

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
January 14, 2008**

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.**

**Presentation of Plaque to Charles Thompson.** On behalf of the Board, Chairman Audette presented a plaque to Mr. Charles Thompson, former Executive Director of the Whitin Community Center, in honor of his retirement after 34 years of dedicated service to both the Center and the Northbridge Community.

**Approval of Minutes. December 17, 2007 [Executive Session].** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the December 17, 2007 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Public Hearing. 1) 7:05 P.M./Transfer Class II License from Boston Motors West, Inc. [Mohamed Bayou] to Claude Elias d/b/a Elias Auto Sales to be located at 53-55 Providence Road, Linwood, MA 01525.** Chairman Audette suggested that since Mr. Mohamed Bayou was not present for tonight's meeting, the Board of Selectmen would continue the hearing until the next Selectmen's meeting on January 28, 2008. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to continue the hearing until January 28, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments. Introduction of Anthony Genga, Full-Time Firefighter. Present: Fire Chief Gary Nestor and Firefighter Anthony Genga.** Chief Nestor introduced Anthony Genga as the newest member of the Northbridge Fire Department and provided the Board with a brief summary of Mr. Genga's qualifications and past work experience. He also pointed out that Mr. Genga was the interview panel's unanimous choice for selection as the successful candidate to bring forth. The Board of Selectmen then welcomed Mr. Genga aboard.

**Resignation. Shelley Buma, Chairman, Republican Town Committee.** Selectman Davis called a point of order, stating he wasn't sure if the Board of Selectmen needed to accept the resignation of Shelley Buma from the Republican Town Committee. The Board of Selectmen agreed that in the future these types of resignations would not be placed on the agenda.

**Citizens Comments/Input. Mr. John Doldoorian, 24 Willow Street, Whitinsville,** was upset about a letter that went out to some retirees regarding changes to their health insurance contributions. He mentioned that town employees have been arrogant towards him when he has asked for assistance. Chairman Audette suggested that Mr. Doldoorian sit down with the Town Manager and Selectman Montecalvo to discuss this matter. **Mr. Gerard Morin, 916 Hill Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that he worked for the Town for 45 years and was upset with the letter he received regarding the increase in his health insurance. **Mr. Robert Parker, Jr., 20 Nolet Street, Linwood, a)** presented a letter to the Selectmen regarding mail delivery in the Linwood section of Town. He asked the Selectmen to support his cause by sending a letter of support to the U.S. Post Office, Linwood Postmaster Vickie Robinson, Senator Moore, Representative Peterson, Congressman Neal, Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry asking for their help so that the residents in Linwood can receive mail delivery at their homes. **b)** Mr. Parker also asked the Board of Selectmen to address the change in location of voting precincts and to keep open the American Legion. **c)** He requested that the Selectmen develop a policy regarding Memorial Crosses in Town. **Mr. Roger Mathieu, 2713 Providence Road, Northbridge,** was present to discuss the change in location of voting precincts. He mentioned many people are unhappy about it and asked the Selectmen to reconsider their decision in eliminating the American Legion as a polling precinct.

**Linda Usher/Request to hold the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Whitin Five Mile Road Race, Thursday, November 27, 2008 (Thanksgiving Day).** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police, Fire and Public Works Department. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Presidential Primary [February 5, 2008]/Vote to sign warrant.** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to sign the warrant for the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Request to build a handicap ramp at 166 Church Street, Whitinsville [Brad Pierce].** Mr. Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, stated that Mr. Pierce wanted to build a handicap ramp at 166 Church Street; however, part of the ramp would be placed on Town property. As such, Mr. Sasseville reviewed Mr.

Pierce's proposal and plans and did not see a problem, though the Town would require a permit from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Sasseville then recommended that Town Counsel review the paperwork [submitted by Brad Pierce] and provide the Town with some verbiage so that they do not assume any responsibility and/or liability with the ramp. The Board of Selectmen will place this under decisions on their next agenda after Town Counsel has time to review the plans.

**Mass. Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship/Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Town Manager Kozak informed the Board that a new permit is required for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Continuing, Mr. Sasseville discussed an article that appeared in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette on January 8<sup>th</sup>, "Coalition Urges Reform on Rules on Wastewater" and the financial impact of the EPA permitting process on the Town. Mr. Sasseville indicated that he would like a vote from the Board of Selectmen to endorse the position taken in this white paper Mass. Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship process. Selectman Davis asked that a motion be prepared for their next meeting of January 28, 2008. The Board of Selectmen agreed to place this item under decisions for their next meeting.

**Housing Rehabilitation Policy/Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Community Development Office.** Ms. Dulmaine advised that reason for her appearance before the Board this evening was because she has recently received several inquiries from participants in the Northbridge Housing Rehabilitation Program requesting a reduction of the lien on their properties. She felt that due to the economic conditions, it would be to the Town's advantage to develop a policy or more detailed guidelines to deal with such requests. Continuing, Ms. Dulmaine stated that individuals who participated in the program would need to submit a written request with substantiating documentation. As of this date, she has received three requests including one written request from the property owner at 34-36 Pine Street. Selectman Montecalvo felt that the Town didn't need a policy because the property owners graciously accepted the lien upon participation in the program. That said, the Board of Selectmen agreed to review each lien reduction request on a case-by-case basis.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting/Vote to close warrant Friday, March 14, 2008 @ Noon.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant on Friday, March 14, 2008 @ Noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Cottage Street Extension/Present: Attorney Henry Lane and Melody Nydam (Property Owner).** Attorney Lane requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to extend a portion of Cottage Street in order to allow better access by Robert and Melody Nydam to their property near 122 Cottage Street. Attorney Lane said that Richard Sasseville, DPW Director, had no objections to their proposal. Mr. Sasseville confirmed that he had discussed the proposal with Melody Nydam and visited the site. At this time, Selectman Ampagoomian recused himself from discussion because his wife is a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and his participation could be considered a conflict of interest. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the Cottage Street extension project. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Marzec and Audette. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian.

**Parks and Recreation/Electronic Signatures on Consent Forms. Present: Youth Soccer Committee Members:** Craig Mahoney, 31 Clover Hill Road, Brian Burke, 33 Keryn Court, Tom Wollen, 321 Samuel Drive, and Matt White, 34 Acorn Road. The Committee was present to discuss allowing electronic signatures on the Parks and Recreation Participation Consent Forms like other surrounding towns. The Committee designed an online waiver form for all parents to complete, which would help eliminate mounds of paperwork. Selectman Davis suggested that Town Counsel review the form and provide the appropriate language and then forward to Playground and Recreation for their final approval. Town Manager Kozak agreed with Selectman Davis' suggestion and said he would follow through with it.

**Permanent Intermittent Police Officer Appointments [Brian Patrinelli & Jeremy Blood].** Chief Warchol introduced Brian Patrinelli to the Board of Selectmen and mentioned that Jeremy Blood could not be present for tonight's meeting. Chief Warchol provided the Board with a brief summary of Mr. Patrinelli's and Mr. Blood's qualifications and their past work experience. Chief Warchol advised that he highly recommends the appointment of both men and recommended the Board of Selectmen affirm the appointment of both Mr. Patrinelli and Mr. Blood as Permanent Intermittent Police Officers at the next meeting. The Board of Selectmen then welcomed Mr. Patrinelli aboard. Town Manager Kozak indicated that he will appoint both individuals effective tomorrow, 1/15/08, and the Board of Selectmen will then have 15 days to reject the appointments. That said, this item will be placed on the next Board of Selectmen's Agenda [January 28, 2008].

**Northbridge Education Foundation/FY '09 Funding for Sports and Activities. Present: NEF Committee Members:** Kathryn Ducey, Cindy Donati, Joseph Deneault, Matt White, and Fred Beauregard. Ms. Ducey came before the Board of Selectmen to discuss the committee's ongoing efforts to ensure that the children currently attending Northbridge Public Schools have the same opportunities that children in the past have had with respect to sports and extra-curricular activities. Ms. Ducey said the committee's efforts to raise money for sports and extra-curricular activities has been successful. She mentioned that the committee will continue their fundraising efforts, however, they feel it is time for the

Town to resume its funding of athletics and extra-curricular activities. Each committee member discussed the financial state of the Town and asked that the Selectmen support the School Committee's budget. Selectman Montecalvo informed the Northbridge Education Foundation that he would support the School Committee's budget if there is money available. Each Selectman concurred with Mr. Montecalvo and stated that they will support the School Committee's budget if there is money.

**Town Manager's Report.** **1) FY '09 Draft Budget** – briefly reviewed the FY '09 budget expenses and revenues. Mr. Kozak indicated that the School Department's budget request was a million dollars over what he told them was available. He also mentioned the School Department would be presenting a more detailed budget format by the end of the month for him to review. **2) Cable Negotiations/Update** – Mr. Kozak advised that the Cable Advisory Committee began their first session of negotiations with a representative from Charter and presented the ascertainment requests and needs for the Town. He felt the meeting went well and stated that further discussions would take place at a future meeting. **3) Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program** – The Town Manager held several meetings with Gail Anderson, Senior Center Director, COA members Ted Haringa and Bernie Miller, and Sharon Susienka, in order to develop appropriate program guidelines and procedures for the program. Mr. Kozak indicated that he would like to have the program in place by April/May 2008. **4) Programming on Public Access Cable Channel** – Mr. Kozak explained that some inappropriate programming occurred this past weekend and that it was an inadvertent mistake.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **1) Selectman Montecalvo** announced that Mr. Walsh of Blackstone Recycling will be coming to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss recycling. **2) Selectman Davis** reviewed the Town's debt schedule given to him by the Town Manager and Treasurer/Collector and suggested consolidating some of the bonds we have out there. **3) Selectman Ampagoomian/a)** stated that the American Legion in Rockdale should remain open as a precinct for voting. **b)** Inquired about the Town's salt supply. DPW Director Richard Sasseville responded that they are buying salt from anyone who can deliver it. **c)** Mentioned that the Town has a brand new DPW truck and that it came from the developer of Walmart, not Town funds. **d)** Requested a report from the Building, Planning and Construction Committee regarding the Town's appeal for reimbursement of School bills. Town Manager Kozak informed him that the Building, Planning & Construction Committee would be coming before the Selectmen to discuss that issue. **4) Selectman Marzec/a)** Expressed his concerns about the Library. **b)** Explained that he has been approached by individuals and mentioned if anyone is interested please fill out a Talent Bank Form for the Master Plan Committee. **c)** Asked whether were other salt consortiums? **5) Chairman Audette** mentioned that Representative George Peterson would be coming to Northbridge on February 11, 2008, from 7 to 8 PM.

**Items for Future Agenda.** **Selectman Davis** would like to invite the Cable Commission and School Committee to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the location of the cable studio. **Chairman Audette** advised that the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives for the upcoming year will be taken up on January 28, 2008.

**Correspondence.** **Senator Moore's letter re: House Bill #4651 [Municipal Relief Act].** Selectman Davis suggested a letter be sent to Senator Moore disagreeing with his letter. Town Manager Kozak will send a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

**Executive Session.** A motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#3 Litigation & Negotiations and M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B #6 Land--not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Davis/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes and Mr. Audette/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:55 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph J. Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
January 28, 2008**

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.**

**Approval of Minutes.**

**December 17, 2007**

Selectman Ampagoomian requested the following statement be inserted under the heading Town Manager's Goals and Objectives: "Selectman Ampagoomian stated that the goals and objectives were part of the Town Manager's job function as described by the Charter". Selectman Davis requested the following changes be made under the heading Voting Precincts: **a)** Delete the following language in lines five, six and seven: "Selectmen Davis would like to amend the motion by including moving Precinct 2 to the Northbridge High School Field House. No vote taken on the main motion". **b)** Delete the word "first" in the seventh line. **c)** Delete the last sentence: "Selectman Ampagoomian withdrew his motion" and insert the following verbiage as the last sentence: "Vote on the motion by Selectman Ampagoomian as amended:". Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Marzec and Audette. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian".

**January 14, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the January 14, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Public Hearing. 1) 7:05 P.M./Brenda McAuliffe d/b/a Cellar Sooper – Application for Wines and Malt Package Store License. Present: Attorney Gerald Shugrue and Brenda McAuliffe.** Chairman Audette read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Attorney Shugrue spoke on behalf of Ms. McAuliffe and mentioned she has been in business [in this community] for approximately 24 years. That said, he mentioned that she actively checks her customer's identification because of her tobacco license and mentioned this would not be an issue because of her experience. After a brief question and answer session by the Board of Selectmen, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. There were no comments from those present. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to grant local approval to Brenda McAuliffe d/b/a Cellar Sooper for a Wines and Malt Package Store License and to submit the application packet to the ABCC. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2) 7:20 P.M./Cont. – To consider the application for a Class II License by Claude Elias d/b/a Elias Auto Sales to be located at 53-55 Providence Road, Linwood, MA 01525. Present: Claude Elias and Mohamed Bayou.** Chairman Audette mentioned this hearing was continued from a previous public hearing. Mr. Elias mentioned that he was applying for a transfer of Boston Motors West's [Mr. Bayou] Class II license at the above location. He also stated that he would be conducting internet sales and operating as a wholesale vendor only with no cars displayed on the premises. Chief Warchol mentioned that if any retail sales were conducted on the premises it would be a violation of this license, as it would require a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Bayou then mentioned that a vehicle record book must be maintained on site along with the hours of operation, which can be done by appointment. Selectman Davis suggested this hearing be continued to the next Board meeting so that Chief Warchol, Claude Elias and Mohamed Bayou could discuss in more depth the requirements of having a Class II license. Selectman Montecalvo inquired about the difference between wholesale and retail licenses. It was explained that a retail license is for selling vehicles to private individuals and a wholesale license is for selling dealer to dealer. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to continue the public hearing on February 11, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**3) 7:25 P.M./a) Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC (Tariq Khalil)/Application for an Underground Storage Tank License [1-10,000 gal. tank, 2- 4,000 gal. tanks]; b) Application to transfer the Common Victualler License from Drake Petroleum [Xtra Mart] to Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC [Tariq Khalil]. Present: Mr. Tariq Khalil.** Chairman Audette read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Selectman Davis then called a Point of Order due to the public hearing notice being incorrect, as it did not mention that this transaction was for the transfer of an existing underground storage tank license. That said, the Board of Selectmen asked that the public hearing be continued to February 11, 2008. For the next meeting, the notice will state that Mr. Khalil is applying for a transfer of the Underground Storage Tank License [1-10,000 gal. tank, 2- 4,000 gal. tanks] from Drake Petroleum. Comments from those present: Ms. Mitkonis and Mr. Vasiliadis, owners of Jumbo Donuts, voiced their concerns with this transfer. Ms. Mitkonis mentioned that she and her brother feel the property is too small to house a 10,000 gallon tank of petroleum and (2) 4,000 gallon tanks of petroleum. She pointed

out that back on December 7, 2007, there was a leak at Xtra Mart facility and that they were never notified of the situation, not even by DEP. She also mentioned that she attended a Safety Committee meeting to discuss the dangerous exit onto Church Street and her placement of a “right turn only” sign at that exit due to the many motor vehicle accidents that have occurred there. There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Town Manager Kozak then stated that he would contact the DEP to find out what happened with the oil leak on this property.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager. Permanent Intermittent Police Officers: 1) Brian Patrinelli; 2) Jeremy Blood. Present: Police Chief Walter Warchol and Jeremy Blood.** Chief Warchol introduced Jeremy Blood to the Board and provided a brief summary of his experience and qualifications. Chief further explained that Mr. Patrinelli was unavailable this evening but would introduce him to the Board at their next meeting. The Board of Selectmen then welcomed Mr. Blood aboard. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to affirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Brian Patrinelli and Jeremy Blood as Permanent Intermittent Police Officers effective January 15, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens’ Comments/Input. None.**

**Veteran’s Services/Vote to accept monetary gift from Blackstone Valley Community Chorus. Present: Kenneth Trajanowski and Members of the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus, Diane Pollard, Becky Ostrosky, Marcel Landry.** The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus had a fundraiser back on November 11, 2007 and raised \$300 for the Veterans. They came before the Board tonight to present their gift in the amount of \$300 to Mr. Kenneth Trajanowski. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to accept the gift from the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**166 Church Street Handicap Ramp/Brad Pierce. Postponed until further notice.**

**Cottage Street Extension [Robert & Melody Nydam]/Atty. Henry Lane.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the proposed improvement to approximately 50 feet of Cottage Street in order to provide better access to the property located at 122 Cottage Street as presented by Attorney Henry Lane and as recommended by the Director of Public Works. All Roadway improvements shall match the existing adjacent roadway as to base, pavement thickness and structure. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Marzec and Audette. Abstain/Mr. Ampagoomian.

