Policies and Procedures Manual; **14)** Budgeted Estimated Revenues; **15)** Fixed Asset Account Maintenance; **16)** Chart of Accounts; **17)** Bank Accounts Using the Town's Federal I.D. Number; **18)** Excess Bank Accounts; **19)** Police Special Detail; **20)** Tailings; **21)** Planning Board Deposits; **22)** Withholding Accounts; **23)** General Long Term Obligations Account Group; **24)** Security of the Town Hall Mailroom; **25)** Town Clerk's Office Pre-Numbered Documents; **26)** Statement No. 45 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board; **27)** Health Claims Trust Funds; **28)** Disaster Recovery Plan. The complete Management Letter can be found on file in the Town Manager's Office. * Selectman Davis asked Mr. James Powers, of the firm Powers & Sullivan to explain what

an independent auditor is. Mr. Power's response, "they are licensed certified public accountants that come into an organization who issue their own financial statements in accordance with the general accounting principals and issue an opinion on the town's financial statements. Selectman Davis asked Mr. Powers if he considered himself to be part of the Town's staff. Mr. Powers responded, no. Selectman Davis mentioned that he sent a letter and called Mr. Powers back in March 2006, but that Mr. Powers never responded to him and he was concerned about that. Selectman Davis then mentioned that he received a notice from the Town Manager indicating that Mr. Powers was a member of the Town Manager's staff and that it wasn't ethical for Selectman Davis to approach Powers and Sullivan with questions. Mr. Powers apologized for the fact that no one from his firm responded to Selectman Davis's requests and then mentioned that his firm reports to Mr. Coughlin as the audit liaison [coordinate the audit through the Town Manager's office] and mentioned that he works for the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Audette 1)** mentioned that he had a proclamation from President George W. Bush that designates September 15, 2006 as National POW MIA Recognition Day. The Blackstone Valley Vietnam Veterans will have a POW MIA vigil on Friday and ending Sunday morning on Hill Street. At 6:00 P.M. there will be a flag burning ceremony and anyone who has an old flag may drop them off and they will hold a special ceremony to burn the old flags. **Selectman Marzec 1)** discussed bringing new businesses into the Town for additional revenue. **Selectman Davis 1)** disappointed that there is no Executive Session since they have 3 major issues to discuss: a) Morin, b) Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation, and the High School fields. **2)** letter from Mrs. Gumbell requesting verification on 40B; **3)** have the applications for the roofs been submitted; **4)** December 19, 2005 the Board of Selectmen authorized the Manager to submit an application to the USDA for a Fire Station *roof, has this been submitted? **5)** JA Taylor/Kopelman and Paige – Land Court – Chairman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Davis this packet was for the Board's review only; **6)** Toll Booth Policy; **7)** Next Town Meeting – can the Field House be used?

Town Manager's Report – 1) With respect to the Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation landfill, last Wednesday evening the Board of Health met. A letter from the Board of Health to John Regan never was submitted because the Town's attorney needed to review first. **2)** Town Manager Coughlin passed out some correspondence that he and the Department of Public Works Director Richard Sasseville presented to the Building Committee relevant to the next steps to take on the site design and analysis for the future site of the DPW. The DPW Director and Town Manager met with Mr. Dwyer in respect to giving the Town permission to work on the future DPW site. **3)** On September 21, 2006, there will be a rate hearing in the Board of Selectmen's room at 7:00 P.M. on the Whitinsville Water Company rate increases. **4)** Town Manager Coughlin presented the Selectmen with a letter that was written by the DPW Director addressing Mr. Couture's concerns. Mr. Sasseville is now awaiting a response from Mr. Couture. **5)** Town Manager Coughlin gave the Board of Selectmen a draft copy of the hydrological study that was done for the Union Street drainage problem. The Town Manager also gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of a letter the DPW Director sent to the Conservation Commission for work to be done on Union Street.

Open Session Adjourned: 10:10 P.M.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

*** At their October 2, 2006 meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the September 11, 2006 minutes as follows: In the section titled FY 2005 Management Letter, Selectmen Davis asked that the entire discussion between Selectman Davis and Mr. Powers of the firm Powers and Sullivan be inserted.**

*** At their October 23, 2006 meeting, the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the amended September 11, 2006 minutes as follows: Under Selectmen's Concerns, Line 10, strike the word "roof".**

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 2, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that due to the overwhelming turnout for tonight's meeting, the room capacity of 65 persons would be enforced by the Police Chief and Fire Chief, per M.G.L. and public safety regulations.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Selectman Davis made a motion that the first order of business should be the Town Manager update. He also suggested that the Department Head's Monthly Reports be cancelled. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to move the Town Manager matter to the first order of business and cancel the Department Head Monthly reports. Role Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes. Attorney David Doneski advised Chairman Ampagoomian that according to Massachusetts General Laws, the order of the agenda could be changed by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen.

Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the resignation, severance agreement, and general release between the Town of Northbridge and Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. and signed by Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. on September 28, 2006. Role Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/No, and Mr. Ampagoomian/No.

Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. then read aloud a speech that he prepared for tonight's meeting. He stated that he wouldn't have done anything different. Mr. Coughlin thanked both the Board and the Town for the opportunity to have served as manager. He also thanked all of the people he worked with. He also noted that for nearly three years, in this very room [Selectmen's Chambers] the Board of Selectmen have discussed, debated and disagreed, and now marked by great personal sadness, pointed out, that the happiest day of his life also occurred in this very room [his marriage to Bernadette]. Continuing, he thanked Bernadette for all her strength, support and particularly her sense of humor. He then went on to thank his daughter, Sarah for all her support. During Mr. Coughlin's speech, he quoted Theodore Roosevelt and Winston Churchill and then received a standing ovation. Sharon Susienka, Mr. Coughlin's Assistant, presented him with a plaque on behalf of the town employees for his devotion to the Town of Northbridge.

Approval of Minutes.

September 11, 2006

Selectman Davis asked that the minutes be amended as follows: FY Management Letter, the entire discussion between Selectman Davis and Mr. Powers of the firm Powers and Sullivan be inserted. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to hold the September 11, 2006 minutes until amended as requested by Selectman Davis. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 1]

This matter was handled during Executive Session on October 2, 2006.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 2]

This matter was handled during Executive Session on October 2, 2006.

7:05 PM Public Hearing:

Wal-mart Stores, Inc. / To consider an application for 8 - 1,000 gallon aboveground tanks for propane storage to be located at 100 Valley Parkway, Whitinsville, MA, [Wal-Mart Site]. Present: Mr. Steve Browning, E. Osterman Gas Service, Inc. Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Steve Browning, Regional Sales Manager for Osterman Gas Service, 998 Church Street, Northbridge, MA appeared before the Board of Selectmen to seek their approval to store 8,000 gallons of propane [8-1,00 gal. aboveground tanks] at the new Wal-Mart off Main Street [to be located at the rear of the site]. Chief Nestor mentioned that he would have to complete a final inspection before any permit was issued. Chief Nestor also mentioned that he could only issue a permit for up to 2,000 gallons of storage. Continuing, Chief Nestor advised that he reviewed Wal-Mart's plan and informed the Selectmen it had been properly designed. Chairman Ampagoomian asked if there were any abutters who wish to speak on this matter. Comments from those present: **Mr. Joseph Albin, 240 Union Street, Linwood**, asked what would happen if the tanks were to explode. Mr. Browning responded that even though the tanks just sit on a cement pad, the cement pad is rectangular and about 6 inches to a foot thick. He further stated that there is nothing behind the tanks but a sand pit. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the application for 8-1,000 gallon aboveground tanks for propane storage to be located at 100 Valley Parkway, Whitinsville, MA [Wal-Mart Site]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

7:15 PM Public Hearing:

Vote to layout the metes and bounds of the following roads or portions thereof:

- a. A portion of Samuel Drive (Reservoir Heights)
- b. A portion of Brookway Drive (Graystone)
- c. Arthur Drive
- d. Marston Road (The Hills at Whitinsville)
- e. Nathaniel Drive (The Hills at Whitinsville)
- f. Hillcrest Road (The Hills at Whitinsville)
- g. Morgan Road (The Hills at Whitinsville)
- h. A portion of Prospect Street (The Hills at Whitinsville)
- i. Kennedy Circle (Presidential Farms)
- j. A portion of Lincoln Circle (Presidential Farms)

Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. **Present: Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner and Harry Berkowitz, Chairman -Planning Board.** Mr. Bechtholdt announced that there were ten (10) layouts of metes and bounds and suggested reading it one time. All abutters have been duly notified and the public hearing notices have been posted. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to waive the reading of the layouts for each road. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Bechtholdt mentioned he would present the Planning Board's recommendations to laying out the metes and bounds for the above roads. He also advised that the Planning Board voted unanimously on September 21, 2006, to recommend the layout of Samuel Drive and Brookway Drive. He also noted that the Planning Board voted unanimously on September 21, 2006, **not** to recommend the layout of Arthur Drive. **Debra Hartland, 51 Arthur Drive**, asked that the Planning Board and Selectmen not accept the layout of Arthur Drive because none of the catch basins was working properly. Continuing, Mr. Bechtholdt said that the Planning Board voted unanimously on September 21, 2006, to recommend the layout of Marston Road, Nathaniel Drive, Hillcrest Road, Morgan Road and a portion of Prospect Street [The Hills at Whitinsville]. **Frank Puda, 173 Morgan Road**, mentioned he was in favor of laying out this road, however, he had some concerns; 1) no bus service [because Morgan Road is not a Town Road], 2) layout needs to be filed 7 days prior to Town Meeting, and 3) if the Selectmen do not make a recommendation, does this mean the road would not be layed out until the next Town Meeting. Mr. Bechtholdt reported that the Planning Board voted unanimously on September 21, 2006, to recommend the layout of the metes and bounds of Kennedy Circle and a portion of Lincoln Circle. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to recommend the layout of the metes and bounds of a portion of Samuel Drive [Reservoir Heights]. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Audette and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Mr. Marzec. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to recommend the layout of the metes and bounds of Brookway Drive [Graystone Estates]. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec **not** to layout the metes and bounds of Arthur Drive. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to recommend the layout of the metes and bounds of the following roads and portions thereof as follows: Marston Road, Nathaniel Drive, Hillcrest Road, Morgan Road, a portion of Prospect Street [all in The Hills of Whitinsville]. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to recommend the layout of the metes and bounds of the following roads and portions thereof as follows: Kennedy Circle and a portion of Lincoln Circle [Presidential Farms]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Set Liquor License Violations Hearing for October 23, 2006. Present: Chief Walter Warchol. Chief Warchol informed the Board of Selectmen that on Saturday, September 16, 2006, Officers of the Northbridge Police Department observed a young male walking into Vera's Mini-Mart, 1 Plummer's Corner, Whitinsville. The officers observed the young male leave the store with a case of Key Stone Light Beer and subsequently found that the male subject was only 17 years of age. The Officers went into Vera's Mini-Mart and confronted the store clerk on what just transpired. Based on the investigation, Chief Warchol is requesting that the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing to hear the evidence on this case. He also mentioned that Vera's Mini-Mart has been before the Board on two previous occasions [2001 and 2002] and received a license suspension for 3 consecutive days. A motion was made and seconded to hold a liquor license violation hearing on Vera's Mini-Mart, Monday, October 23, 2006 at 7 P.M. in the Selectmen's Chambers. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen: JoAnn Teachout, Conservation Commission. Andrew Chagnon and Wyatt Mills from the Conservation Committee provided a synopsis on Ms. Teachout's background and qualifications. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to appoint Ms. Joann Teachout to the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Girl Scouts Troop #385/Request to use the Town Common on November 11, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Present: Amanda Lavallee, Nicole DeFazio, and Margaret DeFazio. Amanda Lavallee spoke briefly about the program and ceremony the Scouts wished to hold on the Town Common on Veteran's Day. Nicole DeFazio then mentioned that the Scouts would like to line the sidewalks on Church Street and wave flags in honor of all Veterans. Margaret DeFazio informed the Board of Selectmen that both Amanda and Nicole are in charge of the entire program [in order for them to earn their bronze award for Junior Girl Scouts. Both the Chief of Police, Walter Warchol, and Director of Public Works, Richard Sasseville, have approved their request. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve Girl Scouts Troop #385's request

to use the Town Common on November 11, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Mr. Paul McKeon, 500 Benson Road, Northbridge, mentioned that he was appearing before the Board of Selectmen as a concerned voter in Town. Mr. McKeon indicated that he was upset with some members of the Board of Selectmen and felt that the Open Meeting Law had been violated. He then mentioned he read an article in the paper about the Town Manager but couldn't believe it since to his knowledge there was no discussion in Open Session or during an Executive Session. He mentioned he no longer trusted them and as a result, he feels a recall should be done. **Denis Latour, 88 Linwood Avenue,** asked if the Board of Selectmen could refer him to someone that could assist him with respect to the War Memorial on Main Street. He mentioned that the lawn and blue stone in front of the monument was never replaced. Chairman Ampagoomian referred Mr. Latour to Jennifer Dulmaine, Community Development, as she is in charge of the Streetscape Program. **Georgette Bishop, 80 Hillview Lane, Whitinsville,** voiced her extreme displeasure with three members of the Board of Selectmen with respect to the way they handled the Town Manager's resignation. **Rev. Holly Johnston, 1 Elm Place, Whitinsville,** voiced her opinion about how members of the Board of Selectmen handled the Town Manager's resignation. She felt that the Town Manager did what needed to be done for this Town. **Carrie Maynard, 116 East Street, Whitinsville,** spoke briefly on behalf of three of the Selectmen and commended them for the way they handled the Town Manager's resignation. **Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that it doesn't matter if you agree or disagree with what transpired tonight [with the Town Manager] because what this Town needs now-- is to move on. **Jean Fraser-Perkins, 16 Elm Street, Whitinsville,** had a concern about some graffiti that was written on a downtown building and was wondering if there was something that could be done about it. Chairman Ampagoomian informed her that there was nothing that could be done because the individual that wrote the "graffiti" owns the building. He suggested to Ms. Fraser-Perkins that she write that individual a letter of concern.

Finance Committee/Update on Deficit. Present: Mary Frances Powers, Chairman, and Members --Mary Thompson, Sal D'Amato, Andrew Todd, Jr., and James Barron. The Finance Committee distributed a handout to the Board of Selectmen for their review. Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee, spoke briefly about the handout and mentioned that it was an update on the 4th iteration of the "Closing of the Gap" by Town Manager, Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. Mary Thompson, Finance Comm. Member, discussed the budget for Fiscal Year 2007 and asked for three requests; 1) asked if the School Committee could implement a spending/hiring freeze [as the Town side is doing] until they get a chance to finalize and agree upon a plan to move forward; 2) a joint meeting be held with the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. to discuss the Town's budget deficit; and 3) permission from the Board of Selectmen to have direct contact with the Department Heads so that they can find out the recommended cuts and how they would affect each of the Departments. Selectman Audette made a recommendation to the Finance Committee to schedule an appointment with each Department Head to go over any questions or concerns they may have. Chairman Ampagoomian informed the Finance Committee that they would post the joint meeting for Thursday, October 5, 2006. David Doneski, Town Counsel, informed the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen that they could only recommend to the School Committee a hiring and spending freeze. Mr. D'Amato asked Chairman Ampagoomian to prepare a letter to the Superintendent of Schools requesting [in the spirit of cooperation] the Schools to incorporate the hiring and spending freeze until the budget is balanced. Selectman Montecalvo suggested that the Finance Committee send the letter to the Superintendent of Schools in reference to the freeze. The Finance Committee responded that this wasn't their position and that the Board of Selectmen was the Executive Branch of command. Ms. Powers mentioned that a letter went out to all the Department Heads, Boards, and Committees on the proper chain of command. She asked for a vote and a memo by the Board of Selectmen to take place advising the Finance Committee to contact the Department Heads in reference to their budget cuts. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to send a memo to all department heads specifying that they are free to discuss with the Finance Committee any and all concerns regarding the budget for FY 2007. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to send a letter to the School Committee from the Board of Selectmen recommending that a freeze be placed on spending and hiring until the budget was balanced. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Selectmen's Concerns: Selectman Montecalvo mentioned that the signs being placed on the Town Hall fence needs to stop. **Selectman Marzec** mentioned that he has been in contact with a gentleman who is looking to become an Eagle Scout and part of one of their merit badge is to discuss issues related to the town. **Selectman Davis 1)** suggested that the Bylaw Review Committee place their changes in the Selectmen's boxes so they have time to review them before making a decision at the Town meeting, **2)** asked that the Bylaw Review article be placed at the beginning of the agenda and not the end, **3)** distributed a document entitled "Moving the Town Forward" which listed a number of items that needed to be discussed at future Board of Selectmen's meeting. He then suggested that meetings [Board of Selectmen] be posted for the next 21 days for cases that need immediate attention. The Board concurred. and **4)** Has been in contact with the USDA and asked if he could continue to handle if the rest of the Board was alright with that. The Board of Selectmen all agreed that Selectman Davis should continue to do so.

Executive Session. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) not to reconvene in open session. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, and Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 5, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen: Acting Town Manager. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Joseph Montecalvo as the Acting Town Manager. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Audette, Davis and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Mr. Montecalvo.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Carrie Maynard presented some information to the Board of Selectmen. Upon closer review of that information, the Board cautioned her that this information should be taken up in Executive Session. Mrs. Maynard responded they no longer wished to meet in Executive Session but instead to have all information handled in open session.

Wastewater Treatment Plant. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director. Discussed the renewal of the wastewater permit and the tightened wastewater limits. We discussed that we should appeal the permit, which would cost \$50K to \$100K (from the sewer enterprise fund), combining an appeal of the old permit and the new permit together. The cost of the upgrades to the WWT plant without the appeal would be approximately \$3M. Joe Montecalvo brought up the idea that we should collaborate with other small towns in an appeal, since other communities are or will be facing similar WWT issues.

Selectman's Concerns- Mr. Davis discussed articles 7 & 8 on the Town Meeting docket, suggesting that we should pass over Article 7 and the funding for Article 8 (\$250,000) should come from the Water Enterprise fund.