**Housing Rehabilitation Hardship Waiver Policy [Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager].** Ms. Dulmaine provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of a waiver policy and asked if they had any questions and/or concerns with respect to the following recommendations: 1) Fill out a Hardship Waiver application; 2) Provide documentation to substantiate income sources such as pay stubs, taxes, social security declaration, and mortgage information; 3) Letter from the applicant explaining their hardship. The Board of Selectmen agreed to Ms. Dulmaine’s recommendations and added that they will continue to review all cases on an individual basis. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to accept the above recommendations for the Housing Rehabilitation Hardship Waiver Policy. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship/Vote to endorse recommendations.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to endorse the recommendations of the Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resource Stewardship as detailed in their report entitled “The Case for Environmental Regulatory Reform – Clean Water Act NPDES Permitting – A White Paper” dated November 14, 2007, and further that the Board actively seek the support of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to enact such legislation as may be required to bring about such recommended reforms. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Update on Community Development Application Grant and Community Development Block Grant Projects/Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Program Manager.** Ms. Dulmaine provided the Board of Selectmen with an update on the Underground Utilities Project: the transformers are down, wires are being removed, the remainder of the poles are being scheduled for removal, and guy wires are in at the bowling area/Ovian Square. All the poles will be down within the next two weeks. The project is 99.9% done. The New Village Infrastructure Project is 95% completed; some driveways need to be finished and some lines need to be painted. Ms. Dulmaine then mentioned that she would be leaving her job with the Town due to the grant not being funded but that she has enjoyed her time in Northbridge. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Ms. Dulmaine on all the projects she has completed for the Town of Northbridge and wished her well.

**Relocation of Cable Studio/Present: School Committee and Cable Committee. Present: Christine Johnson, High School Principal, and Cable Committee Members: Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian, Shelley Buma, Jerry Bagdasarian and David Miedema, III.** Chairman Ampagoomian called her meeting to order. Chairman Audette mentioned that tonight’s discussion was based solely on the purpose of the relocation of the cable studio. That said, he mentioned that he and

other individuals visited the Northbridge High School proposed cable studio location and thought it was a wonderful space. Ms. Johnson spoke with enthusiasm about the possibility of merging the cable studio with the Northbridge Public School system. She explained that the facility was designed in 2000 to accommodate the cable studio should they ever decide to move into the school. Chairman Ampagoomian felt the space at the High School was not a good location because it did not have high ceilings, a grid, proper lighting, a control room, no editing stations, no storage or soundproof walls. The Board of Selectmen voiced their concerns on the pros and cons of moving the cable studio to the High School. That said, Chairman Audette suggested that this discussion be placed on the next agenda after everyone has had time to digest the information brought forward at tonight's meeting.

**Planning Board: 43D Expedited Permitting provisions. Present: Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, Barbara Gaudette, Chairman-Planning Board, Ed Palmer, Planning Board Member, Nancy Radzevich, Mass. Development, and Suzanne LePage, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission.** Earlier this week, Mr. Bechtholdt provided the Board with copies of information relative to tonight's meeting for their review. He highlighted the provisions in hopes that the Selectmen would provide him with any feedback they may have. Ms. Radzevich, from Mass. Development, provided the Selectmen with an overview and explained that a 43D Expedited Permitting Provision is a mechanism designed/developed by the State to allow municipalities to choose where they want economic development to happen and get targeted areas to commit and make decisions on their permits within 180 days. By participating in this program, communities are eligible for grant funds up to \$150,000 in technical assistance to implement 43D. Municipalities that adopt the provisions of 43D are also eligible for priority consideration for state grants, including but not limited to, Community Development Action Grants, Public Works Economic Development Grants, Brownfields Remediation Grants, and other state resources and training programs. In order to adopt this program, the community identifies a qualifying parcel as a priority development site, and obtains permission [Town Meeting] of its owner for participation in the program. When applying for a grant, the guidelines are listed under the website as well as the Mass Permitting Regulatory Office and all requests should be geared towards streamlining and/or expediting your local permitting process. Ms. LePage mentioned that the CMRPC would provide free technical assistance while the Town is considering 43D, which includes helping to prepare the grant and updating the Town's zoning map. Once adopted, should the Town run out of grant money to finish a project, CMRPC would help fund the town as long as they haven't spent all their technical assistance money. After a brief question and answer session, the Board of Selectmen gave Mr. Bechtholdt, Planning Director, the go ahead to move forward on the program.

**Recycling Center/Bill Walsh, Chairman-Blackstone Board of Health. Present: Marilyn Baker, Chairman-Northbridge Recycling Committee.** Mr. Walsh, who runs the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center for the Town of Blackstone, mentioned that in cooperation with DEP they decided to regionalize the recycling center. Last year when the Northbridge Recycling Committee lost their funding, DEP asked Mr. Walsh to look into regionalizing with the Northbridge facility to become the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center –Northbridge Division, run by the Town of Blackstone. The Town of Blackstone currently has a residential and commercial recycling center for eight communities. The commercial recycling returns money back to the towns they do business with. In addition, the Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Center applied for a Regional Recycling Grant and was awarded \$20,000.00. Under the regional cooperation, the Recycling Center located behind the Northbridge Fire Station, will continue to be open the third Saturday of each month from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Flyers will be sent to every resident in Northbridge requesting them to recycle their items instead of throwing them in the trash. That said, Mr. Walsh mentioned that Town Meeting would have to authorize the establishment of a regional recycling center and then an agreement would need to be signed by the Board of Selectmen before July 1, 2008.

**Building, Planning and Construction Committee/Update on Mass. School Building Authority's response to Auditor's Report. Present: David Morrow, Chairman-Building, Planning and Construction Committee.** Mr. Morrow mentioned that Town Manager Kozak provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of the transmittal that was sent to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. \*The appeal of the decrease in funding package was mailed to the MSBA and the Building, Planning and Construction Committee hoped to have a positive outcome and will now wait to hear from the state. Mr. Morrow provided an update on the design of the fields and the detention basin. He mentioned that his committee would be having working sessions in the next couple of weeks to finish up the design of the fields and the detention pond. As for the DPW facility, they will have to hire an architect to do a formal study before moving forward.

**Town Manager's Report. 1) M.O.R.E. Update –** The Town of Northbridge is applying for the regional purchase of photocopy paper through the Worcester consortium. **2) Governor's Budget Proposal –** discussed the concern of revenue that is being proposed but not passed [casino]. Town Manager Kozak inquired about our library situation and asked communities if they would be willing to help our community out by allowing the residents of Northbridge to utilize their library. Selectman Montecalvo asked the Town Manager if he could provide him with a list of the communities that denied usage. Town

Manager Kozak proposed holding back monies and mentioned there were some additional funds from health insurance this year that he would like to use in the future to help offset the increased costs.

**3)** Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Program – provided the Selectmen with a draft copy of the program and would like to discuss further at a future Selectmen’s meeting [review in 2 weeks under Decisions]. **4)** Retirees’ Health Insurance – Town Manager Kozak still gathering information and is hoping to have a workshop for the retirees to discuss plans in greater depth. **5)** Announced that Representative Peterson will be conducting a workshop “Chapter 70 Formula” on February 4<sup>th</sup>, Nipmuc High School at 7 P.M. **6)** Reminded everyone that the State Primary will take place on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Northbridge High School. Transportation will be provided by the Senior Center (508) 234-2002 to the High School for the Election.

**Selectmen’s Concerns.** **Selectman Ampagoomian(1)** keep on top of Mass Highway, Sutton Street project. **Selectman Marzec(1)** received a few phone calls from retirees about the Health Insurance issue and wanted them to know the town is trying to find a solution. **2)** Rumonoski Drive - during the snowstorm the curbing was destroyed. **3)** Salt Issue – citizen complaint regarding why is the Town in this situation [shortage of salt this year]. **Selectman Davis(1)** stated the past Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Russ Collins, mentioned on a Local Access program, that he spoke to the owner of the property [where the town would like to build a fire station and where there is a large pile of material that has to be moved], has spoken to DEP and mentioned that the pile could be moved to Douglas Road, where a soccer field could be built. Selectman Davis asked that Selectman Ampagoomian contact Mr. Collins, get the details and ask him to attend the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. **2)** mentioned that the Town’s Finance Committee are loyal and dedicated volunteers. **3)** suggested that the Veterans' Groups get together and present a united request for this year's Memorial Day Parade. **Chairman Audette(1)** Recommended that the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives should work on a fiscal year basis (July to June). He asked Board members to submit their FY'09 Town Manager's goals and objectives to him by the April 28<sup>th</sup> Selectmen’s Meeting.

**Items for Future Agenda.** **1)** 2/11/08: Rep. George N. Peterson, Jr. – Office Hours @ Town H all, 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. **2)** Evaluation forms for the Town Manager are due on February 11, 2008.

**Correspondence.** Letter from the American Legion on voting at their facility.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:55 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph J. Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

\*At their regularly scheduled meeting of March 24, 2008, the Board votes to amend the January 28, 2008 minutes as follows: Selectman Davis requested that the January 28, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under the section entitled “Building, Planning and Construction Committee,” Line 5, insert the following after the word the and before the word package: “the appeal of the decrease in funding package was mailed.”

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
February 11, 2008**

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

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

Open Session Adjourned: 6:35 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:36 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:00 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:05 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**January 14, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the January 14, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Public Hearing. 1) 7:05 P.M./Cont. – To consider the application for a Class II License by Claude Elias d/b/a Elias Auto Sales to be located at 53-55 Providence Road, Linwood, MA 01525. Present: Claude Elias and Mohamed Bayou.** Chairman Audette mentioned this is a continuance from a previous public hearing. Chairman Audette read aloud a notice from Chief Warchol recommending that Mr. Elias be issued a Class II Dealers License with the stipulation "Wholesale Motor Vehicle Sales Only". A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to accept the application for a Class II License by Claude Elias d/b/a Elias Auto Sales to be located at 53-55 Providence Road, Linwood, MA 01525 with the stipulation it's for Wholesale Motor Vehicle Sales Only. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Representative George N. Peterson, Jr.** provided the Board of Selectmen with a packet on the Governor's budget. He mentioned that Chapter 70 for the Town of Northbridge increased \$142,000. The lottery was level funded providing that they sell three casino licenses and generate \$300 million dollars to be able to make up some \$124 million lottery revenues. He discussed local aid, Chapter 70, additional assistance [\$3,000], and lottery [level funded]. Rep. Peterson mentioned that should the local aid be adopted, the Town of Northbridge would receive \$420,000, so he asked the Board of Selectmen to support this bill. Selectman Davis mentioned that a letter was sent to Senator Moore by the Northbridge Board of Selectmen stating the complete opposite of Senator Moore's position on the bill. Selectman Montecalvo inquired about the MBTA and the troubles they are having and asked Representative Peterson if this would have an affect on the Town's. Representative Peterson replied, "He hopes not". The Board of Selectmen thanked Representative Peterson for coming in to update them on the Governor's Budget.

**Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC (Tariq Khalil)/ a) Application to transfer the Underground Storage Tank License [1-10,000 gal. tank, 2-4,000 gal. tanks]. Present: Tariq Khalil.** Chairman Audette asked if anyone had any questions and Ms. Mitkonis, Owner of Jumbo Donuts came before the Selectmen to state her case on why she feels this transfer should not be approved. Ms. Mitkonis mentioned there was an oil leak, it ran onto her property, and she wants Drake Petroleum to make sure her property is safe. The Selectmen advised Ms. Mitkonis that DEP is handling and she should contact them. That said, Ms. Mitkonis mentioned a sign she had put up on the entrance/exit way to Church Street [agreed upon by the Safety Committee]. After discussing back and forth, Chairman Ampagoomian called "Point of Order" this has nothing to do with the storage tank license. He asked that Ms. Mitkonis attend a Safety Committee meeting to discuss this matter further. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the transfer of the Underground Storage Tank License from Drake Petroleum to Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC. Vote yes/Unanimous. **b) Application to transfer the Common Victualler License from Drake Petroleum [Xtra Mart] to Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC [Tariq Khalil].** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the transfer of the

Common Victualler License from Drake Petroleum [Xtra Mart] to Ultramart Convenience Stores, LLC [Tariq Khalil]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Northbridge Education Foundation/Request to use the Town Common for a Spring Door-to-Door Campaign on March 29, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Present: Fred Beauregard.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to grant permission for the NEF to use the Town Common for a Spring Door-to-Door Campaign on March 29, 2008 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program/Vote to approve program guidelines/criteria.** Selectman Davis made a suggestion, "No application will be accepted after the deadline" add "unless there isn't enough applicants" to the end of that sentence. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program guidelines/criteria. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Road Acceptances:** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve and sign the acceptance of Deed of Easement for Forsythe Farm Road, approve and sign the acceptance of Quitclaim Deed for a parcel of land within Quaker Ridge Estates, approve and sign the acceptance of Deed of Public Way Easement for Brookway Drive, and approve and sign the acceptance of Quitclaim Deed for a parcel of land off Beech Street. Vote yes/Unanimous. Town Manager Kozak apologized for placing this item on tonight's agenda, but after speaking with Town Counsel, they recommended doing so because of time constraints.

**Economic Opportunity Area Designation [Linwood Mill]. Present: Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, Claire O'Neill, Regional Director for Massachusetts Office of Business Development, William Giannopoulos, Owner of Linwood Mill Property & Mark Anderson, Heritage Design.** Ms. O'Neill provided the Board of Selectmen with an overview of an Economic Opportunity Area. An EOA is comprised of one or more tax parcels, have durations of between five and twenty years, and comply with one or more of five criteria's. She mentioned the owner could receive a 10% Abandoned Building Tax Deduction if the building is: 1) located with an EACC approved EOA; 2) at least 75% vacant for the previous two years. Mr. Bechtholdt mentioned should the owner request a Tax Increment Finance agreement designation; this would require Town Meeting approval. That said, tonight is just to introduce the EOA concept/process and look for a possible site that may be suitable for that designation. Mr. Anderson displayed pictures of the Mill and mentioned the tremendous amount of opportunity. The building could be used for retail and/or residential. To date, there are about 69 vendors working on this 10,000 square foot and Mr. Anderson mentioned that the mill would be able to accommodate up to 170 parking spaces. Mr. Bechtholdt mentioned that once he receives the application he would come before the Board of Selectmen to get their approval on moving forward.

**Critique Primary Election Set-Up. Present: Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk.** Ms. Cedrone provided the Board of Selectmen with feedback on conducting the Primary Election in one location [High School]. She mentioned that she received a lot of wonderful feedback from residents in Town on their first experience with the election being located at the High School. She did reference that signage was a concern she felt that this was minor and would work on making it better for future elections. The Board of Selectmen provided their feedback and then commended Ms. Cedrone and her staff for doing such a great job.