USDA Roof projects/Update – please see attached document [from Selectman Davis] on file in the Town Manager's Office.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session Adjourned: 10:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 16, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 5:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Interim Town Manager. Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo spoke briefly on the process of hiring an Interim Town Manager. He mentioned that the position has been posted on the Massachusetts Municipal Association Website and that all resumes would be accepted until Wednesday, October 25, 2006. Selectman Audette suggested that the Town hire a consultant to help with the process of finding a Town Manager. Mr. Montecalvo stated the Selectmen should handle the entire process. He then asked the Selectmen to provide him with suggestions on the weekly pay rate and how many hours per week the Interim should work. Ms. Susienka mentioned that the going rate several years ago was \$800.00 per week and the Town would be lucky to find someone for around \$1,400.00 per week. After a brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed that range of pay would be from \$800.00 – \$1,400.00 at 20 hours per week based on the individuals qualifications and experience.

Executive Session. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Negotiations) and M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #2 (Litigation) not to reconvene in open session. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, and Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 5:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 23, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

October 2, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the October 2, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

September 11, 2006

Selectman Davis had one minor change, under Selectmen's Concerns, Line 10, strike the word "roof". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the September 11, 2006 Minutes as amended by Selectmen Davis. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 1 - Amended]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the August 21, 2006 Executive Session 1 Minutes as amended by Selectmen Davis. Vote yes/Unanimous.

August 21, 2006 [Executive Session 2 - Amended]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the August 21, 2006 Executive Session 2 Minutes as amended by Selectmen Davis. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen: Board of Registrars [2 Democratic Vacancies]. Present: Town Clerk, Doreen Cedrone. Candidates: 1) Sandra Oviaan 2) Peter Andonian. Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo, advised the Board that Ms. Sandra Oviaan was unable to attend and would accept the position on her behalf. Ms. Doreen Cedrone spoke briefly about the two candidates and thanked them for coming forward to fill the Democratic vacancies. She went on to say that she was looking forward to working with both of them. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette, to appoint Sandra Oviaan and Peter Andonian to fill the Democratic Board of Registrars vacancies as noted above. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission: Second Delegate and Alternate. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that the above commission needed two individuals to be appointed to their committee. Selectman Montecalvo responded that he would be the Second Delegate and Selectman Davis replied that he would be the Alternate. The information will be forwarded to the CMRPC.

Citizens' Comments/Input. None

Fire Department [Fire Chief Gary Nestor]/Vote to adopt M.G.L. Chapter 48, §59A-Aid to Municipalities. Chief Gary Nestor explained the reason he was requesting the Board to vote and adopt the Aid to Municipalities Agreement was to protect the firefighters during Mutual Aid calls. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adopt the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 48, §59A-Aid to Municipalities Agreement. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes/Vote to accept recommendations. Selectman Montecalvo briefly updated the Board of Selectmen on what was discussed at the September 27, 2006 Safety Committee meeting. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of September 27, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Fall Annual Town Meeting/Vote positions on warrant articles. Present Finance Committee Members: Mary Frances Powers, Chairman, Andy Todd, Sal D'Amato, Plato Adams, and Jim Barron. Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo mentioned that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee agreed not to discuss any of the Financial Articles [1 through 8] at the Town Meeting and recommended deferring them until the Town Meeting adjourned session of

November 21, 2006. With that said, the Selectmen and Finance Committee are hoping to have more information on the certification of the Town's free cash and balancing of the budget. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee voted their positions on Articles 9 through 23 as follows: **Article 9 (USDA Middle School Roofs)**. Selectman Davis advised the Board that the United States Department of Agriculture has approved the Town's request for loans because the Town did not qualify for any grants. He also mentioned that Mr. Barbadora indicated to him that the budgeted figures being submitted to the USDA would need a 20% increase, however, he is waiting confirmation from Gale Associates as to whether the 20% is already included in the figures. Selectman Davis requested the Board increase the budgeted amounts 20% for Articles 9 and 10 based on the assumption that the 20% is not included in the figures. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support Article 9. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 9. **Article 10 (USDA Police Station Roof)**. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 10. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 10. **Article 11 (Amend Zoning Map from I-2 to B-3 on Main Street between Valley Parkway, and Route 146)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/ Mr. Marzec to support Article 11. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 11. **Article 12 (Road acceptance: Kennedy Circle)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 12. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 12. **Article 13 (Road acceptance: Lincoln Circle)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support Article 13. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 13. **Article 14 (Road acceptance: Brookway Drive)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to support Article 14. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 14. **Article 15 (Road acceptance: Samuel Drive)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 15. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Audette and Ampagoomian. Abstain/Mr. Marzec. The Finance Committee supports Article 15. **Article 16 (Road acceptance: Arthur Drive)**. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to pass over Article 16. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee will support passing over Article 16. **Article 17 (Road acceptance: Marston Road)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Selectman Audette to support Article 17. Mr. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, spoke up and recommended that the Board take no position on Article 17 through Article 21 until Tuesday, October 24, 2006 [prior to Town Meeting] due to there being some issues with the roads not meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. After discussion, Chairman Ampagoomian asked Selectmen Montecalvo and Audette to rescind their motion. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to take no position on Article 17. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 18 (Road acceptance: Nathaniel Drive)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to take no position on Article 18. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 19 (Road acceptance: Hillcrest Road)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to take no position on Article 19. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 20 (Road acceptance: Morgan Road)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to take no position on Article 20. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 21 (Road acceptance: Prospect Street)**. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to take no position on Article 21. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 22 (Amend Zoning Map from R-3 to B-3 on southeasterly side of Church Street and southwesterly side of Providence Road)**. Ms. Barbara Gaudette spoke on the proposed article and urged the Board not to support this article. She felt there wasn't enough time for the Planning Board to evaluate the information that was presented to them. Chairman Ampagoomian agreed with Ms. Gaudette. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec not to support Article 22. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee concurred. **Article 23 (Bylaw Review Committee)**. Mr. Paul Murray advised the Board on how the changes to the Bylaw would be presented at Town Meeting. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 23. Vote yes/Unanimous. The Finance Committee supports Article 23.

Interim Town Manager. Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo, asked the Board of Selectmen how they want to proceed with interviewing the candidates for the Interim Town Manager position. He suggested reviewing the candidates resumes and presenting 3 names to the Board of Selectmen. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to allow the Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo to present 3 names to the Board of Selectmen for the Interim Town Manager position. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Audette** mentioned **1)** the banners in Town look excellent, **2)** Firemen's Recognition on Thursday, **3)** Girl Scouts would like permission to hang posters in the Town Hall to honor the Veterans. **Selectman Marzec** reminded the Board that at some point the Boy Scouts will be coming in to discuss ideas for their Bulletin Board. **Chairman Ampagoomian** announced **1)** The Recycling Committee – Disposal of batteries for cars, motorcycles and lawnmowers at the Northbridge Recycling Center [behind the Whitinsville Fire Station]. Fee is \$2.00, hours are 9 AM to 1 PM, 3rd Saturday of the month. Batteries must be in good shape and not leaking.

Items for Future Agenda. **1)** Tax Rate Classification Hearing, 11/06/06, **2)** Alcohol Violation Hearing [Vera's Mini-Mart], **3)** Parks and Recreation [Field & Dreams Proposal], **4)** Negotiating Team for the School Department [need to appoint a Selectman].

Town Manager's Report. Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo, **1)** read aloud a letter that was addressed to Chief Gary Nestor from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. He mentioned that the following members of the Northbridge Fire Department: Deputy Chief Steven Dupre, Captain David M. White, Lieutenant James Gosselin, Firefighter Michael Baker, and Firefighter Frank Brackley from Engine Company #4 will be honored at the 2005/2006 "Firefighter of the Year" Award Ceremony on Thursday, October 26, 2006, 11 AM, at Faneuil Hall, Boston, MA. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, applauded the firefighters for their efforts in the rescue that occurred last October in the flood. However, he wanted to point out that a key person, Richard Brooks, had been left off the list. He wanted Mr. Brooks of the DPW Department, to be recognized for his tremendous efforts of rescuing individuals during the October flood. **2)** Advised the Selectmen that they received a letter from an individual on Arthur Drive but felt it should be referred to the Safety Committee for handling. **3)** Ken Lombardi, Consultant from EBS Foran, would like to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the Town's Health Insurance. **4)** A letter went out regarding the Town going to a bi-weekly pay schedule. He noted that there are individuals who are not happy with this.

Chairman Ampagoomian announced that he attended the "Hard Hat Tour" at Alternatives. He noted the project is on budget and they have made great progress thus far.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session Adjourned: 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
October 24, 2006
[Prior to Fall Annual Town Meeting]**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:35 PM, Northbridge Middle School Auditorium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Board met prior to the start of the Fall Annual Town Meeting to discuss and vote on some last minute business.

USDA Roof Projects (Middle School and Police Station):

Selectman Davis voiced his concerns with respect to the amount of monies applied for for the above projects [currently \$2,815,670 and \$268,620 respectively] and suggested the Board increase the amounts to \$3,300,000 million and \$300,000 respectively to cover any additional costs such as short-term borrowing--that however, would have to be looked into. He also advised that the USDA would issue whatever the cost was. It was also noted that the roofs must be completed before the USDA will reimburse the Town. Selectman Audette questioned the language in the warrant articles. It was made clear that the language in the motion [to be offered on the town meeting floor] authorizes both a borrowing and the debt exclusion. It was further discussed that if the residents questioned the impact of the above projects on taxes that Selectman Montecalvo would provide an estimate. There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to insert the amount of \$3,400,000 in the motion for the Middle School Roofs Project referred to in Article 9 of the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous. Also, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to insert the amount of \$300,000 in the motion for the Police Station Roof Project referred to in Article 10 of the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

As the Selectmen had taken no position on Articles 17-21 at their last meeting, October 23, 2006, Chairman Ampagoomian advised the Board that as of this date the DPW Director was not in favor of accepting four (4) roads located in The Hills at Whitinsville Subdivision—Marston Road, Nathaniel Drive, Hillcrest Road, and Morgan Road primarily due to the fact they didn't meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, he also informed the Board that the DPW Director was in favor of accepting Prospect Street—also located in The Hills at Whitinsville Subdivision. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec not to support Articles 17-20 on the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous. Also, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 21 on the Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

There being no further business before the Board, a motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

/sls

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 1, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by the Chairman Charles Ampagoomian, Jr. at 7:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Montecalvo, Audette and Marzec. Selectman Davis was absent and it is duly noted.

Also Present: Ken Lombardi, Ed Burns, and Jack Dolan representing EBS Foran, Employee Benefit Specialists.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Discussion was around the current self-funded system in place, and how it has been exposed to the health care trends of higher costs.

A comment was made that the Town Health Insurance plan at the 90/10 split was very "robust".

Discussed in the PowerPoint presentation were the numbers and possible solutions to the problem, including going to a joint state insurance commission.

If the trends continue, our health care costs being self-funded would approach \$6.8-\$7 M for FY 2010 (est.).

The discussion also involved possible solutions, such as flexible spending accounts, which the Town does not currently use, or raising co-pays.

IBNR was also looked at as an issue, and looking at the costs month to month was suggested.

Russ VanderBaan spoke on the issues as a citizen, and stated that we should implore that no bargaining be started until the Health Insurance issue is placed on the table and dealt with.

The discussion wrapped up with the fact that we need to address this growing problem sooner rather than later.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 6, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Presentation of Certificate to Hannah Perry – Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Present: Grand Knight Bruce Caissie and Hannah Perry. Chairman Ampagoomian presented Hannah Perry with a certificate from the Board of Selectmen recognizing her as the State Champion in the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. Mr. Caissie gave a brief summary on when the Knights of Columbus was founded [1882 New Haven, CT] and

went on to mention that Hannah is the second eleven-year-old in Northbridge to receive the State Champion Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Award. The Board of Selectmen congratulated her.

Approval of Minutes.

October 16, 2006

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the October 16, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

October 16, 2006 [Executive Session 1]

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the October 16, 2006 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

October 23, 2006

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the October 23, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

October 24, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the October 24, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Public Hearing. 1) 7:05 P.M./Tax Rate Classification Hearing. Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Principal Assessor. Chairman Charles Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. The DOR requires this hearing each year. Mr. Fitzgerald passed out a handout. It allows the Selectmen to decide whether to shift the tax allocation between the classes of property. It will not increase the revenue, but just shifts the tax burden. There is a 4.7% percent increase over last year. The handouts were explained in detail. The idea is to shift some of the tax burden away from the residential and move it to the commercial and industrial classes. It lowers the residents' taxes and can have greater revenue to the Town. However, the commercial and industrial classes decreased slightly in the last year. The Board of Assessors recommends not shifting the tax rate this year.

Selection of residential exemption distributes the taxes between the residential classes. It is up to a 20% discount and is based on the average valuation of a home. This year the average is \$322,000. Single-family homes under this amount would get the discount, but it is made up by all the properties that are over this amount. There are several cities and towns in the Commonwealth that are doing this discount. The Board of Assessors reviewed this and felt that it is not worthwhile to do this in Northbridge at this time.

The small commercial exemption would give a tax break of up to 10% of the valuation for the small commercial properties. The definition to qualify is less than 10 employees and valued at less than \$1 million. Around 100 businesses qualify. If you give the tax break for them, then it needs to be made up by the businesses that are over \$1 million. There are only two communities in the Commonwealth that use this exemption. The Board of Assessors does not recommend this exemption.

Mr. Fitzgerald also mentioned that in regards to the excess levy capacity, the exact amount would not be known until after the town meeting. It looks to be about \$2,000. Translated into taxes is about one-hundredth of a penny. A memo will be sent when the exact amount is known.

There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette for the Town of Northbridge to maintain a residential factor of 1. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis not to adopt a residential exemption. Vote yes/ Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec not to adopt a small commercial exemption. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2) 7:20 P.M./Alcohol Violation Hearing: Vera's Mini-Mart. Present: Chief Walter Warchol, Officer Daniel Lamoreaux, Moneer Guirguis, Attorney John F. DelPrete, Jr. Chairman Charles Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chief Walter Warchol provided an overview of what occurred at Vera's Mini-Mart on the night of Saturday, September 16, 2006. Officer Lamoreaux then read aloud the circumstances and mentioned that a young male [Christopher Palaima, age 17] exited the store carrying a case of KeyStone Light Beer. Attorney John DelPrete spoke on behalf of his client, confirming what happened and mentioned there is no excuse for what transpired. He indicated that Mr. Youseff is one of the owners and that he will be attending another Tips Training class in addition to an ABCC Seminar so that he understands the nature of these violations. Chief Warchol informed the Board that Vera's Mini-Mart has been before them for similar violations on two previous occasions [November 5, 2001 & March 4, 2002]. As a consequence, Chief Warchol recommended suspending Vera's Mini-Mart's liquor license for (5) consecutive days beginning November 14, 2006 through and including November 18, 2006. He also suggested that Mr. Youseff invest in a scanning machine for his establishment. Selectman Davis felt that the punishment should be worse based on the evidence presented, but would support Chief Warchol's recommendation. Each Selectman concurred and mentioned that the next time it happens Vera's Mini-Mart could face permanent suspension. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Public Hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to suspend Vera's Mini-Mart liquor license for 5 consecutive days [starting Tuesday, November 14, 2006 through November 18, 2006] plus additional Tips Training for owner, Mr. Youseff, Scanning equipment and his attendance at an ABCC Seminar. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Release of Deed/L & P Realty Trust [Paul D. Klocek, Trustee]. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to sign the release of deed [Cottage Lane] for Mr. Paul Klocek as voted under Article 26 of the May 4, 1999 Annual Town Meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Zoning Board/Request to increase Special Permit Application Fees. Present: Chairman Thomas Hansson. Zoning Board of Appeals. Chairman Hansson of the Zoning Board of the Appeals asked the Board for permission to increase the permit fees from \$150.00 to \$250.00. Reason being, the amount they currently charge doesn't cover the following costs; paper, postage, envelopes, etc. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the request of the Zoning Board to increase special permit application fees from \$150.00 to \$250.00. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Toll Booth Policy. Acting Town Manager Joseph Montecalvo, suggested the Board of Selectmen discuss implementing a Toll Booth policy. Every year this topic comes up and the Board of Selectmen try to control it. Mr. Montecalvo feels that it is time to implement this policy, as there needs to be more control because of safety reasons. Chief Warchol presented a proposed toll booth policy to the Board of Selectmen for their review. Further discussion will take place at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting [November 20, 2006] on whether or not to accept the proposed policy.

Streetscape Concerns. Present: Ken Couture. Mr. Couture, 426 Hill Street, request the Board of Selectmen form an Adhoc Committee to look into the problems caused by Streetscape. Selectman Davis mentioned that he would like to negotiate and settle Mr. Couture's concerns and issues with his property but was unsure as to how the Board could accomplish this. Mr. Couture spoke about parking and safety concerns on the North side of Church Street and felt his and his customer's safety is paramount. He suggested that by forming an Adhoc Committee some ideas and solutions could help the Town benefit by this Committee. Selectman Marzec agreed with Selectman Davis that Mr. Couture's graffiti [on his buildings] is appalling. Sharron Ampagoomian spoke on behalf of Mr. Couture with respect to the safety concerns on Church Street. She also feels the traffic and speed are a safety hazard. Acting Town Manager Joseph Montecalvo discussed the possibility of setting up an Adhoc Committee and will discuss at the next meeting.

Streetscape Update. Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager, Community Development Block Program, and Richard Sasseville, Director of Public Works, provided the Board with an update on all CDBG and CDAG projects; **1)** Downtown Streetscape Improvements Project – completed; **2)** Benches and Trash Receptacles – ordered and will be delivered in 6-8 weeks, however, will not be installed until Spring of 2007; **3)** Memorial Square Lighting Improvements project – will be completed in two weeks; **4)** Underground Utilities: Verizon – completed in late Spring; National Grid – completed in the Spring; Charter Communications – Completed; Removal of Poles – not anticipated to be completed until late Spring 2007; Selectman Davis asked for clarification as to what was taking these Companies so long to complete these projects. Mr. Sasseville informed Selectman Davis of the level of effort its takes to get all the various parties to cooperate and then suggested that he would report back to the Board with a status from each company; **5)** Village Infrastructure Improvements Project – Phase 1 of a 4-phase project [construction to begin in April 2007]; **6)** FY 2007 CDBG Application – deadline is February 16, 2007; **7)** Downtown Districts Banner Program – The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority awarded the Town of Northbridge \$10,000.00 for the Banner Program [consists of 3 sets of banners].