**Aldrich School Report. Present: James Sheehan, Building Inspector.** Town Manager Kozak informed the Board that he asked Mr. Sheehan and his inspectors to go through the Aldrich Building to inspect the building to see if there were any major code issues. Mr. Sheehan provided an update to his findings when inspecting the building. He mentioned that handicap signage, exterior lighting, door hardware, painting, and bathroom dimensions and fixtures need updating. After reviewing Mr. Sheehan's report, each Selectman provided some feedback especially on asking for assistance [Worcester Sheriff's Department - Inmates, volunteerism] with lowering the cost to repair the building.

**Cable Studio Location. Present: Cable Advisory Committee.** Mr. Guilluame provided the Board of Selectmen with his concerns and questions about the possibility of moving the cable studio to the High School. He requested clarification on whether or not the cable advisory committee would have unlimited access to the studio and then asked if the unlimited access could be placed in writing when and if a contract is drawn with the High School. Chairman Audette asked the Cable Advisory Committee to inform the Board of Selectmen with their choice of location. Mr. Guilluame responded that if he had to choose a location, he would pick the Aldrich School Building. Ms. Buma replied that after thoroughly reviewing the pros and cons, she would elect the High School. Mr. Holm's mentioned that he would have to defer to his colleagues on where the location should be, however he indicated that the High School seems like a good place. Selectman Montecalvo suggested the Cable Advisory Committee do a comparison amongst the two locations so that the Selectmen can make a collaborative decision. Mr. Bagdasarian feels the studio should be located at the High School because of one reason only, "learning". The children would benefit from having the studio located in the High School. Selectman Ampagoomian mentioned he is opposed of the studio moving to the high school location because of several reasons,

most importantly safety and security reasons. Selectman Davis suggested the discussion of the Cable Studio Location be placed on the next agenda under “decisions”.

**Blackstone Valley Infrastructure Mapping and Development Project. Present: Joseph Deliso, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce & Bill Stark, Owner & President of Express Personnel.**

Mr. Deliso provided the Selectmen with an update to the progress of the Blackstone Valley Infrastructure Mapping and Development Project sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Initiative. He mentioned with the support of the Chamber, Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission and written requests by the town, they were able to obtain state funding to begin work on the development of the Blackstone Valley Regional Infrastructure Map including all eleven towns within the valley. With that said, the grant money came from the Commonwealth and the CMRPC will do the work. The overall purpose of the map is to provide a regional overview of existing infrastructure, identify specific infrastructure needs of each town, and combine the results into a regional solution plan that could be brought to the state for planning and assistance. The mapping of infrastructure is well underway and they hope for this phase to be completed sometime this summer. The CMRPC will be inviting 11 Town Planner's to an informational meeting at Tufts University to update them on the progress of the project. That said, Mr. Deliso mentioned that Economic Development in towns are extremely important.

**Trinity Episcopal Church/Request to turn on streetlight located on MECO Pole #60 [Linwood Ave.]. Present:** Fire Chief Gary Nestor recommended that MECO Pole #60 be turned back on because of all the activity in this area. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to turn the streetlight located on MECO Pole #60 [Linwood Avenue] back on. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the poles should be turned on where the other churches are located. Chief Nestor mentioned that if more requests come in, Police Chief Walter Warchol and him will review the area and determine whether or not the poles be turned back on. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Chapter 70 – updated the Selectmen on the workshop that Representative Peterson held at Nipmuc Regional. He mentioned the Chapter 70 money for Northbridge dropped because of the student population. 2) Finance Committee Meeting – he mentioned the Finance Committee met with the School Committee and Superintendent Soojian to discuss the FY '09 budget. Town Manager Kozak mentioned he thought the meeting went well. 3) Sutton Street/Plummer's Corner Reconstruction Projects – mentioned that an EarthTech representative came out and showed him the process and mentioned a public hearing will be held in the next several months to discuss the finalization of the project. If all goes well, by spring '09, this project will go out to bid. As for the Plummer's Corner design, the engineer said there are no new initiatives in the area, so the project will go forward with only 25%. 4) Memorial Day – suggested that a meeting take place between the commander's before a decision can be made regarding the parades.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Montecalvo** 1) Traffic Light at Memorial Square needs to be looked at. Town Manager Kozak suggested that this be brought to the attention of the Safety Committee.

**Chairman Audette** 1) needs Town Manager evaluations. 2) On behalf of an individual on Pollard Road, Chairman Audetter thanked the Northbridge Fire Department and Firefighter's White and Noel. On Superbowl Sunday, her husband had a heart attack and it took the Fire Department less than 7 minutes to arrive at her house. She was very grateful for their quick response and the care her husband received from them.

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the February 11, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

February 25, 2008

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.**

**Note: This meeting was not broadcast publicly due to the absence of Cable personnel to do the videotaping.**

**Approval of Minutes. None.**

### **Public Hearing:**

**7:05 P.M./Transfer of All Alcohol General-On-Premises Liquor License from E.C.M. Corp. d/b/a Time Out Tavern [Edward C. Mitchell, Manager] to Pichel Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Hawk's Nest Tavern [Philip R. Pichel, Sr., Manager].** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Selectman Montecalvo asked whether the applicant planned to make any physical changes to the premises. Mr. Pichel responded that he would be making cosmetic changes only. He further indicated that he would like to introduce food in the future. Selectman Ampagoomian asked the applicant if he had any family in Hopedale. Mr. Pichel answered no--that his family was from Milford. Mr. Ampagoomian stated that he knew some of the Pichel family. Selectman Marzec asked the applicant if he had any previous experience in the liquor business and if there were any outstanding issues with the Northbridge Board of Health. Mr. Pichel remarked that he used to work at O'Toole's Restaurant in Hopkinton and that he only had a couple of things left to do for the Board of Health. There were no other comments from those present. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the transfer of the All Alcohol General-On-Premises Liquor License from E.C.M. Corp. d/b/a Time Out Tavern [Edward C. Mitchell, Manager] to Pichel Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Hawk's Nest Tavern [Philip R. Pichel, Sr., Manager]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Town Manager's Performance Evaluation.** Chairman Audette stated that due to the fact tonight's meeting was not being broadcast publicly, the Board will postpone this agenda item until the next Selectmen's meeting on March 10, 2008.

**Cable Studio Location.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to stay at the current Church Street location and not entertain relocation until after contract negotiations. Selectman Montecalvo asked about the cost to relocate the studio to a new location and suggested that the cost issue be investigated. Selectman Marzec stated that he looked at the proposed studio location in the High School and believed that location was ready to go now. Selectman Ampagoomian added that there was an ongoing audit at the High School and because of that the State may not allow the Town to use the High School location for a studio. Selectman Davis noted that the current Church Street cable studio was not handicapped accessible. Chairman Audette moved the question. Vote on the above motion: Selectman Ampagoomian/Yes; Selectman Davis/No; Selectman Audette/No; Selectman Marzec/No; and Selectman Montecalvo/No. There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to inform Charter Communications that the Town intends to move the Cable Studio from its current location on Church Street to a location yet to be determined. Selectman Ampagoomian/No; Selectman Davis/Yes; Selectman Audette/Yes; Selectman Marzec/Yes; and Selectman Montecalvo/Yes.

**Union Street Brook/Update [Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director].** Chairman Audette stated that due to the fact tonight's meeting was not being broadcast publicly, the Board will postpone this agenda item until the next Selectmen's meeting on March 10, 2008.

**Road Repairs/Update.** Chairman Audette stated that due to the fact tonight's meeting was not being broadcast publicly, the Board will postpone this agenda item until the next Selectmen's meeting on March 10, 2008.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) 4-Town Group/Update      2) Cable Negotiations/Update  
3) Retirees' Workshop

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Montecalvo/1)** Asked about the progress of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program. **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** Stated that the reason tonight's meeting was not videotaped was due to the absence of Charter Communication's personnel. **Selectman Marzec/1)** Voiced his concern with the School's budget and the hiring of additional teachers for next year. Mr. Marzec said it didn't make sense to hire teachers if the School wasn't sure that the positions would be funded for more than one year. **2)** Suggested having a meeting with residents to discuss acceptable commercial uses for the Oakhurst Property. **Selectman Davis/1)** Asked whether the Veterans' Groups have worked out parade times for the upcoming Memorial Day parades. Chairman Audette responded that the Whitinsville Parade was currently scheduled for 9:30AM but would consider an earlier time if need be and the Rockdale Parade was currently scheduled for 10:30AM. **2)** He also mentioned that he would like to see the Building, Planning & Construction Committee go out to bid on the fields.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:38 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph J. Montecalvo, Clerk**

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
March 10, 2008**

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

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.**

**Approval of Minutes.**

**February 25, 2008**

Selectman Davis suggested under the Cable Studio Location, Line 3, change Selectman Davis to Selectman Montecalvo. Selectman Marzec mentioned that Selectman Montecalvo's name should be listed as the clerk of minutes for the February 25, 2008 minutes. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the February 25, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**February 25, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve but not release the February 25, 2008 Executive Session Minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager. 1) Cari-Lynn Fisher, Playground and Recreation. Present: Bridget Curley, Chairman of the Playground and Recreation.** Ms. Curley advised the Selectmen that her board voted unanimously to appoint Cari-Lynn Fisher to the Playground and Recreation Committee. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Cari-Lynn Fisher to the Playground and Recreation Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Resignation. Serge Grandoni, Council on Aging.** Chairman Audette read aloud a letter of resignation from Mr. Grandoni. Selectman Ampagoomian asked that a "Thank You" letter be sent to Mr. Grandoni. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to accept the resignation of Serge Grandoni, Council on Aging. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. None.**

**Town Manager Evaluation.** Chairman Audette mentioned that the Board of Selectmen each filled out a performance evaluation form on the Town Manager in which there were 10 questions they had to rate the Town Manager on; 1) Outstanding – Clearly exceeds what is required and expected by the Board; 2) Above Satisfactory – Understand the issues and is addressing the same; 3) Satisfactory - Is meeting the requirements of the Manager's role, but improvement is needed to move an issue forward; 4) Needs Improvement – Is meeting the requirements of the Manager's role, but improvement is needed to move an issue forward; 5) Unsatisfactory – Is not meeting the minimum standards of the position of Manager. After a brief discussion regarding the evaluation structure of the Town Manager, Chairman Audette reviewed the Selectmen's overall rating of the Town Manager. That said, the Manager's anniversary date was February 26, 2008 and the Board needs to make a decision on whether or not he has earned an increase to his compensation. An Executive Session will be scheduled two weeks from now to discuss the Town Manager's compensation relative to his Performance Evaluation.

Chairman Audette mentioned that under Decisions, Item C has been removed from tonight's agenda.

**Operation Graduation 2008 [Julie Gawlak]/Requests permission to conduct a "Boot Drive" on Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Memorial Square and Ovia Square.** Selectman Davis suggested reviewing the policy and adding limitations so that the town can avoid having a "boot drive" every week. The Selectmen agreed to review the policy and table it to another meeting. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Operation Graduation Boot Drive subject to the Town's Boot Drive policy. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Community Development Block Grant/Request to execute Discharge of Liens.** Present: Jennifer Dulmaine, Community Development. Ms. Dulmaine suggested that the Board of Selectmen vote to discharge the seven liens individually. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 2-4 Fletcher Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 2297-2299 Providence Road, Northbridge, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 853 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 25 Paul Place, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 19 Willow Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 719 Benson Road, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to discharge lien on property located at 911 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Chairman Audette announced that he was taking the next item out of order and asked Ken Lombardi, EBS Foran to provide an overview on the Health Insurance Program.** Mr. Ken Lombardi and Jack Dolan provided the Board of Selectmen with a handout that entailed the Previous FY08 Budget Estimates, Expected FY08 Costs Estimated and Expected FY09 Costs Estimated for the Employee and Retiree Health Insurance Program. After the presentation, the Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Dolan for preparing the handout and explaining in detail the changes and costs associated with the program.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant [May 6, 2008]/Vote to place articles on warrant.** Town Manager Kozak read aloud each article and proposed his recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to place the articles on the warrant [except for Chris Cowan and Kocek Land articles] for the Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 6, 2008]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Annual Town Election Warrant [May 20, 2008]/Vote to sign.** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant [May 20, 2008]. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Montecalvo and Audette. Selectman Davis was out of the room when the vote was taken.

**Union Street Brook Update. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** DPW Director Richard Sasseville mentioned that this has been a tough winter because of Mother Nature. The roadways and drains in town have taken a beating. That said, the Union Street Brook is high and flowing fast and furious. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that he has two individuals that keep a close eye on the brook and one of them being Mr. Arthur Magowan, Highway Superintendent. He also mentioned that the two detention basins in Union Place subdivisions were holding some water, but was trickling. \* **Chairman Audette asked if any residents from Union Street would like to speak. Mr. Bob Parker, 20 Nolet Street felt that after 10 years of trying to deal with the Brooks flooding issues, the residents want action taken. Ms. Debra Baltramaitis, 114 Union Street concurred with Mr. Parker and informed the Selectmen that something needs to be done before her property ends up with severe erosion.**

**Road Repairs Update. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Mr. Sasseville mentioned the roadway conditions, there are potholes springing up everywhere, especially Mendon Road. The DPW workers have been trying to maintain the roadways by patching the potholes but they can't seem to keep up because of the weather. With that being said, he informed the Selectmen that Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission would be doing a Pavement Management study in the spring. What does this mean? The Town of Northbridge will end up with a prioritized list of roadway repairs, with estimates of costs, and a starting point for developing a capital plan for implementing a road reconstruction program. The dollar amount will be huge.

**Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization/Vote to select a representative for the Blackstone Valley sub-region.** Town Manager Kozak expressed the importance of one of the Selectmen volunteering to be the representative for Northbridge. The organization feels that all communities need to take an active role in deciding how federal transportation funding for roadways, bridges, and other transportation-related projects is allocated in the region. By having, a Selectman on this organization enables our community to actively participate in the transportation funding and decision-making process. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Selectman Joseph Montecalvo to be the representative for the Blackstone Valley sub-region. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec and Audette. Selectman Davis was not in the room at the time the vote was taken.

**Planning Board. 43D Expedited Permitting Provisions. Present: Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner and Barbara Gaudette, Chairman of the Planning Board.** Mr. Bechtholdt provided the Board with an update on the 43D Expedited Permitting. He mentioned that the Planning Board will be conducting a meeting on March 11, 2008 to discuss and review the potential 43D site(s) in Northbridge and that Suzanne LePage from CMRPC and Claire O'Neil from MBOD will be present should anyone have any questions. Ms. Gaudette felt that by adopting 43D, it would be beneficial for the town. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the process once a site is determined, it would need to be approved at a Town Meeting. After that, an application would need to be submitted to the State for their review and approval, and once approved a request would be sent for up to \$100,000 in technical assistance. That said, once everything is reviewed and approved a check would be sent to the Town of Northbridge. Once the Town of Northbridge endorses the check, they have 120 days to adopt 43D. Mr. Bechtholdt mentioned the Planning Board would be submitting a warrant article for the Town Meeting.

**Blackstone River Watershed – Stormwater Management. Present: Donna Williams & Peter Coffin.**

Mr. Bechtholdt, Town Planner informed the Selectmen that Ms. Williams and Mr. Coffin will be providing the Board of Selectmen with a PowerPoint presentation on the Blackstone River Watershed – Stormwater Management and discuss the impacts of Stormwater and the need for reduction. He then pointed out that the Town of Northbridge is considered a Phase II Stormwater community and that the Planning Board would be drafting a warrant article for local Stormwater management bylaw to put forth at Town Meeting. Mr. Bechtholdt explained that the purpose of this Bylaw is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare of the Town of Northbridge by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-development stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with new development and redevelopment. This will be accomplished through many objectives. Ms. Williams mentioned that her group represents the Blackstone River Coalition and that their group is working to help educate people on the impact of Stormwater Management. Ms. Williams began her presentation with basic watershed education and the Blackstone watershed. She mentioned that the Blackstone River Coalition Watershed has a volunteer water quality-monitoring program. In this program, 78 volunteers monitor 81 sites throughout the watershed on a monthly basis. Ms. Williams provided the Board of Selectmen with some pamphlets for them to review at their leisure.

**Conservation Commission Bylaw Amendment. Present: Wyatt Mills, Chairman of the**

**Conservation Commission.** Mr. Wyatt mentioned that his commission has revised the Wetland bylaw and will be submitting a warrant to put forth at Town Meeting. They had three goals: 1) remove provisions that no longer apply; 2) reduce the potential for legal challenges; 3) clarify provisions, which are ambiguous or unclear as to intent or meaning. The revised model provides clearer, unambiguous, reasonable and defensible language that is based on Massachusetts case law and experience of the last 20 years of protecting wetlands in the commonwealth. The revised bylaw that his commission is providing follows the model that was approved by the state Attorney General with slight changes designed to tailor it to Northbridge.

**Town Manager's Report. 1) Building Planning and Construction Committee Update** – Town Manager Kozak attended the BPCC Meeting and mentioned the Committee has been working on the field's project and are in the process of reviewing the design with the athletic organization. As for the DPW, the Committee hopes to have the preliminary design plans done by this summer. The bid opening will take place next week for the Fire Station Roof Replacement. **2) Cable Contract** – he mentioned that they are getting close to a final agreement and a public hearing is scheduled for March 24, 2008. **3) Senior Tax Work-Off Program** – applications have been distributed to 24 residents and need to be returned by the end of the month. **4) Retirees' Medicare Update** - a representative from the Worcester Social Security Administration will be coming to the Town Hall, March 11' from 10 AM to 12 PM to discuss their Medicare and health insurance program. **5) Capital Plan Requests** – provided the Selectmen with a 5-year capital plan.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** informed the Board of Selectmen and residents that someone filed a State Ethics Complaint against him for a conflict of interest pertaining to the discussion of cable contract and his wife, Sharron Ampagoomian. He mentioned that he filed a disclosure with the Town Clerk's office. **Selectman Davis 1)** Veteran's Day Parade Progress. **2)** West Street Site – suggested that a vote be taken and a letter sent to the owner that the Town has no interest in the property. That said, he suggested this topic be listed on the next agenda under decisions. **3)** mentioned that a decision on the cable studio location needs to be made. This topic will be placed on the next agenda for a decision.

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to adjourn. Selectman Ampagoomian asked for clarification on Selectman Davis' email of March 5<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Davis said that if Selectman Ampagoomian took offense to the email, he apologized for that. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

\*At their regularly scheduled meeting of April 14, 2008, the Board voted to amend the March 10, 2008 minutes as follows: Selectman Davis requested "Under the section entitled "Road Repairs Update," Line 9 through 12 be placed at the end of the paragraph, under the topic titled Union Street Brook update".

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
March 24, 2008  
Joint Meeting w/Cable Advisory Committee**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman William Audette at 6:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager, and Cable Advisory Committee Members: Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian, Ronald Guillaume, Steven Holm, Jerry Bagdasarian, and David Miedema.

The Cable Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian. A motion/Mr. Guillaume, seconded/Mr. Holm to open the Cable Advisory Committee meeting and to go into Executive Session with the Board of Selectmen. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Holm/Yes, Mr. Guillaume/Yes, Mr. Bagdasarian/Yes, Mr. Miedema/Yes, and Ms. Ampagoomian/Yes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

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

Open Session Adjourned: 6:02 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:03 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:00 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:02 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**January 28, 2008**

Selectman Davis requested that the January 28, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under the section entitled "Building, Planning and Construction Committee," Line 5-- insert the following language after the word the and before the word package: "appeal of the decrease in funding" was mailed." A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the January 28, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**7:05 PM - Public Hearing. Cable Television License Renewal Hearing. Present: Cable Advisory Committee: Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian and Committee Members: Steven Holm, Ronald Guillaume, Jerry Bagdasarian, and David Miedema. Also Present: Attorney Bill August and Charter Communication Representatives Greg Garabedian, Vice President and General Manager of New England, and Tom Cohan, Director of Government Relations.** Chairman Audette read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Attorney Bill August provided a summary of what the new Cable Television License would encompass and then reviewed the major points of it and noted that the Cable Contract is on file in the Town Manager's Office should anyone like to review it. He felt the negotiations went well and that the Cable Advisory Committee and Charter Communications negotiated a license that will meet the needs of the Town of Northbridge. Comments from those present: Northbridge Cable Producer Maria Maroney asked what sites were being proposed for relocation of the Cable Studio. Attorney Bill August mentioned that the studio location was not part of the Cable license. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Next, Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian requested the Cable Advisory Committee make a motion to grant her permission to pay bills for the cable committee. A motion/Mr. Guillaume, seconded/Mr. Holm to allow Sharron Ampagoomian to pay the outstanding legal bills for the cable committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Holm, Guillaume, Bagdasarian, Miedema, and Ms. Ampagoomian. A motion/Mr. Guillaume, seconded/Mr. Holm to adjourn the Cable Advisory Committee meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Holm, Guillaume, Bagdasarian, Miedema, and Ms. Ampagoomian. Chairman Ampagoomian then asked about the status of the cable studio location. Chairman Audette informed her there was an item on tonight's agenda. She mentioned she knew nothing about it. That said, Selectman Davis suggested this item be placed on the next agenda. Chairman Audette concurred.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**Economic Opportunity Area Designation [Linwood Mill]/Present: Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt, Owner of Linwood Mills William Giannopoulos & Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Task Force Representative David DeManche.** Mr. Bechtholdt advised the Selectmen that Mr. Giannopoulos is coming before the Board tonight to ask them to designate the

Linwood Mill as an Economic Opportunity Area. This would allow Mr. Giannopoulos to claim a 10% Abandoned Building Tax deduction (from State taxes) on the rehabilitation costs associated with the Linwood Mill project because the building has been 75% vacant for more than two years. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to designate the Linwood Mill property as an Economic Opportunity Area for a 10-year term. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Northbridge Youth Soccer Association/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from August 17<sup>th</sup> through August 23<sup>rd</sup> for their Annual Soccer Kick-Off Festival to be held Saturday, August 23, 2008 at Vail Field [Balmer School] from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Present: Matthew White.** Mr. White requested permission to hang a banner across Church Street to advertise the Annual Soccer Kick-Off Festival, which will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at Vail Field. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above banner request. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Chairman Audette recused himself from the Board for the next two agenda items. Vice Chairman James Marzec took over.

**Northbridge Veterans' Council/1) Request to hold Memorial Day Parade in Whitinsville on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. and use Whitinsville Town Common for Services.** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to the Northbridge Veterans' Council to hold the Memorial Day Parade in Whitinsville on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 9 A.M. and use the Whitinsville Town Common for Services. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Marzec. Abstain/Mr. Audette.

**Oliver Ashton Post #343/1) Request to hold Memorial Day Parade in Rockdale on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 11 A.M. and use Rockdale Town Common for Services.** Selectman Davis thanked the Veterans' Council and Oliver Ashton Post #343 for their cooperation. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to grant permission to the Oliver Ashton Post to hold the Memorial Day Parade in Rockdale on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 11 A.M. and use the Rockdale Town Common for Services. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Marzec. Abstain/Mr. Audette.

Chairman Audette rejoined the Board of Selectmen.

**West End School Site.** Selectman Montecalvo and Selectman Ampagoomian stated that they were not in favor of this motion. Town Manager Kozak provided the Board of Selectmen with the cost factor information he requested from the Building, Planning and Construction Committee. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to have the Town Manager send a letter to the owner's representative of the Shop stating that the Town of Northbridge no longer has any interest in the property known as the West Street School or the land adjacent because of the uncertain costs associated with the removal of the large pile of debris on site. Vote yes/Messrs. Audette, Davis and Marzec. Vote No/Messrs. Ampagoomian and Montecalvo.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant (May 6, 2008)/Vote to sign warrant upon final completion.** Town Manager Kozak informed the Selectmen of Town Counsel's recommendation that Article 23 regarding Stormwater Regulations be removed from the warrant. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to eliminate Article 23 from the warrant per Town Counsel. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to sign the May 6, 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant upon final completion by Town Counsel. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Cable Studio Location.** After discussing the relocation of the cable studio, a couple of producers came forth and voiced their opinion of the pros and cons associated with relocating the studio to the Northbridge High School, Aldrich School or other sites. After a lengthy discussion, some of the Selectmen felt that this topic has been lingering long enough and that it was time to move forward. **\*Selectman Ampagoomian asked Town Manager Kozak for a hard copy of the letter from Joanne Alto of the Massachusetts School Building Authority allowing cable access to go into the High School\*.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to have the Town Manager notify the Northbridge School Administration that the Board of Selectmen agrees to move the Northbridge Cable Studio and all of its equipment to Northbridge High School upon an agreement reached between the Board and the Administration. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Audette. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo and Ampagoomian. Selectman Montecalvo stated that he would like Town Manager Kozak to have a feasibility study done first on relocating the cable studio to the Aldrich School. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to direct Town Manager Kozak to conduct a feasibility study on the relocation of the Cable Studio to the Aldrich School. Selectman Davis called a Point of Order. He suggested this item be placed under decisions for the next meeting. Chairman Audette declined. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Ampagoomian, Audette and Marzec. Vote no/Mr. Davis.

**FY 2009 Budget.** Town Manager Kozak discussed the minor revisions that he made to the FY 2009 Budget. Selectman Montecalvo requested that the Selectmen's stipend be restored to the original budget allocation of \$5,150 as follows: 4 Selectmen at \$1,000.00 each per year and 1 Chairman at \$1,150 per

year. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to restore the Selectmen's stipend to the original budget allocation as shown above. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Davis. Vote no/Mr. Marzec. Abstain/Mr. Audette. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to submit the FY 2009 budget as amended to the Finance Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Hawks Nest Tavern/Request permission to replace sign located in Town's right-of-way.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the new owner [Mr. Philip R. Pichel, Sr.] would like to replace the existing sign located at the corner of Providence Road (Route 122) and Plummer Avenue, which says Time Out Tavern. Selectman Davis presented the Board of Selectmen with a motion. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grandfather the current sign location and size for the business formerly known as the Time Out Tavern and now named Hawks Nest Tavern at the corner of Plummer Avenue. Selectman Montecalvo called a Point of Order to move this topic from discussion to decision. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to move this item from discussion to decision for a vote. Vote yes/Unanimous. Vote on Mr. Davis' motion above: Vote yes/Unanimous. DPW Director Richard Sasseville pointed out that the Town's current regulations prohibit this type of sign in its present location, however, he stressed that this decision should be a one-time occurrence only without setting a precedent for future requests.

**Brian McCarthy/Donation of maintenance work at Plummer Park [spring/fall cleaning, mowing].** Present: Brian McCarthy, CRF Maintenance Services. Chairman Audette mentioned that he spoke to the Chairman of the Playground and Recreation Commission and passed along her appreciation for Mr. McCarthy coming forward to help her committee out by graciously cleaning up the field at Plummer Park. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. McCarthy for donating his time to clean and mow the field.

**Permanent Intermittent Police Officers (3). Present: Chief Walter Warchol.** Chief Warchol asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to hire three Permanent Intermittent Police Officers. This is due to Officer Lamoreaux's departure to the Auburn Police Department, which creates two full-time vacancies now. He mentioned that the two full-time vacancies would be replaced by the recent hire of two Intermittent Police Officers [Jeremy Blood and Brian Patrinely]. By doing so, this will leave no part-time police officers. The Board concurred.

**Massachusetts State Lottery Commission/Keno To Go.** Town Manager Kozak referred to a letter that was sent by the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission to all Government officials on a new program they developed. This new program will allow establishments to sell KENO tickets and players will be able to take tickets home and check their numbers on their computer. This new policy would allow all Lottery customers the opportunity to play KENO. Mr. Kozak also informed the Board that no action was necessary unless the Board did not want to allow "Keno To Go" in the Town of Northbridge.

**Alternatives Project [Present: Dennis Rice and Lee Gaudette].** This item was rescheduled to the next Board of Selectmen's [April 14, 2008].

**One-time Capital Exclusion Question.** Town Manager Kozak recommended that the Board of Selectmen vote to place this question on their ballot. This would be a one-time capital exclusion for the purchase of a new fire truck and three DPW vehicles. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to move Item P, "One-time Capital Exclusion Question" from discussion to decisions. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to put forth a one-time capital exclusion question that reads "Shall the Town of Northbridge be allowed to assess an additional \$678,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of financing the purchase of a new fire truck, financing the purchase of two (2) new medium duty, all wheel drive vehicles complete with plow attachments, warning lights, communications equipment and other accessories and auxiliary equipment, and one (1) new dump truck with combo body and plow for use by the Department of Public Works Highway Division, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008". Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Quaker Street/Warning Signs.** Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director. Mr. Sasseville advised the Board of Selectmen that because of the road's poor condition, signs would need to be posted "Road Closed Travel at Own Risk" or "Road Repairs Travel at Own Risk". This is to warn motorists in advance that the Town cannot be responsible for damage to vehicles using the road. The Selectmen agreed to place the signs "Road Repairs Travel at Own Risk".

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Voting Day/Thank you letter – Town Manager Kozak read aloud a letter that was sent to him from the Northbridge High School Social Studies Teacher recognizing Town Clerk Doreen Cedrone for the tremendous job she did on Primary Voting Day. 2) Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program Update – he reminded everyone that the deadline date for submitting applications is March 31, 2008. 3) Retirees' Medicare Update – he mentioned that a workshop took place in the Board of Selectmen's room with representatives from the Social Security Department and the representatives interviewed a number of retirees' to see if they qualified for Medicare. 4) Student Government Day – informed everyone that Student Government Day will be scheduled sometime in early April and will keep the Board apprised when a date is finalized. 5) Building, Planning and Construction Committee Update –

Town Manager Kozak mentioned he met with the committee and discussed the finalization of the design for the upper fields. He then mentioned that 9 bids were received for the Fire Station Roof project with the lowest bid being \$98,000. **6)** Eagle Scout Award for David DerMugrditchian – he and other Board members attended a ceremony for Mr. DerMugrditchian as he was presented with the Eagle Scout Award – a very prestigious award. **7)** Wal-Mart's First Anniversary Celebration – mentioned that he and Selectman Montecalvo attended the First Anniversary Celebration. Town Manager Kozak thanked Walmart for their contributions to the Town.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Davis** **1)** update on the Skate Park project – Town Manager Kozak informed Selectman Davis that the asphalt is completed and that he asked the students to move forward with purchasing of the equipment. **2)** Boot Drive Policy – Town Manager Kozak responded that it was an oversight and would be placed on the next agenda for discussion. **3)** Any progress with other Libraries allowing Northbridge residents to use their facility. Town Manager Kozak replied that he has spoken to other Manager's at the MORE meetings; however, none of them have stepped forward to allow residents of Northbridge to use their libraries. **Selectman Marzec** **1)** A concerned citizen contacted him regarding a show that was on Channel 12, showing footage of an old selectmen's meeting that shows a candidate that is running for Selectman. a) Who has access to the tapes? b) Why are tapes being aired from several years ago? c) Who determines what is shown and when? Because of it being election season, he strongly cautions the airing of these former tapes as he feels it is unfair to the other candidates. He wants an explanation on how this happened. **2)** discussed a letter in his mailbox regarding a violation of the Open Meeting Law. He has submitted his emails during that timeframe.