Interim Town Manager. Selectman Davis requested that the decision to hire an Interim Town Manager be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting. The Board of Selectmen concurred.

Playground and Recreation Proposal. Present: Committee Members - Bridget Curley, Craig Bachman, and Bruce Frieswick. Craig Bachman spoke on behalf of his committee to ask the Board of Selectmen to authorize their commission to impose a \$10 user fee on the private leagues and implement the use of a liability form for using town fields. These fees would be deposited into a revolving account to be used for improvements such as: back stops, safety nets, bleachers, tot lots, etc. Chairman Ampagoomian reviewed the Playground and Recreation's Field and Dreams Report and highlighted some areas of concern. Mr. Bachman mentioned that his committee was only looking for the Board to adopt their league fees and approve the liability form at tonight's meeting. Selectman Marzec mentioned that the Playground and Recreation topic was placed under discussion, therefore, no vote can be taken until the next meeting. Chairman Ampagoomian requested that this item be placed under decisions at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Davis 1)** Is Treasurer going to be providing a chart for bonding and USDA Funding; **2)** Strongly requests that folks vote yes on Article 4 {the roofs} when they vote on November 7, 2006; **3)** something be sent to the Building, Planning and Construction Committee so they start looking at the Fire Station roof and what the costs are. Selectman Davis inquired about a Joint Meeting being held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. **Selectman Audette 1)** Friday is the Marine Corps Birthday and Selectman Audette wished them a Happy Birthday; **2)** Veteran's Day is on November 11, 2006 and there will be a breakfast from 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. at the Middle School. At 9:00 A.M. the Girl Scouts will be holding a service at the Town Common. **Chairman Ampagoomian 1)** reiterated Selectman Davis' comments on voting yes to Article 4; **2)** read a letter aloud from the Town of Uxbridge [Ms Jill Meyers – Town Manager] commending our Town Clerk, Doreen Cedrone, for her support and guidance during their recent staffing crisis; **3)** discuss the issues of signs [downtown Whitinsville] announcing their establishments.

Town Manager's Report. **Acting Town Manager, Joseph Montecalvo,** asked that a moratorium be placed on the Town Hall fence banners.

Items for Future Agenda. **1)** Toll Booth Discussion; **2)** Streetscape ADHOC Committee; **3)** Playground and Recreation League Fees and Liability Form; **4)** Interim Town Manager Position.

Executive Session. A motion made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 [Police Union Contract Negotiations] and M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #6 [Puccio Land, Fire Station Land, Northbridge Redevelopment Corp.] not to reconvene in open session. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 8, 2006**

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Charles Ampagoomian, Jr. at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Also Present: Northbridge School Committee Members: Chairman Carroll Paine, Kristin Burns, Paula Grabowski, Leeann Hansson, Andrew Myers, Susan Brouwer (6:12), Carrie Marzec (6:12), and Karen Kittredge (6:35). Finance Committee Members: Chairman Mary Frances Powers, Mary Thompson, Plato Adams, Salvatore D'Amato, James Barron, and Andrew Todd, Jr. School Department Personnel: Superintendent Paul Soojian and Director of Operations George Murray.

Budget discussion took place with respect to the FY '07 deficit. The Superintendent presented a PowerPoint presentation on the School District FY 07 Budget Status. (attached)

A discussion took place among the Finance Committee, School Committee, and Board of Selectmen. It was agreed upon by all three boards to have a meeting next Monday or Wednesday after free cash and other revenues are known.

Open Session Adjourned: 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 13, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Also present: Sharon L. Susienka, Asst. to the Town Manager

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Ampagoomian announced that Joseph Montecalvo intended to resign his position on the Board of Selectmen effective Tuesday, November 14, 2006, and proceeded to read the resignation letter aloud. Mr. Montecalvo stated that he was resigning from the Board of Selectmen as he intends to apply for the Interim Town Manager position, which he can do after 30 days lapse. Selectman Davis asked if the date could be changed to midnight on November 15, 2006, so that Mr. Montecalvo could participate in a joint meeting to be held that evening at 6:00 P.M. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the resignation of Selectman Joseph Montecalvo, effective November 15, 2006 at midnight. Selectman Davis mentioned that he put a lot of thought and consideration into whom he thought would be the best candidate for the position of Interim Town Manager. After careful evaluation, he decided to approach Acting Town Manager Joseph Montecalvo and asked whether he would consider that position because of his experience. Mr. Montecalvo agreed to apply for the position, however, he pointed out that he would need to resign his position as a member of the Board of Selectmen and allow 30 days to pass. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned he was against this idea but after a long discussion with Mr. Montecalvo, he would honor his decision. That said, Chairman Ampagoomian asked for a Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to accept the resignation of Joseph Montecalvo as Acting Town Manager immediately. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to appoint Sharon Susienka, effective immediately as the Acting Town Manager. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes. Chairman Ampagoomian recommended that Mr. Montecalvo continue his role in negotiations with the Police and School Unions. The Board concurred. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to accept Chairman Ampagoomian's recommendation that Joseph Montecalvo continue as the Selectmen's designee in Police Union negotiations. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/ Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to accept Chairman Ampagoomian's recommendation that Joseph Montecalvo continue as the Selectmen's designee in School Union negotiations. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Sharron Ampagoomian asked for clarification on whether Ms. Susienka accepted the Acting Town Manager's position. Upon Chairman Ampagoomian's formal inquiry, she stepped forward to accept the position without hesitation.

Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that there would be a retirement party for Connie Duquette, Assistant Collector, on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 2 P.M. in the conference room located near the Treasurer/Collector's office.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 15, 2006**

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Charles Ampagoomian, Jr. at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Audette, Davis, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Also Present: Northbridge School Committee Members: Chairman Carroll Paine, Kristin Burns, Paula Grabowski, Leeann Hansson, Andrew Myers, Karen Kittredge, and Susan Brouwer. Finance Committee Members: Chairman Mary Frances Powers, Mary Thompson, Salvatore D'Amato, and Andrew Todd, Jr. School Personnel: Superintendent Paul Soojian. Town Hall Staff: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant and Sharon Susienka, Acting Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Chairman Ampagoomian called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Northbridge High School Student Brittany Norcross, who passed away as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

Town Accountant Neil Vaidya distributed a proposal to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee for their review. (the document will be on file in Town Mgr.'s office) He suggested the following proposals: Plan A – postpone Town meeting until they hear from the DOR. Plan B – transfer free cash amount from stabilization (\$850,000 estimated). Plan C – wait for free cash so there is a better indication on where the cuts need to be made. The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee will need to decide which plan will work best.

The Finance Committee indicated there was a discrepancy in the numbers presented by Town Accountant Neil Vaidya. As such, Sal D'Amato called for a ten-minute break so that the Finance Committee and Town Accountant could meet to review their numbers and figure out where the mistake occurred.

A motion/Mr.Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to postpone the debate on Articles 1-8 [Financial] at Tuesday's Town meeting to a further date agreed upon by the Acting Town Manager and Town Moderator.

After the break, Ms. Powers mentioned the Finance Committee was in agreement to move forward on the financial articles on Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

The School Superintendent Paul Soojian felt there needed to be some type of consensus before moving forward with the financial articles.

Ms. Powers stated that the Finance Committee would withdraw their statement made earlier in the meeting to proceed forward on the financial piece at Town meeting [Tuesday, November 21, 2006]. She wanted it said publicly that the Finance Committee does not want to be responsible for the delay in sending out tax bills.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to consider the financial articles 1-8 at a later date. Role Call Vote: Mr. Audette/No, Mr. Montecalvo/No, and Mr. Ampagoomian/No, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Marzec/Yes.

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Session Adjourned: 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 20, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis and Marzec. Selectman William Audette was absent and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Sharon L. Susienka, Acting Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

October 2, 2006 [Executive Session]

Selectman Marzec asked that the minutes reflect the Attorney's name to be Attorney Doneski, not Attorney Maser. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the October 2, 2006 Executive Session minutes as amended by Selectman Marzec. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

October 5, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the October 5, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/ Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

October 23, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the October 23, 2006 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

November 6, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the November 6, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

November 8, 2006

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the November 8, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

November 13, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the November 13, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen: Cultural Council/Leeann Hansson. Leeann Hansson mentioned that she has been on the committee before and finds its very interesting. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to appoint Leeann Hansson to the Cultural Council for a three-year term. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Playground & Recreation/Vote to approve league fees and liability form. Present: Bridget Curley, 146 Union Street, Craig Bachman, 36 Cedar Street, and Bruce Frieswick, 32 Highland Street. Chairman Ampagoomian asked that a memo/letter be sent to advise the leagues and others individuals of the new fees and policy. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the Playground & Recreation league fee structure and liability form as recommended by Town Counsel. Vote yes/ Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

MLJJ, Inc. d/b/a The Gray Barn [John H. Mellor, Mgr.]/Request for Entertainment License for dancing by patrons and recorded/live music. Mr. Mellor explained that the entertainment license would help produce additional revenue for his business due to the increased costs incurred this year. Chief Warchol mentioned that the Police Department has received complaints in the past and recommended closing his business around midnight and having a bouncer at the door to monitor the number of people entering and leaving the establishment. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve The Gray Barn's request for an Entertainment License for dancing by patrons and recorded/live music. Vote yes/ Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Citizens' Comments/Input. Martin Nackman, 927 Marston Road, Whitinsville, asked that before the Board of Selectmen

voted to support the acceptance of Marston Road as a Town road that they evaluate the retention basin located on lot 73 to ensure it doesn't pose a risk to public health during temperate seasons. Chairman Ampagoomian advised Mr. Nackman that the detention basin issue is not related to the street acceptance and suggested that he follow up with the Town Planner, Gary Bechtholdt to discuss his concerns on the detention basin further.