**Items for Future Agenda.** **1)** Union Street Brook Issue.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:39 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

\*At their regularly scheduled meeting of April 14, 2008, the Board voted to amend the March 24, 2008 minutes as follows: Under the heading entitled "Cable Studio Location", after Line 4, insert the following language: "Selectman Ampagoomian asked Town Manager Kozak for a hard copy of the letter from Joanne Alto of the Massachusetts School Building Authority allowing cable access to go into the High School". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the March 24, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
April 14, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman William Audette at 6:15 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager

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

Open Session Adjourned: 6:16 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:17 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:50 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**February 11, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the February 11, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**March 10, 2008**

Selectman Davis requested the language contained in Lines 9 through 12 under the topic "Road Repairs" be placed at the end of the paragraph above entitled "Union Street Brook update". A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the March 10, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**March 24, 2008**

Selectman Ampagoomian requested the minutes be amended as follows: Under the heading entitled "Cable Studio Location", after Line 4, insert the following language: "Selectman Ampagoomian asked Town Manager Kozak for a hard copy of the letter from Joanne Alto of the Massachusetts School Building Authority allowing cable access to go into the High School". A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the March 24, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**March 24, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve and release the March 24, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager. 1) Edward Mansfield, Inspector of Animals/Vote to affirm.**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Edward Mansfield as the Inspector of Animals. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Jeremy Blood, Student Police Officer/Vote to affirm.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Jeremy Blood, Student Police Officer, effective May 5, 2008, contingent upon completion of the Police Academy and adhering to the employment conditions imposed by the Chief of Police. Vote yes/Unanimous. **3) Brian Patrinelli, Student Police Officer/Vote to affirm.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Brian Patrinelli, Student Police Officer, effective May 5, 2008, contingent upon completion of the Police Academy and adhering to the employment conditions imposed by the Chief of Police. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Michael Stevens, 89 Sean Drive, Whitinsville,** spoke about the location of the cable studio. Being a new producer, he can see both sides of locating the studio at the High School versus the Aldrich School Building. Chairman Audette advised Mr. Stevens to contact the Town Manager for further information. **Craig Mahoney, 31 Clover Hill Road,** President - Northbridge Youth Soccer, brought up two concerns; **1)** handicap access to the High School fields and **2)** mowing of Town fields. He mentioned that he had requested permission for his committee to attend the next Selectmen's meeting on April 28, 2008 to discuss these issues further. Mr. Mahoney went on to say there were handicap access issues with parents who cannot access the High School fields. He also contacted the Parks and Recreation Commission [about the handicap access issues], who in turn, contacted the School Department to find out if the fields could be made handicap accessible. Mr. Mahoney noted that the School Department denied his request to make the fields handicap accessible. Continuing, he stated his concerns with respect to the fields not being handicap accessible. Chairman Audette mentioned that the

Board of Selectmen was aware of their concerns and encouraged him to continue working with Parks and Recreation and the Highway Department. With that said, he welcomed Mr. Mahoney and his Board to the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss their concerns further. Mr. Mahoney briefly mentioned the fields not being mowed but will discuss this topic in more detail at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

At this time Chairman Audette announced that Agenda Item I, Alternative's Project, would be taken up at this time.

**Alternative's Project. Present: Dennis Rice, Executive Director and Lee Gaudette, President, Gaudette Insurance Company and Volunteer for Alternatives.** Mr. Rice provided the Board of Selectmen with an update on the renovations taking place at Alternatives. He mentioned that the construction work is completed with the exception of the wind turbine. The apartments are all occupied; the theatre and art gallery are operating; and the offices have been moved to the three-story building.

**Northbridge Parent Teacher Association/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from April 20th through April 27th for Teacher Appreciation week/Volunteer Appreciation Week. Present: Kathy Lyons.** Ms. Lyons requested permission to hang a banner across Church Street to advertise Teacher Appreciation Week/Volunteer Appreciation Week. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the above banner request. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Safety Committee Minutes [March 19, 2008]/Vote to accept recommendations.** Selectman Ampagoomian asked about turning the streetlight on near Gary's Variety in the Rockdale section of Town. Selectman Montecalvo responded that someone from the Safety Committee would be reviewing that area shortly. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of March 19, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Ash Street/Vote of intent to lay out Ash Street as a public way.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian that the Board vote their intent to lay out the extension and alteration of Ash Street as a public way and that the Selectmen send a memo to the Planning Board informing them of this action and to request a recommendation from them in return. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Regional Recycling Center Agreement [Bill Walsh, Blackstone]/Vote to approve subject to Town Meeting authorization. Present: Bill Walsh, Town of Blackstone and Marilyn Baker, Northbridge Recycling Committee.** Mr. Walsh mentioned the grant money they received from the state for \$20,000 would be used to update the facility including drainage and roadwork. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to authorize the Town Manager to sign the grant application for the Northbridge Recycling Center. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the "Draft" Regional Recycling Center Agreement between the Towns of Northbridge and Blackstone subject to Town Counsel and Town Meeting approval. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Northbridge Fire Department/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from May 7, 2008 through May 17, 2008 to advertise their annual Spaghetti Supper to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Northbridge Fire Department's request to hang a banner over Church Street from May 7, 2008 through May 17, 2008 to advertise their annual Spaghetti Supper to be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Cable License Renewal Contract/Vote to approve and sign.** Town Manager Kozak recommended that the Board of Selectmen move forward and sign the Cable License Renewal Contract with Charter Communications. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve and sign the Cable License Renewal Contract. Selectman Montecalvo informed the Board of Selectmen that he would abstain from voting on the Cable License Renewal Contract. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Audette. Abstain/Mr. Montecalvo. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian.

**Town Manager's Contract Extension.** Chairman Audette stated that Town Counsel advised the Board of Selectmen to take a vote in open session with respect to the Town Manager's Contract Extension. That said, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reaffirm the vote taken on March 24, 2008, in Executive Session to extend the Town Manager's Contract to June 30, 2011. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Audette, and Marzec. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the residents should be made aware of Town Manager Kozak's salary increase. Selectman Davis informed everyone that the Board of Selectmen approved a 4% increase retroactive to his anniversary date of February 26, 2008. Chairman Audette noted that the vote was unanimous to increase Town Manager Kozak's salary 4%.

**Toll Booth Policy.** Selectman Montecalvo stated he agrees with the current toll booth policy but felt there should be a limit as to how many toll booths were held in the course of a year. Selectman Davis will submit his recommended revisions to Town Manager Kozak. He also recommended other Board members do the same. That said, this matter would be placed under "decisions" on the next Selectmen's agenda.

**Time Out Tavern/Sewer Permit Fees/Present:** Attorney Gerald Shugrue and Edward Mitchell, former owner of the Time Out Tavern. Attorney Shugrue explained that when sewer was installed in the Plummer Avenue area, his client [Edward Mitchell] agreed with the Town's contractor [MDR Construction] to allow them to store their construction trailer on their property throughout the construction period. As part of their lease agreement, the contractor agreed to install sewer to the tavern, however, MDR Construction never followed through with the sewer connection and now Mr. Mitchell is in litigation against the contractor. That said, Attorney Shugrue pointed out that at the time the sewer was to be installed, the connection fee was \$7,700.00 and it is currently \$9,240.00. As such, he requested that the Board of Selection allow Mr. Mitchell to pay the original price of \$7,700.00. The Selectmen all agreed they would have no problem allowing Mr. Mitchell to pay the original connection fee of \$7,700.00. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to move Item K to a vote. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to set the sewer connection fee for the facility formally known as Time Out Tavern at \$7,700.00. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Playground and Recreation Commission Policy Manual. Bridget Curley, Chairman, Playground and Recreation Committee and Bruce Frieswick, Member - Playground and Recreation Comm.** Ms. Curley advised that her committee met with the School Committee to review the Playground & Recreation's policy manual and both parties agreed the policy was fair. Selectman Davis provided Chairman Curley with his recommended to the policy manual. Chairman Curley indicated that she would bring the Selectmen's recommended changes back to her committee for final approval. Upon Playground & Recreation's approval of the changes, she will come back to the Board of Selectmen for their final vote of approval.

**Notice of Intent to sell and convert land [Theodore Koopman] under the provisions of M.G.L. C.61A§14 – first refusal option/Present: Ross Smith, 76 Rockmeadow Road, Uxbridge, MA.** Mr. Smith explained to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Koopman, owner of land valued, assessed and taxed on the basis of its agricultural use, intends to sell five lots, which will be converted to residential use. In order to comply with the provisions of M.G.L. c 61A § 14, which provides the Town with a first refusal option to acquire the land, Attorney Henry Lane, counsel for Mr. Koopman, forwarded a copy of the signed Purchase and Sale Agreement to the Town of Northbridge. Mr. Koopman would like the Board of Selectmen to provide him with written notice that the Town will not exercise its option to acquire the property under that provision. After a brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed that other Town Boards and Committees would need some time to review and respond to the documents and thus would have to get back to Attorney Lane and Mr. Koopman in a reasonable amount of time.

**Cable Studio Agreement.** Town Manager Kozak reviewed and read aloud parts of the agreement and then highlighted specific areas such as Eligibility for Use, CORI, Modification of Existing Space, Staffing, Local Programmer Requirements, and Studio. The Board of Selectmen briefly discussed the scheduling and restrictiveness of the studio outlined in the agreement and mentioned that some changes would need to be made before moving forward.

**Worcester Regional Alerting System / Memorandum of Agreement.** Town Manager Kozak and the Board of Selectmen agreed to move forward on entering into an agreement with the Worcester Regional Alerting System. The Board of Selectmen agreed to place this agreement under Decisions on the next Selectmen's agenda.

**Town Manager's Report. 1) Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program** – closing date was March 31<sup>st</sup>. 30 people asked for applications but only eight individuals returned them. Town Manager Kozak mentioned the deadline for returning the applications has been extended. He further advised that the Town Manager's Office would contact the individuals that didn't return applications to ask them why they didn't apply to the program. **2) Senator Moore Meeting** - Attended a MORE meeting in Oxford in which Senator Moore discussed the budget process. **3) Retirees' Health Insurance** – a workshop will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Board of Selectmen's room. **4) Building, Planning and Construction Committee Update** – The Building, Planning and Construction Committee hired a firm "Weston and Sampson" to get bid specifications for the High School fields. The Fire Station roof contract has been awarded to SOM Construction--who also handled the Police Station and Middle School Roof projects. **5) Mass. Municipal Association Legislative Meeting** – attended a breakfast/meeting in which discussions were held on EPA, DEP, transportation, and libraries. **6) Economic Development** – Brian Houlihan met with Joe Deliso of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Town Manager to discuss economic development opportunities in Northbridge. **7) Student Government Day** – informed everyone that Student Government Day will be held on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** Publicly acknowledged Jeanne Gniadek from the Board of Health on conducting a very successful rabies clinic. He also commended the Fire Department for handling the noise all day [dogs barking, etc.]. **Selectman Marzec/1)** Issue with sewer regarding phosphate levels, of which the biggest phosphate producer is dishwashing detergent. He mentioned that they are now selling phosphate free soap. **2) Economic Development** – mentioned that he and Selectman

Ampagoomian are both on the Master Plan Committee and asked if residents in town would review the survey again to see if they could help. **Selectman Davis/1)** mentioned that he and Chairman Audette would be leaving the Board soon and asked how the approval of minutes is handled after they leave the Board. **2)** Union Street Brook status—would like to move forward **3)** School Department budget status. **Selectman Montecalvo/1)** Senior Property Tax Work-Off Program –suggested that when the program begins, individuals should be placed in offices with only one staff person in it to answer phones when the staff person is out of the office. **Chairman Audette/1)** the next Board of Selectmen’s meeting is scheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>, please bring in two goals and objectives for the Town Manager. **2)** Announced that Liz Walker will be the guest speaker at Whitinsville Christian School on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the April 14, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
April 28, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman James Marzec at 6:15 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian. Chairman William Audette was absent and is duly noted. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

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

Open Session Adjourned: 6:15 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:16 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 7:02 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:03 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Vice Chairman James Marzec mentioned that Chairman Audette was tending to a personal matter but might show up for tonight's meeting.

**Announcement of Town Accountant Neil Vaidya's Certification.** Town Manager Kozak announced that Neil Vaidya passed his certification for Town Accountant and congratulated him for a job well done. Each Selectman congratulated Mr. Vaidya for passing the exam.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**April 14, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve but not release the April 14, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. 1) Council on Aging, Marie Rebecchi.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to appoint Marie Rebecchi to the Council on Aging. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.**

**The Village Congregational Church (Pastor Robert G. Sherwood)/ 1) Request permission to use the Whitinsville Town Common for the Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. (Rain Date: 10/5/08, from 12 P.M. – 3 P.M.).** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to the Village Congregational Church to use the Whitinsville Town Common for their Annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. (Rain Date: 10/5/08, from 12 P.M. – 3 P.M.). Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec. **2) Request to block off Church Street from in front of the Church to the intersection of Park Street.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to allow the Village Congregation Church to block off Church Street from in front of the Church to the intersection of Park Street. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec.

**Boot Drive [Toll Booth] Policy/Vote on recommended revisions.** In December 2006, the Board of Selectmen approved and implemented the current boot drive policy, which states: The Town of Northbridge will allow boot drives at Memorial Square and/or Ovian Square for the purpose of raising funds for a registered charity under the following conditions: **1.** All drives must be approved in advance by the Police Department. **2.** All drives are limited to the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. **3.** Each location will be limited to a maximum of 5 participants. **4.** All participants must be at least 18 years of age at the time of the drive. **5.** All participants must wear a reflective vest approved by the Police Department. **6.** All participants may approach the traffic from the sidewalk or island side and not impede the flow of traffic, not activate the electronic crosswalk devices, and not harass or intimidate drivers. The Northbridge Police Department shall have the authority to suspend any drive in the interest of public safety. After a brief discussion, Selectman Montecalvo suggested that only one drive per month be allowed. The Selectmen all agreed that boot drives would be limited to once a month from April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> and that no boot drives would be allowed from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to revise the current boot drive policy by adding the following language: **1)** by limiting boot drives to once a month from

April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> and that no boot drives would be allowed from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec.

**Trinity Episcopal Church [Rev. Charles F. Sutton, Jr.]/Request to use the town-owned “Tot Lot” from June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. to conduct an outreach program.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Trinity Episcopal Church to use the town-owned “Tot Lot” from June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. to conduct an outreach program with final approval by the Playground and Recreation Commission. Vote yes/ Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2008)/Vote positions on warrant articles. Present: Mary Frances Powers, Finance Committee Chairman.** **Article 1 (FY '08 Budget Adjustments): Town Manager mentioned that at this time we need 3 items transferred: Selectmen’s Expense for Legal fees [\$50,000], Veteran’s Benefits [\$40,000], and Memorials [\$1,700].** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 1. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 1. **Article 2 (Establishment of an Insurance Stabilization Fund and transfer \$740,000 into it):** Town Manager Kozak mentioned the next 3 articles pertain to the savings from changes in the Health Insurance. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 2. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 2. **Article 3 (Transfer \$150,000 from Employee Insurance Benefits to the School Committee for capital projects):** Town Manager Kozak mentioned this money will be used for Capital Items. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 3. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 3. **Article 4 (Transfer \$50,000 from Employee Insurance Benefits to the Building Committee for repair and renovation of Aldrich School):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to support Article 4. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 4. **Article 5 (Reimbursement to Town for FY '07 eligible direct/indirect costs of Sewer Division in the amount of \$21,000):** Town Manager Kozak explained these are funds for indirect costs that should have been charged to the sewer enterprise fund. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 5. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 5. **Article 6 (FY '09 Omnibus Budget):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 6. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 6. **Article 7 (FY '09 Sewer Enterprise Budget):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 7. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 7. **Article 8 (FY '09 Water Enterprise Budget):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to support Article 8. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 8. **Article 9 (FY '09 Chapter 90 Proceeds):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 9. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 9. **Article 10 (FY '09 Authorizes Treas./Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 10. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 10. **Article 11 (Authorizes BOS to enter into a regional recycling agreement with Town of Blackstone):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to support Article 11. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 11. **Article 12 (FY '09 Reauthorization of Recycling Committee Revolving Account):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to take no position at this time and to revisit Article 12 at their May 5, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 12. **Article 13 (FY '09 Transfer of \$15,248 from Title V to Debt Principal):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 13. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 13. **Article 14 (Transfer of \$237,036 to School Department to replace School Choice Funds to be used to reinstate athletics and co-curricular activities):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 14. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 14. **Article 15 (Raise and appropriate \$34,000 to purchase a response vehicle for Fire Department):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 15. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 15. **Article 16 (Raise and appropriate \$400,000 to purchase a new fire truck contingent upon passage of a one-time capital outlay expenditure exclusion):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 16. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 16. **Article 17 (Raise and appropriate \$278,000 to purchase 3 new vehicles for DPW/Highway Division):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 17. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 17. **Article 18 (Raise and appropriate \$25,000 to perform a feasibility study for construction of a new DPW facility):** [Town owned property-Sewer Department] A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support Article 18. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to

support Article 18. **Article 19 (Authorizes BOS and/or School Committee to lease a portion of land at Primary School for modular classroom up to five years):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 19. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 19. **Article 20 (Establishment of a revolving account for Playground and Recreation up to \$20,000):** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to support Article 20. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 20. **Article 21 (Amendments to Wetlands Protection Bylaw):** The Board of Selectmen would like time to review the 2-page Executive Summary presented by Mr. Wyatt Mills, Chairman of the Conservation Commission. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to take no position on Article 21 and to take it up at their May 5, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 21. **Article 22 (Adoption of Stormwater Management Bylaw):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to take no position and will review Article 22 at their May 5, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 22. **Article 23 (Designation of 670 Linwood Ave. as a priority development site under the provisions of Chapter 43D – expedited permitting provisions):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 23. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 23. **Article 24 (Designation of 2040 Providence Road as a priority development site under the provisions of Chapter 43D – expedited permitting provisions):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 24. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 24. **Article 25 (Designation of several parcels on Main Street as a priority development site under the provisions of Chapter 43D – expedited permitting provisions):** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to support Article 25. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 25. **Article 26 (Acceptance of the alteration and extension of Ash Street):** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to take no position on Article 26 at their May 5, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted not to support Article 26. **Article 27 (Advance Auto – drainage easement):** Town Manager Kozak recommended that the Board of Selectmen not support Article 27. That said, Vice Chairman Marzec entertained a motion to move Item I Discussion of Article 27 with Henry Lane from “discussions” and place under “decisions”. Selectman Davis offered a motion to take the agenda out of order. Motion not seconded. Discussion on the motion, Selectman Montecalvo felt that this discussion should wait and that the Selectmen should take no position until they had time to further review the information. Selectman Davis then withdrew his motion. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo voted to take no position on Article 27 and to take it up at their next meeting on May 5, 2008. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. The Finance Committee voted not to support Article 27.

**Union Street Brook/Vote on how to proceed.** Vice Chairman Marzec announced that the two residents who have been actively pursuing the Union Street Brook could not be present for tonight’s meeting. Selectman Davis suggested this topic be placed on the next agenda [May 5, 2008] under “decisions”. The Board of Selectmen agreed to place this topic on their next agenda.

**Donald Bunker, General Mgr., Whitinsville Water Co./ 1) Discoloration of Town Water** - explained to the Board of Selectmen the reason for the discoloration of Town water is due to the drought. Mr. Bunker mentioned that Whitinsville Water Company received several phone calls last year, [specifically summer and fall] concerning the water in Town being yellow. He mentioned that because of the lack of rain, the town had to utilize the Whitinsville Well field, which has elevated levels of natural iron in it. **2) Infiltration Plant Upgrade Project/Update.** Mr. Bunker mentioned that it’s not an infiltration plant, it’s a Treatment or Filter Plant. The Mass DEP and the WWC have signed the consent order to build the filter plant. They are still required to have it online by September 2009, and are on track to do that. WWC met with the designer, Metcalf and Eddy to design the treatment plant. They have received their permits through MEPA, Sutton Planning Board and Sutton Conservation Commission and have gone out to bid but have not yet awarded any contract until they get final approval from DEP. They expect to start building this spring, with a completion date of late spring/early summer. The cost will be around \$4.88 million dollars.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant [Article 27]/Present: Atty. Henry Lane, Petitioner, Richard Sasseville, DPW Director and Scott Holman, Cedarwood Development.** Attorney Lane provided the Board of Selectmen with some material to review along with a brief synopsis of what his client is proposing. Cedarwood Development would like the Town to accept the drainage easement through the property at 277 Church Street [Advanced Auto] in Whitinsville for the purpose of maintaining an existing storm drain. Attorney Lane mentioned that after researching the drainage system, of which the easement area is a part, originates on the property of the Northbridge Housing Authority and provides an outlet for catch basins within the Colonial Drive roadway and along the paved swale at the base of the slope behind the buildings along the rear of the Housing Authority property. From the Housing Authority property, the drain line continues through the parking lot behind the Armenian Church and then ultimately diagonally through the property at 277 Church Street to the storm drains in Church Street. That said, there is no

documentation of the agreement that resulted in the drain system being properly constructed and apparently it was done through an informal agreement among the parties involved. Town Manager Kozak and the Board of Selectmen agree to delay this discussion until after they receive clarification from Town Counsel on who owns the land that the Housing Authority presides.

**Soccer League/Present: Craig Mahoney. Craig Mahoney, 31 Clover Hill Road, President of Northbridge Youth Soccer and Thomas Wollen, 321 Samuel Drive.** Mr. Mahoney discussed two items; 1) handicap access for the high school fields; and 2) mowing the town fields. That said, Mr. Mahoney mentioned that he received several concerns from parents and residents about not having handicap access at the high school fields. After discussing his concerns with the School Department and Playground and Recreation Committee, he thought it should be brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen. He asked the Selectmen to assist him with trying to come up with a compromise to accommodate access for handicap individuals. Mr. Mahoney suggested that the head coaches receive a key to the gate, if need be, the head coach could escort that vehicle up to the field and then go back and lock the gate. The second suggestion would be to have wheelchairs at the field so that a coach or family member could push the individual up the path so that the individual could watch the game. Last option would be to close the field down. Vice Chairman Marzec indicated that the high school fields were not intended to be used as playing fields and that the path going to the fields is narrow. Selectman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Mahoney that the Board of Selectmen does not have any jurisdiction over the fields. Selectman Davis mentioned that you cannot tell residents in town that if they are handicapped they cannot use the fields. Selectman Montecalvo suggested the idea of using a golf cart to transport handicapped individuals and other folks such as elderly to and from the field. He also suggested bringing this to the Safety Committee for assistance. Selectman Ampagoomian suggested that the Town Manager contact the Parks and Recreation and the School Department to sit down and come up with a resolution. Selectman Davis recommended that the Safety Committee and Building, Planning and Construction Committee be included in trying to come up with a resolution. Town Manager Kozak mentioned contacting the Parks and Recreation Committee to pursue the matter further by setting up a meeting with the groups mentioned above. Mr. Mahoney mentioned his second issue being mowing the fields. This is an issue his organization deals with every year and feels that the fields are not mowed in a timely manner. DPW Director Richard Sasseville pointed out to everyone that because of the lack of facility space, the summer equipment is stored at the fire station and the winter equipment is kept at the DPW facility, until winter is officially over. He then mentioned that on any given day he has about four employees to handle the numerous jobs needing to be accomplished in a 40-hour week. That said, this past winter, the conditions of the roads were left in bad shape, as the residents in town are aware of. The DPW Department has received numerous calls relative to patching/filling potholes. He mentioned that he has to prioritize his department's workday as he sees fit. Mr. Sasseville stated that the summer equipment has been serviced and is now been relocated to the DPW facility. He also said there is no guarantee the fields will ever be mowed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Mahoney reiterated the soccer fields must be mowed before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned when you have money you can do anything, when you don't have money, things don't get accomplished the way they should.

**Chapter 43D Grant Application.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner, requested this topic be placed on the agenda. Mr. Bechtholdt wanted the Board of Selectmen to be apprised that he is planning to submit grant applications by springtime, which in turn, would need to be voted upon at the town meeting scheduled on May 6, 2008. He has been actively working with the state on the permitting process for the three properties listed in the warrant, which would allow the town to apply for grant money to help plan this type of development.

**Town Manager's Goals and Objectives.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that Chairman Audette asked each of the Selectmen to bring in two goals [listing the primary one and then the secondary]. Town Manager Kozak has received goals from Selectman Davis and Selectman Montecalvo. Selectman Ampagoomian did not submit goals because he felt this should be at the discretion of the newly elected Selectmen come May 20<sup>th</sup>. This topic will be discussed at their next meeting on May 5, 2008.

**Cable Studio Agreement – Revised.** Town Manager Kozak provided the Selectmen with a newly revised Cable Studio Agreement prior to tonight's meeting. Town Manager Kozak pointed out the changes by highlighting them in blue. Selectman Ampagoomian mentioned that some of the information provided in this document violates the first amendment. That said, he is against moving the cable studio to the High School because it has too many restrictions. The Board of Selectmen concurred with the contract being too restrictive in nature.

**Notice of Intent to sell and convert land [Theodore Koopman] under the provisions of M.G.L. C.61A§14 – first refusal option/Present: Ross Smith, Perspective Buyer.** Selectman Ampagoomian mentioned that because of the economic times of the Town of Northbridge, they are in no position to make an offer to purchase the land. He also noted that the Town has 120 days to decide whether or not they want the land. Mr. Ross Smith mentioned that he hoped that the Board of Selectmen wouldn't delay the process too long because time is of the essence. Selectman Davis suggested this item be placed on the

next agenda [May 5, 2008] this way it gives all the boards and commissions time to review the information and provide feedback.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Town Manager Kozak mentioned the Fire Chief received a reimbursement check \$3,681.16 for assistance provided at the Bernat Mills fire. 2) Student Government Day/Update – great participation from the students. Thanked Selectman Montecalvo for his assistance. Vice Chairman Marzec requested a “thank you” letter be sent to Mr. Ken Warchol for his hard work. 3) Personnel Board Meeting/Update – he met with the Personnel Board and asked them to review their Bylaws to see if they need to be updated. 4) Whitinsville Social Library Board of Trustees/Update – Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he met with members of the Library Trustees to discuss the amount of funding being recommended to Town Meeting for the Library. He mentioned they will be setting up a meeting in Boston to discuss the recertification of the Library. 5) Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program/Revision to program income guidelines – a number of residents took out applications, however, our office never received them back. Reason being, after contacting the individuals, the level of income was set to low. Town Manager Kozak mentioned he would be recommending at the next Selectmen's meeting to raise the income guidelines. 6) Tax Title Takings – the Treasurer/Collector is actively working on the collections of Tax Title Takings. There is about \$200,000 of uncollected taxes. 7) Handicap access door – a new door will be ordered to replace the old one because of the width. 8) Town Manager Kozak received a phone call from a representative at Verizon. He mentioned he met with her to discuss FIOS and that nothing could happen until a year from now. He will also set up a meeting with her and the Board of Selectmen. 9) Reminder: Wednesday evening (7 PM), April 30<sup>th</sup>, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Eleven Town Meeting will be held.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Montecalvo/ 1)** He mentioned that he wanted everyone to know that he did not propose renaming A, B,C,D streets in the village. **Selectman Davis/ 1)** now that the Cable Contract is signed – is there a timeframe on when the other camera will be up and running. **Selectman Ampagoomian/ 1)** received several phone calls pertaining to the possibility of putting a second meter on their house because of irrigation systems. He suggested setting up a meeting with the DPW, and Don Bunker, Manager, Whitinsville Water Company to discuss the policy. 2) DPW Equipment – asked about placing it on EBay to get rid of it and free up space at the DPW facility. 3) sends his condolences to the Green family for the recent loss of their father, Joe Green. Selectman Davis concurred.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:09 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

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**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
May 5, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman James Marzec at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian. Chairman William Audette was absent and is duly noted. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Vice Chairman Marzec mentioned Chairman Audette has been admitted into a hospital with some health issues. The Board of Selectmen wished him well on a speedy recovery.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**April 14, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve the April 14, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Present: Playground & Recreation Committee Member Cari-Lynn Fisher. 1) Playground & Recreation, Francis Puda.** Mr. Puda introduced himself and advised the Selectmen that he served on the Playground and Recreation Committee in Chester, New Hampshire. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Francis Puda to the Playground & Recreation Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Robert A. Parker, Jr., 20 Nolet Street, Linwood, MA** brought to the Board of Selectmen's attention that over 50 residents in Northbridge didn't receive a Finance Committee booklet for the Spring Annual Town Meeting. He also reminded the Selectmen that on Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 6 P.M., a meeting is being held with the postal officials and residents of Linwood at the Good Shepherd Church to discuss the delivery service to the Linwood residents. **Mr. David Miedema III, 84 Kerry Lane, Whitinsville, MA** made the residents in Town aware of the community gardens located off of High Street. If anyone would like to apply and/or have a garden, they can contact Jeff Allard or Stewart DeJong.

**166 Church Street – Handicap access ramp [Brad Pierce]/Vote to issue license agreement. Present: Brad and Kathy Pierce.** Mr. & Mrs. Pierce own the building located at 166 Church Street and have been in the process of making some improvements to their building. They came before the Board of Selectmen to request permission from the Town to enter into a license agreement so they can add a handicap access ramp to their building with a portion of the ramp being on the public sidewalk of the town. The Licensee shall comply with all regulations, orders and decisions of the Massachusetts Architectural Board, including the provisions of the Board's decisions. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he provided Town Counsel with a copy of the License Agreement submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Pierce. After further review, Town Counsel made some minor revisions and then suggested that the Board of Selectmen could still execute the agreement. Selectman Ampagoomian would like to see the final agreement before voting on it. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the license agreement pending the merging of both documents subject to the revisions by Town Counsel. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Unibank for Savings/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from June 15<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup> to advertise their "Community Appreciation Day" cookout to be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to approve Unibank for Savings request to hang a banner across Church Street from June 15<sup>th</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup> to advertise their "Community Appreciation Day" cookout to be held on Saturday, June 28, 2008. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec Ampagoomian, and Montecalvo.

**Worcester Regional Alerting System Agreement/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to authorize Town Manager Kozak to enter into an agreement to participate in the Worcester Regional Alerting System. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Davis, Montecalvo and Marzec.

**Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 6, 2008]/ 1) Vote positions on Articles 12, 21, 22, 26, 27.**

**Article 12 (FY '09 Reauthorization of Recycling Committee Revolving Account): Present: Chairman of the Recycling Committee Marilyn Baker and Committee Members Denis Latour and Phil Simmons.** Selectman Montecalvo asked for clarification of responsibilities between the Recycling Committee and Blackstone Valley Regional Recycling Committee and what will the money in the account be used for. Ms. Baker and Mr. Latour explained this money would be used for expenses if some costs should arise before the BVRC takes over. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to

support Article 12. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Article 21 (Amendments to Wetlands Protection Bylaw): Present: Chairman of the Conservation Commission Wyatt Mills and Committee Member Andrew Chagnon.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo voted to support Article 21. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Article 22 (Adoption of Stormwater Management Bylaw): Present: Chairman of the Planning Board Barbara Gaudette and Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt.** A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo voted to support Article 22. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Article 26 (Acceptance of the alteration and extension of Ash Street): Present: Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt.** The Planning Board recommends passing over this article. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to pass over Article 26. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **Article 27 (Advance Auto – drainage easement): Present: Attorney Henry Lane and Scott Holman from Cedar Wood Development.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo voted not to support Article 27. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**The Grill [John A. Pardee]/1) Application to transfer the Automatic Amusement Devices License from San-Fran Corp. d/b/a The Grill.** A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the transfer of the Automatic Amusement Devices License from San-Fran Corp. d/b/a The Grill to The Pardee Group, Inc. d/b/a The Grill [John A. Pardee]. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. **2) Application for Entertainment License/a) Live or Recorded Music; b) Dancing by patrons.** Selectman Ampagoomian suggested a Public Hearing be held because these licenses are considered to be new licenses and the abutters should be notified. Town Manager Kozak will look into this further. Chief Warchol had some concerns with noise level and parking. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Davis to table this matter until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting [May 19, 2008] pending further review. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec.

**Union Street Brook/Vote on how to proceed. [Present: Robert A. Parker, 20 Nolet Street, Debra Baltramaitis, 114 Union Street, Richard Brooks, 6 Union Street, Richard Sasseville, Director of Public Works.]** Selectman Davis provided a chronology of the Union Street Brook issue and then briefly discussed some of the items. He then asked the Board of Selectmen to come up with a decision on how to proceed. DPW Director Richard Sasseville mentioned that studies have been done and that Mass. Highway and Providence Worcester Railroad will handle the culverts once the downstream issues are resolved. Selectman Davis suggested that Mr. Sasseville test the culverts to see where the water is going. Mr. Sasseville proposed that he would coordinate with the Whitinsville Water Company and Fire Department [need hoses] and individually test about 12 catch basins to see where the water discharges.

**Notice of Intent to sell and convert land [Theodore Koopman] under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 61A§14 – Right of first refusal. Present: Ross Smith, 76 Rockmeadow Road, Uxbridge, MA.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he has only heard from the School Committee and they are not interested in the property. That said, the other committee's have not met formally to discuss. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian not to excise the right of first refusal under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 61A§14. Selectman Montecalvo mentioned that if you pass this now you are setting a precedent for not waiting 120 days for the rest of the Committee's & Board's to respond. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian and Marzec. Vote no/Mr. Montecalvo.

**Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program/Vote to approve revised program income guidelines.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that there weren't a lot of applicants for the program because the income levels were too low so he requested that the Board of Selectmen approve his request to change the income level as stated in the revised program guidelines. A motion was made by Selectman Davis to move Agenda Item J [Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program] to a decision. No second, motion dies. The item will be placed on the next agenda, May 6, 2008.

**FY '09 Sewer Rates. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Mr. Sasseville gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current sewer rates and provided his recommendations for FY '09 sewer utility rates, which he explained are based on the volume of water used by customers. He stated that the water rates were set in February 2007 and thus no further action was required at this time. Mr. Sasseville provided the Board of Selectmen with two slides: "Revenues by Source" and "Expense Analysis" that will also be presented at Town Meeting on May 6, 2008. Continuing, he explained that in order to balance the FY '08 Sewer Operating Budget, sewer rates increased an average of 21% and \$500,000 in reserves was transferred into the operating budget. Mr. Sasseville stressed that use of Enterprise Fund Reserves should only be a short-term remedy for funding as reserves are shrinking due to the lack of sewer extension permits. He also cautioned that in order to insure the availability of reserves, sewer rate increases should be considered as each 3% increase reduces the amount required from reserves by \$50,000. As for the proposed FY '09 Sewer Operating Budget, \$350,000 will be transferred from reserves, pending approval by Town Meeting. Town Manager Kozak recommended the full amount [21%] so that the Sewer Department doesn't have to use any of their reserves. Selectman Montecalvo recommended a nine percent increase. The Board of Selectmen will make a decision at their next meeting scheduled May 19, 2008.

**Town Manager's Goals and Objectives.** Town Manager Kozak suggested that each Selectman provide him with two primary goals for FY 2009. The Board of Selectmen will discuss this further at their next meeting on May 19, 2008.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Town Manager Kozak mentioned he met with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and moderator to discuss the articles for Town Meeting. He provided the Board of Selectmen with a handout and mentioned there was a minor change. 2) a request came in from a citizen in town to film town meeting and the moderator approved it.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) requested a hard copy of the letter from Joanne Alto, Mass. School Building Authority. 2) Inquired about the light pole that was knocked down in front of Walker Realty. Mr. Sasseville responded that he is waiting for the electrician to come. 3) Any progress on the off-street parking [entering and exiting]. 4) Any progress on the School Building audit. Town Manager Kozak replied that he hasn't heard anything and it could take a few more months. 5) Follow-up on possible workshops regarding second meters. **Vice Chairman Marzec** 1) attended the Eleven-Town meeting at the Blackstone Valley Regional Technical School and will be placing items discussed at this meeting on a future agenda.

Due to the impending change in Board membership, Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he spoke to Town Counsel regarding voting on the approval of Executive Session minutes. Town Counsel mentioned that the Selectmen leaving can give their comments on Executive Session minutes to the newly appointed Selectmen.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:09 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
Spring Annual Town Meeting  
May 6, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Vice Chairman James Marzec at 6:35 PM, Northbridge Middle School Auditorium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Davis, Montecalvo, and Ampagoomian. Chairman Audette was not present and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager and Attorney David Doneski, Kopelman & Paige.

**Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program/Vote to revise income limits.** Because this item was listed under discussions and not decisions on the May 5, 2008 Selectmen's agenda, the Board decided to defer the vote on this matter until now. That said, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve an increase in the income limits for participants in the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program from \$30,000 to \$45,000 for an individual and from \$40,000 to \$60,000 for a couple. Vote yes/ Messrs. Davis, Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, and Marzec.

Selectman Davis suggested the Board revote their position on Article 26 [Acceptance of Ash Street]. He stated that the Board previously voted to take no position on this article but felt that the Board should change their position to "not to accept". Harold Gould, Town Moderator, interjected that because the Board never voted to lay out Ash Street prior to tonight's town meeting, the article could not go forward anyway.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to adjourn the May 6, 2008 Board of Selectmen's meeting at the close of tonight's Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Davis, and Marzec.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

s/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
May 19, 2008**

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

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

Open Session Adjourned: 6:32 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:33 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:50 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**April 28, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the April 28, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**April 28, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the April 28, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**May 6, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the May 6, 2008 Spring Annual Town Meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** Brian Burke, 33 Keryn Court, Whitinsville mentioned that he is the Town Representative for the Northbridge Youth Soccer and read aloud a brief statement of appeal. That said, Chairman Audette mentioned the Board of Selectmen will get back to him and thanked him for coming tonight.

**Annual License Renewals [Pool Tables, Bowling, & Billiards].** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve the above mentioned license renewals subject to the payment of all outstanding liens. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Alternatives/ 1) Request permission to hang a banner across Church Street from May 20<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> to advertise their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valley Friendship Tour fundraiser.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to hang a banner across Church Street from May 20<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> to advertise their 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Valley Friendship Tour fundraiser. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Alternatives [23<sup>rd</sup> annual "Valley Friendship Tour, Saturday, May 31, 2008]/Request to close Douglas Road at the start of each race beginning at 8:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., and 11:00 A.M.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve Alternatives' request to close Douglas Road at the start of each race beginning at 8:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M., and 11:00 A.M. subject to the Police Department's approval. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Whitin Garden Club/Request permission to use Elsa Mason Conservation Trust Fund monies to help clean up the community gardens/Vote to approve. Present: Jeff Allard, President of the Whitin Garden Club.** Mr. Allard requests permission from the Board of Selectmen to use Elsa Mason Conservation Trust Fund to pay \$475 for a 15-yard dumpster [cost of clean up]. After a brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed to approve this request

pending approval from the Conservation Commission. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to allow the Whitin Garden Club permission to use the Elsa Mason Conservation Trust Fund monies to help clean up the community gardens pending approval from the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous. Selectman Ampagoomian requests that the Conservation Commission look into the Elsa Mason Conservation Trust Fund to make sure it's being handled properly. Town Manager Kozak will look into the Trust Fund and report back to the Board his findings at their next scheduled meeting.

**FY '09 Sewer Rates/Vote to approve.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the Town should stop using retained earnings to cover the shortfall in sewer fee revenue because additional work will be needed on the sewer plant in the upcoming years and the Town will need the reserves. With that in mind, Town Manager Kozak strongly recommended the Board of Selectmen to consider increasing the rates 21% to cover the potential shortfall for the next fiscal year. DPW Director Richard Sasseville reiterated that the costs keep going up and the revenue keeps falling. Town Manager Kozak mentioned the connection fees will remain the same. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to raise the FY 2009 sewer utility rates 21%. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Audette and Marzec. Vote no/Messrs. Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. Selectman Montecalvo suggested an increase of 9% and stated that he will not vote for a 21% increase. He feels that is too much of an increase. Selectman Ampagoomian concurred with Selectman Montecalvo.

TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE  
SEWER SYSTEM

SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR SEWER SERVICES  
QUARTERLY BILLING CYCLE

Effective Date: July 1, 2008

QUARTERLY RATES

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

For usage of 800 cubic feet or less per quarter	\$ 60.50
For the first 900 to 2,000 cubic feet used or fraction thereof	\$ 89.18
For each additional 100 cubic feet thereafter	5.59
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	4.19

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	\$ 924.00
Existing multi family residence (first unit)	924.00
Each additional existing unit	528.00
New single family residence	7,920.00
New multi family residence (first unit)	7,920.00
Each additional unit	6,600.00
Commercial or Industrial (minimum)	9,240.00
Commercial or Industrial (whichever is greater)	462.00 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.

**The Grill [John A. Pardee]/) Application for Entertainment License with Recorded Music and Dancing by patrons. Present: John Pardee and Chief Walter Warchol.** Chief Warchol mentioned the Safety Committee had some concerns with having a 'live band' because of limited parking and occupancy. That said, Mr. Pardee agreed to remove the words "live band" from his application. The Board agreed with Chief Warchol and the Safety Committee's recommendation that there be no live music allowed at The Grill and further agreed to make this a condition on the license. A motion/Mr. Montecalvo, seconded/Mr. Davis to approve The Grill's Entertainment License including Dancing by patrons and Recorded Music only. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**166 Church Street – Handicap access ramp [Brad Pierce]/Vote to issue license agreement.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that there was still some discussion between Town Counsel and Mr. Pierce's counsel on the language of the agreement. However, he explained that they worked through the language and both attorneys have agreed to the license agreement. Selectman Ampagoomian still has some concerns by granting this license as it might present more issues. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the license agreement between West Sutton Realty, LLC and the Town of Northbridge for the Handicap access ramp to be located at 166 Church Street, Whitinsville. Vote yes/Messrs. Montecalvo, Davis, Audette and Marzec. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian.

**Cable Studio.** Selectman Davis pointed out the many reasons for relocating the cable studio to the high school. Each Selectman then voiced his opinion on where the studio should be located. A motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Marzec to ask the Town Manager to negotiate and sign a minimum 5-year agreement with the Northbridge School Administration to place the Cable Studio in the High School. Chairman Audette said this item has been on the agenda several times and, as such, he would like to see it resolved. Continuing, he mentioned there was a motion on the floor and seconded. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Davis, seconded/Mr. Marzec to ask Town Manager Kozak to negotiate and sign a minimum 5-year agreement with the Northbridge School Administration to place the Northbridge Cable Studio in the High School. Vote yes/Messrs. Davis, Marzec and Audette. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo and Ampagoomian.

**Town Manager's Contract Extension.** Chairman Audette reminded the Board that the Town Manager's Contract was extended to June 30, 2011 and it just needs to be signed this evening. \*Selectman Ampagoomian wanted it known that he did not sign or approve Town Manager Kozak's contract extension.

**Town Manager's Goals and Objectives/Vote to approve.** After a brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed that the Town Manager's Goals and Objectives will be reviewed by the newly elected members of the Board of Selectmen. No vote was taken.

**High School Fields Access.** Town Manager Kozak met with the School Committee, Safety Committee, Building, Planning and Construction Committee, and Parks and Recreation to discuss access to the High School Fields. It was noted that these fields were never intended to be playing fields, just practice fields. The Building, Planning and Construction Committee mentioned they would have an engineer look into the access road when they get the bids to repair the athletic fields. They hope to be in the construction phase within 6 to 8 weeks at which time the fields will be closed down during construction. A motion/ Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Davis to direct Town Manager Kozak to contact the Building, Planning and Construction Committee with respect to allowing Town leagues to continue using the fields after the construction period ending around June 8, 2008 and with the provision that the gate will remain closed until such time. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Union Street Brook Update. Present: DPW Director Richard Sasseville.** Mr. Sasseville provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of a test report he put together prior to tonight's meeting. He asked if the Board had any questions regarding his report and then provided a brief overview. He advised that the DPW conducted tests of the drainage system on Devon Drive and

Louisa Drive in the Union Place Subdivision. The purpose of the tests was to determine if stormwater collected by the on-street catch basins was being directed into the various drainage structures and detention areas as detailed on the approved drainage plans for the project. The tests were conducted by DPW Director Richard Sasseville, Highway Division Working Foreman Richard Brooks and Highway Equipment Operator John Brosnahan. Portions of the test were also observed by Mr. Robert Parker, a resident of Nolet Street. Based on the tests and inspections that were conducted it appears that all components of the stormwater collection system in the Union Place subdivision are directing stormwater as intended.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Town Beach – received the lease from Whitinsville Water Company and will sign it pending there are no questions and/or concerns from the Board of Selectmen. 2) Senator Moore Office Hours at Town Hall on June 16, 2008 from 6-8 PM. 3) Alternatives Announcement – the grand opening of the Plaza is May 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 A.M. 4) Mass. Municipal Management Association Regionalization Forum – mentioned he attended the forum in Worcester and discussed the regionalization of Schools. 5) Council on Aging meeting – he attended the meeting to see what they are proposing and the possibility of serving meals on Fridays to the seniors again. 6) Town Election – May 20, 2008. Urged everyone to come out and vote.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** Plummer's Corner push. 2) Sutton Street Update 3) Funding for the Library – Town Manager Kozak will provide a report. **Selectman Marzec/1)** publicly thanked Officer Matt Leonard for coming to his house under difficult circumstances to deliver the news of the passing of his mother. He mentioned that Officer Leonard was very professional and empathetic. **Selectman Montecalvo/1)** thanked Selectman Davis and Chairman Audette for serving as Selectmen for the Town of Northbridge and wished them well. **Selectman Davis/1)** mentioned he served in Town Government for almost 30 years and has enjoyed it. He thanked the Board of Selectmen and wished them well. **Chairman Audette/1)** Memorial Day Parade at Pine Grove begins at 9 A.M., the Rockdale Parade starts at 11 A.M. at the Rockdale Legion. 2) Thanked everyone for their cards and phone calls while he was ill. 3) said he has enjoyed serving 3 years as Selectman for the Town of Northbridge and thanked everyone in the community, the Selectmen and the Town Manager.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:35 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joseph Montecalvo, Clerk**

dg/

\* At their regularly scheduled meeting of July 14, 2008, the Board voted to amend the May 19, 2008 minutes as follows: Under Town Manager's Contract Extension, Selectman Ampagoomian wanted it known that he did not sign or approve Town Manager Kozak's contract extension.