Fall Annual Town Meeting/Vote positions on warrant articles 1-8 and 17-20. Present: Ed Palmer, Member of the Planning Board and Richard Sasseville, DPW Director. Mr. Palmer mentioned that the Planning Board voted to support Articles 17-20 [Road Acceptances]. Acting Town Manager Sharon Susienka suggested that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee re-vote their positions on Articles 17, 18, 19 and 20. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support Article 17 [Marston Road], Article 18 [Nathaniel Drive], Article 19 [Hillcrest Road], and Article 20 [Morgan Road]. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian. Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee stated that the Finance Committee also voted to support Articles 17-20. Votes were not taken on Articles 1-8 (financial articles) because a definitive plan to balance the FY '07 budget was not in place at this time.

Winter Parking Ban/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the Winter Parking Ban from December 1, 2006 through April 1, 2007 during the hours of 1:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M., as requested by the Northbridge Police Department. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Toll Booth Policy. Selectman Davis made some recommendations to the policy that Chief Warchol provided. Chief Warchol agreed to the changes made by Selectman Davis. This will be placed under decisions at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting [December 4, 2006].

Adhoc Committee/Streetscape. Selectman Davis mentioned that after a discussion with Mr. Montecalvo he would support the formation of this committee, however since Mr. Montecalvo is not available at this time he thought the Board of Selectmen should wait to discuss further.

Finance Committee. Present: Chairman Mary Frances Powers, Committee Members: Jim Barron, Andy Todd and Salvatore D'Amato. Also Present: Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant. Ms. Powers discussed the finances of the Town and suggested that the three Boards (Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee) come to an agreement after they find out how much free cash is available. Ms. Powers mentioned that the Finance Committee is in agreement that the budget deficit is in fact \$1,971,560.00. Mr. Vaidya concurred with that amount. Mr. D'Amato stressed the fact that the situation is serious and could potentially lead to layoffs. Ms. Powers suggested that the three Boards meet on Thursday, November 30, 2006, to come to a compromise before the next adjourned session of Town meeting on December 12, 2006. Superintendent Paul Soojian concurred.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Davis 1) requested emergency plans from DPW Director Richard Sasseville and Fire Chief Gary Nestor in case they had to relocate due to an emergency; **2)** asked if the Planning Board responded to Mrs. Bardon regarding her complaint about the new Wal-Mart; **3)** sent an email to David Morrow requesting to add the Fire Station roof to the USDA if the project comes in under budget. **Selectman Marzec 1)** asked the Planning Board, DPW, and Conservation Commission to expedite Arthur Drive issues. **Chairman Ampagoomian 1)** mentioned that the Boy Scouts - Troop 155 had an overnight campout at the Town Beach. He also would like a letter to be sent to WWC and the Boy Scouts to ask them to inform the Town of Northbridge [Police, Fire and DPW] when using the Beach. **2)** Make a suggestion to Wal-Mart that they sit with the Recycling Committee to discuss the disposing of car batteries, etc.

Town Manager's Report. Acting Town Manager, Sharon Susienka, 1) mentioned that a mandatory seminar for all Boards and Department Heads on the Open Meeting Law will be scheduled for the week of December 10, 2006. Ms. Susienka will advise the exact date and time once confirmed with Town Counsel.

Items for Future Agenda. 1) Letter from Mr. Haringa – PowerPoint Presentation.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Open Session Adjourned: 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
November 30, 2006**

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Charles Ampagoomian, Jr. at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis and Marzec. Selectman William Audette was absent and it is duly noted.

Also Present: Northbridge School Committee Members: Chairman Carroll Paine, Kristin Burns, Paula Grabowski, Leeann Hansson, Karen Kittredge, Susan Brouwer, Carrie Marzec, and Donald Lange. **Finance Committee Members:** Chairman Mary Frances Powers, Mary Thompson, Salvatore D'Amato, Andrew Todd, Jr., and Plato Adams. **School Personnel:** Superintendent Paul Soojian and George Murray. **Town Hall Staff:** Sharon Susienka, Acting Town Manager, and Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Selectman Davis took issue with an editorial that appeared in the Telegram & Gazette this date with respect to the recent ruling by the Assistant District Attorney concerning violations of the Open Meeting Law by some Selectmen. He felt the editorial was not accurate and then proceeded to read portions of Attorney Lauren Goldberg's [Town Counsel] letter to the Assistant District Attorney stating that in her opinion, the Selectmen hadn't violated the Open Meeting Law—pointing out that Attorney Goldberg was an expert on the Open Meeting Law. Selectman Davis then asked for Chairman Ampagoomian's resignation as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen on or before Monday, December 4, 2006.

Chairman Ampagoomian responded that he would not resign his position as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. He reminded everyone that he publicly announced he would not respond to any emails that were being circulated to various people because of his concern that it was in violation of the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Ampagoomian further pointed out that he felt the agreement to fire former Town Manager Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. by several Selectmen was carried out illegally because it was never discussed in an Executive Session, as it should have been. Once again, Chairman Ampagoomian passionately stated that he would not resign his post as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Marzec fervently stated that he was not involved in any discussion whatsoever pertaining to the dismissal of the former Town Manager. He further indicated he purposely stayed out of it and never made his decision until the night of the meeting at which the vote to oust the Town Manager was taken.

Continuing, School Committee Chairman Carroll Paine advised that the purpose of tonight's meeting was not to discuss such matters but to remedy the deficit the Town is facing.

That said, Finance Committee Chairman Mary F. Powers talked about the previous night's meeting and the proposal they developed to deal with the current deficit. As a result of that meeting, their numbers indicated the town was facing a deficit of \$351,172. Among other things, the Finance Committee also contemplated going to a 4-day workweek for Town Hall, however, they decided it wasn't feasible because it wouldn't amount to much of a savings. Ms. Powers advised that the Board of Health offered to further reduce their budget an additional \$4,345. At this time, she asked for feedback from the School Department.

Superintendent Paul Soojian reviewed a proposal that he prepared and explained where his numbers came from. Based on his proposal and with corrections, the deficit was estimated to be \$75,913.

Selectman Davis asked Ms. Powers whether her committee liked the numbers offered by Mr. Soojian. She responded that because a \$300,000 error was found in the Health Insurance budget that she was not prepared to vote on any proposal.

That said, Mr. Sal D'Amato provided an in-depth review of the Health Insurance numbers to show where the error occurred. Apparently, Medex (\$360,000) and Medicare (\$250,000) were not included in the budget leaving a \$100,000 deficit. He also noted that the Town has had an IBNR (Incurred but Not Received) problem for several years.

After a re-examination of all numbers accepted by all three Boards, it was determined that the deficit stood at \$324,226.

John Phelan, Playground & Recreation, asked for consideration to keep \$9,000 in one of their funds so that in the spring they could install a safety fence at Vail Field (Balmer School) between the baseball and soccer fields. He advised that estimates have been received in the range of \$9,000 and \$15,000.

School Committee member Susan Brouwer inquired about the Overlay Surplus Account and requested clarification. Mr. Vaidya responded that the Overlay Surplus was money set aside by the Assessor's Office to issue rebates for excise and real estate abatements. He explained that the amount to be spent/released is determined by the Assessors and that they can vote to release prior year funds for a specific purpose.

Selectman Davis suggested that the School and Town take one more look at their budgets to see whether there were any additional reductions that could be made. He said that the Board of Selectmen should be prepared to make a decision at their meeting on Monday, December 4, 2006, as to which way they wished to proceed and whether that should involve instituting a 4-day workweek for Town Hall. In closing, Selectman Davis thanked Mr. D'Amato for his hard work regarding the Health Insurance information. He also thanked everyone present for their participation.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 4, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis and Marzec. Selectman William Audette was absent and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Sharon L. Susienka, Acting Town Manager.

Executive Session. A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 (Litigation) and to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:01 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:02 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:55 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Approval of Minutes.

November 15, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the November 15, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/ Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

November 20, 2006

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the November 20, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

Public Hearing. 7:05 P.M./FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant Application. Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director. Chairman Ampagoomian read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Ms. Dulmaine began her presentation by providing the Board and audience with an update of all ongoing Community Development Block Grant Programs.

FY 2005:

- a) Whitin Community Center Outreach Scholarship Program: [100% complete]. This program provided 113 family memberships to the WCC to income eligible persons.
- b) Housing and Rehabilitation Program: [4 open cases and 3 additional cases that are currently being evaluated for eligibility]. This program provided funding in the form of deferred payment loans to income eligible property owners.
- c) Senior Center/ADA Bathroom: 2nd Floor Bathroom [100% complete].

FY 2006:

- a) Village Infrastructure Project [October/November 2007 Construction Completion]

Continuing, Ms. Dulmaine mentioned the FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant application is due February 16, 2007. The basis to plan the Town's activities and meet all the necessary requirements for Northbridge to be competitive in receiving the Community Development Fund award as follows: a public hearing and a preliminary review for compliance with one of the three national objectives: **1)** Benefit a majority of low to moderate-income persons (51%); **2)** Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums and blight; or **3)** Meet an urgent condition posing serious threat to the health and welfare of the community and where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs.

Ms. Dulmaine provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of the Community Development Strategy which outlines the plans and documents that the town uses in order to prioritize projects that are put forth to the town. Ms. Dulmaine suggested to the Board of Selectmen that the Public Hearing be continued to the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for

December 18, 2006. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to continue the public hearing on December 18, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion was made and seconded to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens Comments/Input. The Finance Committee: Chairman Mary Frances Powers, and Committee Members: Mr. Sal D'Amato, Mr. Andy Todd, Mr. Plato Adams and Mr. James Barron spoke briefly on the Town's finances. Mr. Barron mentioned that the Finance Committee had a brief meeting [December 4, 2006] and voted 6 to zero to decrease the school budget by \$394,226 to balance the Fiscal Year of 2007 budget. Chairman Ampagoomian suggested that the financial update topic be moved from "Discussions" to "Decisions". The Board concurred. Chairman Ampagoomian then advised the Finance Committee that a check for \$64,000.00 would be coming in to the Town Manager's Office tomorrow from a developer who wants to remain anonymous. Ms. Powers asked if the DOR can adjust the revenues and if they can't she suggested that the \$60,000.00 be used to reduce the deficit. Mr. Barron mentioned that the Finance Committee would be recommending that \$600,000.00 come out of stabilization to help reduce the deficit.

Paul McKeon, 500 Benson Road, stated he was speaking as a private citizen tonight. Mr. McKeon made a statement about the Church Street landfill project. He said that the Town of Northbridge put the land in tax title and maybe it's time to look at this and proceed with the project on our own and get out of financial difficulties.

Michael Coughlin, 175 Heritage Drive, spoke as a citizen and voiced his support for Chairman Charles Ampagoomian. Mr. Coughlin feels that the request for Mr. Ampagoomian's resignation as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen is a reaction and retaliation of his efforts to ensure open government.

Financial Update. Selectman Davis suggested that a motion be made to take money out of stabilization to support the Town's deficit. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support taking \$324,217.00 out of stabilization to balance the budget. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Marzec noted that the town's finances have been an ongoing problem since 1999.

2007 Board of Selectmen's Meeting Schedule. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the 2007 Board of Selectmen's meeting schedule. Vote yes/Unanimous.

2007 Holiday Calendar. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the 2007 Holiday Calendar. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (November 15, 2006). A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of November 15, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Toll Booth Policy/Vote to adopt. Selectman Davis suggested one change, in the last sentence, change the word "any" to "a" {to suspend "a" drive in the interest of public safety}. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adopt the Toll Booth policy as recommended by Chief Walter Warchol. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge/Request to post signs along the Northbridge portion of the PMC route. Chief Warchol mentioned the organization requested to post signs in Northbridge and recommended allowing them to do so. The Board of Selectmen requested more information. After Ms. Susienka receives further clarification, a decision will be made at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting [December 18, 2006].

FY '04 Community Development Block Grant/Authorization to further encumber property located at 25-35C Street. Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Office of Community Development. Ms. Dulmaine mentioned that this was just protocol and requires a Certificate Not to Encumber to be recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds with the expressed written consent of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Northbridge. She also mentioned that South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation seeks to borrow \$36,000 from the Twin Cities CDC for de-leading this property and is requesting written consent of the Board of Selectmen. She further stated that Twin Cities CDC is not requesting a subordination, which means that the lien on the property from Twin Cities will be in secondary position to the Town of Northbridge. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to authorize the further encumbrance of property located at 25-35C Street and to send a letter of consent to SMOC. Vote yes/Unanimous.

ADHOC Committee/Streetscape. Selectman Davis agreed with Mr. Montecalvo that a committee should be set up. Chairman Ampagoomian asked that some guidelines be set. **Mr. Joseph Montecalvo, 279 North Main Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that the request for an ADHOC Committee came from Mr. Ken Couture. Mr. Montecalvo was in favor of this

committee being formed. Selectman Davis recommended that this item be placed on the next Board of Selectmen agenda [December 18, 2006], under decisions.

Letter from Mr. Haringa – Powerpoint Presentation. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that this would be a great idea for Bob Thayer, IT Director, to handle. Selectman Davis would like to see more information on the Town's website and asked that Mr. Thayer review and develop. He also suggested the Citizens in Town have the capability to email the Selectmen directly.

Open Meeting Law Violation/Letter re: Ruling from Assistant District Attorney Smith. Chairman Ampagoomian mentioned that a seminar on the "Open Meeting Law" would take place on December 19, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the Great Hall. Attorney Lauren Goldberg from Kopelman & Paige will run the seminar. All Boards, Committees and Department Heads are expected to attend. Selectman Davis suggested that a meeting take place with Attorney Goldberg from Kopelman & Paige prior to the December 19th seminar.

Vacancy-Board of Selectmen/Special Election. Due to the resignation of Selectman Montecalvo, there is a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Ampagoomian informed the residents in Town of the expense and process for replacing Selectman Montecalvo's position. Selectman Davis is not in favor of a Special Election.

Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Davis stated **1)** that per the Selectmen's Policies and Procedures manual, Section 2D, Page 3, that he will be making a motion at the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting scheduled on December 18, 2006 to remove Charles Ampagoomian as Chairman of the Board. **2)** asked when Mr. Powers would be back before the Board of Selectmen with a financial report for Fiscal Year 2006.

Town Manager's Report. Acting Town Manager Sharon Susienka reported an incident that took place at the Town Hall on Friday evening. Ms. Susienka mentioned that an electrical panel box alarm went off and the Fire Department didn't have the appropriate access needed to this area. Fire Chief Nestor will order a new lock box and set of keys needed for any future incidents.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 12, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 6:35 PM, Northbridge Middle School Gymnasium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Marzec, and Audette.

Also Present: Sharon L. Susienka, Acting Town Manager and Donna Gosselin, Adm. Asst.

Fall Annual Town Meeting [Adjourned Session – 12/12/06] / Vote positions on Articles 1-8.

Article 1 [FY '07 Budget Amendment: Close out accounts. Transfer \$547,067.43 to Education].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 1. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 2 [FY '07 Budget Amendment: Transfer \$98,000 Overlay Surplus to Police].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support Article 2. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 3 [FY '07 Budget Amendments: Line item adjustments]. Acting Town Manager Sharon Susienka informed the Board that as far as she and the Town Accountant could tell, the Finance Committee's version of the budget amendments being presented this evening was not in balance. As a result, she prepared several amended motions in order for the Board to pass a balanced budget. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to support Article 3 as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 4 [Sewer Enterprise – increase appropriation by \$56,800].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded Mr. Marzec to support a motion for Article 4 to decrease the appropriation from the Sewer Enterprise by \$349,552). It was agreed that if the Moderator called the motion presented "out of order" that a second motion to "pass over Article 4" would be offered. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 5 [Water Enterprise - increase appropriation by \$18,950].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to support Article 5. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 6 [Assessors Cyclical Data Collection – Reduce appropriation by \$45,000].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to pass over Article 6. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 7 [\$300,000 from Sewer Enterprise for upgrade of sludge management equipment].

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to pass over Article 7. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Article 8 [\$250,000 from Water Enterprise for water main extensions on Union St., Quaker St., and Church St.]. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to pass over Article 8. Vote yes/ Unanimous.

At the suggestion of Town Counsel [David Doneski], a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to recess the meeting at 7:05 PM and to reconvene at the conclusion of Town Meeting. Vote yes /Unanimous

There being no further business, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 18, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Audette and Marzec. **Also Present:** Sharon L. Susienka, Acting Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Chairman Ampagoomian read aloud a speech he prepared regarding the possibility of his removal this evening as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. He mentioned that he has served the Town of Northbridge for many years and has done so proudly. Selectman Davis then made a motion to pass over Item H. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to pass over Item H [Chairmanship, Board of Selectmen]. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Ampagoomian. Vote no/Mr. Audette.

Approval of Minutes.

November 1, 2006 (Health Insurance Meeting w/Ken Lombardi, EBS Foran)

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the November 1, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/ Messrs. Audette, Marzec and Ampagoomian.

November 6, 2006 [Executive Session]

Selectman Davis noted that under paragraph 4, the word soccer fields should be changed to fire station. Due to slight uncertainty on Chairman Ampagoomian's part, this will be further discussed and voted on in tonight's Executive Session. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the November 6, 2006 Executive Session minutes as amended by Selectman Davis.

November 30, 2006 (Joint Meeting w/School Committee & Finance Committee)

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the November 30, 2006 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, Audette and Ampagoomian.

December 4, 2006 [Executive Session]

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the December 4, 2006 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec, Audette and Ampagoomian.

Public Hearing. 7:05 P.M. Continued...FY 2007 Community Development Block Grant Application. Present:

Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Director. Mrs. Dulmaine provided informational packets to the Board of Selectmen, which included the following: Targeted Housing Rehabilitation Program [recommending funding of approx. \$125,000] Targeted Neighborhood Infrastructure Project [recommending funding of approx. \$675,000] and the Community Development Strategy. The Office of the Community Development has been receiving Block Grant funds since 1990 and consecutively since 1995. The 2006 application will outline the targeted Infrastructure Project as a multi-phase project and needs additional funding to continue the work. She mentioned that she is confident that the application submitted will continue to prove that the Town of Northbridge is continuing to better the lives of its citizens by encouraging economic development in Northbridge.

Ms. Dulmaine discussed briefly the Community Development Plan, Downtown Revitalization and Marketing Plan, Community Action Statement, Open Space Plan, and the Northbridge Master Plan. She then discussed the strategies and action plans; Strategy 1) Revitalize Neighborhoods/Improve Town Infrastructure; Strategy 2) Upgrade Public Facilities; Strategy 3) Promote Economic Development; Strategy 4) Encourage Affordable Housing; Strategy 5) Promote Open Space; Strategy 6) Support Social Services; and Strategy 7) Encourage Environmental Awareness/Education to Citizens. Continuing, a targeted map was provided for the Board of Selectmen to review. She indicated that Social Service Programs could be funded by the Community Development Block Grant funds. However, she will not be recommending any funds for this program for FY 2007 because the Town of Northbridge doesn't have a Social Service Agency that can provide the targeted services. Mrs. Dulmaine provided guidelines for the Targeted Housing Rehabilitation Program and then asked the Board of Selectmen to approve. There were no comments from those present. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to

close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis to authorize the Chairman of the Board and other elected/appointed officials to sign the application certification forms as required and to authorize Jen Dulmaine to submit the Fiscal Year 2007 application. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the submittal of a multi-activity application for the Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Neighborhood Infrastructure Project in the designated target area generally referred to as the Village and as defined in the information handout. The application request will be for up to \$1 Million. Such application will be submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development prior to the grant deadline of February 16, 2007. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Audette to approve the list of priorities within the Community Development Strategy as submitted by the Office of the Community Development. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Playground and Recreation Commission - Scott Mackintosh. The Chairman of the Playground and Recreation Commission, Craig Bachman, was present to introduce Mr. Mackintosh to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Mackintosh advised the Board of Selectmen of his qualifications and credentials. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Scott Mackintosh to the Playground and Recreation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Citizens Comments/Input. Bernadette Coughlin, 175 Heritage Drive, voiced the fact that she was upset about her daughter's name being used in an email that Selectman Davis sent in reference to Michael Coughlin's resignation.

Paul McKeon, 500 Benson Road, presented a letter he received to the Board of Selectmen about him accusing a Board member of breaking the Open Meeting law. Mr. McKeon asked that they review the tape and then expressed his disappointment in Selectman Davis.

Edward Quigley, 11 Sheryl Drive, expressed his concerns about the Open Meeting Law violation that has the Town of Northbridge residents upset. He voiced his concerns and how disappointed he is in the members of the Board of Selectmen. As a result of his feelings on this issue, he has begun the process to recall three Board members.

Paul Buma, 218 Hill Street, voiced his concerns on the Town's financial state [\$9 million] and the School's \$5.3 million dollar increase. He mentioned the Town raises via taxation less than \$14 million. The Town would have to raise taxes by 50% in order to support the FY 08 budget. He asked that the Board of Selectmen step up together and provide guidance to the School Department and all Town Departments.

Roger Mathieu, 2713 Providence Road, briefly spoke on the Town's tax issue and how the Town doesn't have enough commercial business because of the zoning on Route 122.

Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, thanked citizens in Northbridge for supporting Charles Ampagoomian and she also personally thanked Firefighter Bill Davis and Sergeant Lenny Smith for their assistance and support to her during her recent illness.

Phil Cyr, 25 Rumonski Drive, read aloud a speech he prepared on behalf of his support for Charles Ampagoomian. Continuing, he thanked Charlie for all the support he has provided to the Town of Northbridge and for being such a great person.

2007 Miscellaneous License Renewals [Alcohol, Common Victualler, Class II, Class III, Automatic Amusement Devices, etc.]. A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the 2007 annual license renewals subject to the payment of all outstanding taxes. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Special Town Election – Selectman Vacancy (Montecalvo). A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Davis not to hold a special town election to fill the Selectman vacancy. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pan-Massachusetts Challenge/Request to post signs along the Northbridge portion of the PMC route. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to allow the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge to post signs along the Northbridge portion of the official bikeway route. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Safety Committee Minutes (December 13, 2006). A motion/Mr. Audette, seconded/Mr. Marzec to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of December 13, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Acting Town Manager/Vote to extend the appointment of Sharon Susienka until an Interim Town Manager is

appointed. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to extend the appointment of Sharon Susienka as Acting Town Manager until December 26, 2006. Vote yes/Unanimous.

ADHOC Committee/Streetscape. Chairman Ampagoomian suggested the ADHOC committee be an advisory board only with a life expectancy of 6 months with no more than 5 to 7 members. He further stated that he would like the Board of Selectmen to establish guidelines for the committee. Selectman Davis and Selectman Audette asked that this issue be deferred until the Interim Town Manager is appointed.

Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation (Church Street Landfill)/Issues/Concerns. Chairman Ampagoomian informed the Board of Selectmen that the Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation is willing to work with the Town of Northbridge. Attorney Mark Reich, Kopelman and Paige, advised the Town to set up a group meeting with NRC to discuss the issues and concerns the Town may have. However, Attorney Reich suggested that the group include the Town Manager and one representative from each of the following boards: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Board of Health. **Mr. Paul McKeon, Chairman of the Board of Health** expressed his concerns and frustrations in dealing with the NRC landfill issue. Sharon Susienka, Acting Town Manager, will schedule a meeting on December 26, 2006, with the Interim Town Manager to discuss the issues with NRC. **Mr. Roger Mathieu, 2713 Providence Road,** mentioned that NRC has all their permits but the Town has the right to contact the Department of Environmental Protection to find out what is being dumped into the site. He suggested inviting NRC in and asking them what they can do for the Town of Northbridge.

Selectmen's Concerns. **Selectman Audette** defended himself with respect to the Open Meeting Law and expressed his dissatisfaction with Chairman Ampagoomian in questioning his honesty and integrity. **Selectman Davis 1)** commended Acting Town Manager Sharon Susienka for doing such a great job. **2)** suggested that all Department Heads and the School Department present their 2008 Budgets and citizens of the Town of Northbridge.

Town Manager's Report. **Acting Town Manager, Sharon Susienka 1)** thanked the Evergreen Center for providing the Town of Northbridge with a Christmas Wreath. This facility is located in Milford, MA and deals with children that are physically and mentally challenged. **2)** stated that she met with the new manager of Wal-mart [Robert Rolandelli]. Ms. Susienka mentioned that Mr. Rolandelli would like to be involved in the Town of Northbridge. Continuing, Ms. Susienka indicated that Wal-mart has some funding available for possible donations to non-profit organizations. Chairman Ampagoomian asked that Mr. Rolandelli be invited to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Items for Future Agenda. Open Meeting Law Seminar - December 19, 2006 @ 7:00 P.M. [Great Hall].

Selectman Audette excused himself because he had to leave.

Executive Session. A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #3 Litigation, not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
December 21, 2006**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Charles Ampagoomian at 5:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Marzec, and Audette.

Also Present: Sharon L. Susienka, Acting Town Manager.

Chairman Ampagoomian asked Board members if they wouldn't mind dispensing with the Pledge of Allegiance and go directly to the Appointments portion of the agenda. The Board concurred.

Appointments [By the Board of Selectmen]--Interim Town Manager: Joseph J. Montecalvo. Mr. Montecalvo provided a brief overview of his skills and qualifications as well as the reason he applied for the interim position. He indicated that his extensive background and experience on both the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen were a benefit to serving in the capacity of Interim Town Manager. Continuing, Mr. Montecalvo explained that in order for him to be eligible for the interim position, he had to resign from the Board of Directors of the Mass. Municipal Selectmen's Association in addition to his position on the Northbridge Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Davis noted that he had approached Mr. Montecalvo to see whether he was interested in serving as the Interim Town Manager and then voiced his support for Mr. Montecalvo.

For the record, Chairman Ampagoomian stated that the deadline for applications/resumes for the position of Interim Town Manager was yesterday, December 20, 2006 @ Noon and that there were no other applicants for the job.

Therefore, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Joseph J. Montecalvo as Interim Town Manager for the Town of Northbridge effective Tuesday, December 26, 2006 and subject to successful contract negotiations. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Audette to authorize Chairman Ampagoomian to finalize and sign an employment contract with Mr. Montecalvo. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/ Yes, Mr. Audette/Yes, and Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

James Marzec, Clerk

s/