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
June 9, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Town Manager Kozak at 6:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:32 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:33 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:50 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 P.M.

Town Manager Kozak welcomed the two newly appointed Selectmen Daniel Nolan and Thomas Melia.

**Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen:**

Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he would proceed with the reorganization of the Board. Town Manager Kozak polled the Board of Selectmen for **Nominations for Chairman:** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Joseph Montecalvo as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to nominate James Marzec as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to close the nominations. After no further comments, Town Manager Kozak asked for Roll Call Votes for Joseph Montecalvo: Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes, Mr. Melia/Yes, Mr. Montecalvo/Yes, Mr. Marzec/No, and Mr. Nolan/No. Continuing, Town Manager Kozak asked for Roll Call Votes for James Marzec: Mr. Nolan/Yes, Mr. Marzec/Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/No, Mr. Montecalvo/No and Mr. Melia/No. As Selectman Montecalvo received the majority of the votes, the Town Manager announced Joseph Montecalvo as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Montecalvo assumed the Chair. Selectman Marzec called for a motion to make the vote unanimous. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to make the previous vote regarding the selection of Chairman of the Board unanimous. Vote yes/Unanimous. Chairman Montecalvo called for **Nominations for Vice-Chairman:** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to nominate Charles Ampagoomian as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Hearing no further motions for the position of Vice-Chairman, vote on the motion: Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Melia and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Nolan and Marzec. Chairman Montecalvo called for **Nominations for Clerk:** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Marzec to nominate Daniel Nolan as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Hearing no further motions for the position of Clerk, vote on the motion: Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Update on the Riverdale Mill Fire. Present: Fire Chief Gary Nestor.** Chief Nestor provided the Selectmen with an update on the Riverdale Mill Fire. He mentioned the call came in at 6:15 PM from a worker at the mill. Upon arriving, the building was already evacuated and no one was hurt. At the scene, were fire trucks from Northbridge, Uxbridge, Grafton and Upton. The Town of Douglas covered the Whitinsville Fire Station and Sutton covered the Rockdale Fire Station. Later on, Oxford Fire Department showed up to assist. The damages were estimated to be over \$100,000.00. The Town Manager and Board of Selectmen commended the Northbridge Fire Department for handling the fire so efficiently and effectively. Chief Nestor mentioned his crew worked hard and did a tremendous job.

**Approval of Minutes. None.**

**Citizens' Comments/Input. None.**

**Vote to sign paperwork for permanent bonding in the amount of \$4.5 million for the following projects: Middle School Roof, Fire Station Roof, Police Station Roof, and various sewer projects/Vote to sign. Present: Deborah Kristoff, Treasurer/Collector.** Ms. Kristoff informed the Board of Selectmen that she had to do borrowing in the in the amount of \$4.5 million for the following projects:

1. Middle School Roof	\$2,155,000.00
2. Whitinsville Sewer Interceptor	\$1,265,000.00
3. Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 360,000.00
4. Police Station Roof	\$ 215,000.00
5. Northbridge Middle School	\$ 200,000.00
6. Sewer Siphon	\$ 170,000.00
7. Fire Station Roof	\$ 135,000.00

Ms. Kristoff mentioned that Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc. was awarded the bid since they came in at the lowest rate of 3.89%. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to proceed and sign. Vote yes/Unanimous. Selectman Melia mentioned he was just informed that because he is employed by Unibank, and the Town uses Unibank as its financial advisor, he must withdraw his motion. Selectman Nolan then read aloud a statement voting the sale of \$4.5 million General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2008 Bonds of the Town dated June 15, 2008 to Stifel Nicholas & Company, Inc. at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$19,414.55 is hereby approved and confirmed. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to proceed and sign the bonds. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Marzec and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Melia.

**Dog Warrant/Vote to authorize Chairman of the Board to sign. Present: Police Chief Walter Warchol.** Chief Warchol respectfully requested that the Board of Selectmen authorize the animal control officer to have statutory powers for the upcoming year. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to authorize the Chairman Montecalvo to sign the dog warrant for Dan Chauvin, Animal Control Officer. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Hawks Nest Tavern [Philip R. Pichel, Sr., Manager] / 1) Transfer of Automatic Amusement Device License 2) Transfer of Common Victualler's License 3) Application for Sunday State Entertainment License and 4) Application for Entertainment License.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that this establishment has had Automatic Amusement & Common Victualler licenses in the past under the previous management [ECM Corp. d/b/a Time Out Tavern, Edward C. Mitchell, Manager] and that the new owner [Philip R. Pichel, Sr.] has applied to have these two licenses transferred to Hawks Nest Tavern. Mr. Kozak advised that the Entertainment and Sunday State Entertainment Licenses are new to this establishment. Selectman Marzec asked if there were ever any complaints by neighbors regarding the noise level. Chief Warchol replied that there have not been any complaints and gave his approval to move forward with issuing the licenses. A motion /Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to transfer the Automatic Amusement Device License and the Common Victualler License from Time Out Tavern to Hawks Nest Tavern and to approve and issue an Entertainment License including Dancing by patrons and Recorded or Live Music and a Sunday State License to Hawks Nest Tavern [Philip R. Pichel, Sr., Manager]. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Whitin Community Center/1) Request to hold a "Picnic in the Park" Parade on July 19, 2008. 2) Request permission to close Linwood Avenue and Hill Street on July 19, 2008 from 9:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.** Chief Warchol mentioned that the parade would begin at the Middle School continue down Linwood Avenue through Memorial Square up Hill Street and into the park. After speaking to the Whitin Community Center, the Chief said that it could be done but it would be an inconvenience. Selectman Ampagoomian asked Chief Warchol to speak to the Whitin Community Center Director to iron out the details and be present at the Board's next meeting on June 23, 2008. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to defer this matter until their next scheduled meeting on June 23, 2008 in order to allow Chief Warchol enough time to work out the details with the Director at the Whitin Community Center. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Medicare-eligible Retirees' Health Insurance Contribution Percentage/Vote to establish a contribution percentage rate for non-indemnity health insurance plans for Medicare eligible retirees.** Selectman Melia recused himself from this subject, as he is a retiree. After a brief discussion, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian that employees who retire under the Northbridge Retirement System or the Teachers' Retirement System and are eligible for enrollment in Medicare and chooses a non-indemnity senior health plan that those retirees pay the same contribution rate as non-medicare eligible retirees enrolled in a health maintenance plan. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Ampagoomian, Nolan, and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Melia.

**Northbridge Fire Department/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> to advertise their annual Fourth of July Fireworks Event scheduled for July 3, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to grant permission to the Northbridge Fire Department to hang a banner across Church Street from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> to advertise their annual Fourth of July Fireworks Event scheduled for Thursday, July 3, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**St. Patrick's Church/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from September 6<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup> to advertise their Sixteenth Fall Festival on September 20, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to St. Patrick's Church to hang a banner over Church Street from September 6<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup> to advertise their Sixteenth Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, September 20, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Update on Town Roads and Intersection Projects [Richard Sasseville, DPW Director].** Mr. Sasseville mentioned that he received a memorandum from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission announcing the development process for the transportation improvement program for Central Mass. This is done every year and it covers a span of about 3 to 4 years for which they prioritize projects. There are three major projects that are on the Transportation Improvement

Program: **1)** Reconstruction of Sutton Street – once Mass Highway reviews the design they will coordinate the required public hearings. **2)** Plummer’s Corner – Mass Highway has agreed to pick up the design once it receives the 25% stage. **3)** Douglas Road Bridge (no update from Mass Highway). That said, he mentioned that the TIP listed an unidentified project as Quaker Street – portion from Quaker Street to Church Street into Upton. Selectman Ampagoomian asked who owns the Ross Rajotte Bridge. Mr. Sasseville responded that Mass Highway handles the bridges. Selectman Ampagoomian suggested that this bridge be placed on the list of projects/bridges to be repaired.

**Town Manager’s Report. UPDATES:** **1)** Senior Citizen Tax Work-Off Program – is underway. Seniors have been notified and will begin working immediately; **2)** MMMA Meeting - mentioned he attended this meeting and some of the topics discussed were changes in legislation for the budgets; changing the percentages on the cost of living for retirees; working collectively as Managers to gain consensus with Department Heads; **3)** BPCC Meeting – specs are almost ready for the field and the RFQ for a new DPW facility is in draft form; **4)** M.O.R.E. Meeting – a discussion took place on the annual budgets; **5)** School Committee Meeting – attending the School Committee Meeting and will be providing an update on negotiations; **6)** Reminder that Senator Moore will be conducting office hours in the Board Of Selectmen's Room on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM.

**Selectmen’s Concerns. Selectman Melia 1)** Thanked everyone, including his family, for supporting him on the recent election for Town Selectman. He would like everyone to know that he will work collectively with the Board of Selectmen and all other Boards to move the Town forward in a positive manner. **2)** He then publicly mentioned that he never promised Jim Marzec or anyone for that matter his vote for Chairmanship. He voted for Mr. Montecalvo because he felt that at this given time he was the better fit. **3)** Would like a monthly update from the DPW Director on the Union Street Brook & Nolet Street issue; **4)** Sewer Increase; **5)** Election on May 20th – noticed there were minor traffic flow problems entering and exiting the High School; **6)** Cable Studio Location; **7)** Memorial Day Parade – commended both parties for their parade, however, he suggested that next year there be only one parade. [Alternate the location between Rockdale and Whitinsville each year]. **Selectman Marzec 1)** Town Manager Goals and Objectives; **2)** Projects in Town; **3)** Opportunity for Office Hours [meet with a Selectman]; **4)** Concerned with meeting 3 weeks after the election to reorganize; **5)** Try to find a solution to access the High School Fields; **6)** Oakhurst Site – invite members in to view the site; **7)** Master Plan Meeting on Tuesday night, June 10<sup>th</sup>. **Selectman Nolan 1)** mentioned that he was very impressed with the Alternative’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and with they have done for the community. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** commended Mr. Marzec for his concerns with the reorganization of the Board and that he tried to have a meeting sooner. **2)** Commended DPW Director Dick Sasseville for updating the Board on the projects/bridges in Town. **3)** Where does the BPCC stand on fixing and paying for the detention basin? **4)** received numerous requests from residents regarding second water meters for irrigation systems, is there any way the Board can review the policy? **5)** mentioned that he and his wife Sharron were invited by the United States Army National Guard to participate in a memorial dedication at Camp Edwards and said it was a very moving ceremony. **Chairman Montecalvo 1)** suggested to the Board of Selectmen that they review the Selectmen's Policy and Procedures Manual. **Selectman Melia** asked if anyone has heard about the Linwood Post Office issue. Town Manager Kozak replied that he has not heard anything but will keep the Board apprised should he hear something. **Selectman Ampagoomian** asked if there was any progress regarding the landfill on Church Street extension.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
June 23, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 6:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager. **Absent:** Mr. Marzec and it is duly noted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:32 P.M.

Executive Session Convened: 6:33 P.M.

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:55 P.M.

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**May 5, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the May 5, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo.

**May 19, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve but not release the May 19, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo.

**Recognition of Mrs. Marilyn Baker, Chairman – Recycling Committee, for her efforts in establishing and promoting the value of recycling throughout Northbridge and the entire Blackstone Valley. Present: Marilyn Baker.** Chairman Montecalvo recognized Mrs. Baker for all her hard work and dedication of organizing the recycling program for the Town of Northbridge. He also mentioned that the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager and citizens of Northbridge are extremely grateful for her services and the time she has spent to get the recycling center to where it is today. Mrs. Baker thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Recycling Committee and said she couldn't have done it without them.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. 1) Safety Committee [Alternate]: Arthur Magowan, Highway Department.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to appoint Arthur Magowan Highway Department as an alternate member of the Safety Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo. **2) Safety Committee [School Committee. Rep.]: Susan Brouwer, School Comm. Member.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to affirm the appointment of Susan Brouwer to the Safety Committee as recommended by the School Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo. **3) 2008 Annual Reappointments/Vote to approve.** Chairman Montecalvo read aloud the list of names up for reappointment by the Board of Selectmen and asked them to say hold if they wished not to move forward on an appointment. Selectman Ampagoomian requested a hold be placed on the three Cable Advisory Committee appointments. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Cable Advisory Committee reappointments would be held off until the next agenda [7/14/08] so that all candidates and interested applicants could be interviewed. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the 2008 annual reappointments of the Board of Selectmen as indicated on the list provided in the agenda packets. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo. Selectman Ampagoomian requested a letter of appreciation be sent to all individuals who are not seeking reappointment.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager/1) 2008 Annual Reappointments – Vote to affirm.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to affirm the Town Manager's 2008 listing of Annual Reappointments as indicated on the list provided in the agenda packets. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**Armenian Apostolic Church/1) Request to hang a banner over Church Street from August 3rd to August 17th to advertise their Annual Picnic to be held Sunday, August 17, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to the Armenian Apostolic Church to hang a banner across Church Street from August 3rd to August 17th to advertise their Annual Picnic to be held Sunday, August 17, 2008. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian and

Nolan. Abstain/Mr. Montecalvo. **2) Request for One-Day Beer and Wine License for the Annual Picnic, Sunday, August 17, 2008 from 12 Noon to 6:00 P.M.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the Armenian Apostolic Church's application for a one-day Beer and Wine License for the purpose and date indicated above. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian and Nolan. Abstain/Mr. Montecalvo.

**Playground and Recreation Commission/Request to use the Whitinsville Town Common on 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, and 8/28 [Thursday evenings from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M.] for the Summer Concert Series.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Playground and Recreation Commission's request to use the Whitinsville Town Common for the purpose and dates indicated above. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian, Nolan and Montecalvo.

**Whitin Community Center/1) Request to hold a "Picnic in the Park" Parade on July 19, 2008. 2) Request permission to close Linwood Avenue and Hill Street on July 19, 2008 from 9:45 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. Present: Police Chief Walter Warchol and Heather Elster, Vice President of Operations, Whitin Community Center.** Chief Warchol stated that he had one minor issue with this request, which was the parade route. That said, he recommended starting on Main Street rather than Douglas Road, continuing through Memorial Square, up Hill Street and into Whitin Park. He explained that this alternate route would be shorter and ultimately less disruptive to the flow of traffic at Memorial Square. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to grant permission to the Whitin Community Center to parade on July 19, 2008 from Main Street to Whitin Park using the alternate parade route as suggested by Chief Warchol. They were also granted permission to close Linwood Avenue and Hill Street from 9:45 AM to 10 AM for that purpose. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. **2) Request permission to hang a banner over Church Street from July 6, 2008 to July 19, 2008 to advertise their Annual Picnic in the Park, Saturday, July 19, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to grant permission to the Whitin Community Center to hang a banner over Church Street from July 6, 2008 to July 19, 2008 to advertise their Annual Picnic in the Park to be held Saturday, July 19, 2008. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo.

**Regional Recycling Center Agreement/Vote to sign.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he received the agreement from Town Counsel today and suggested that the Board of Selectmen sign the agreement if they are ready. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to sign the Regional Recycling Center Agreement. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo.

**Northbridge Redevelopment Corporation [Paul Mahoney]/Update on Church Street Landfill.** Mr. Paul Mahoney provided an update on the Church Street landfill. He mentioned that the cleaning of the canal has been completed and his company is three quarters of the way done. Mr. Mahoney also mentioned that he provides a monthly report to the planning board.

**Northbridge Town Charter/Discuss process.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned he recently reviewed the current Town Charter for information about the process for future reviews of the Charter. Chairman Montecalvo requested Town Manager Kozak to contact the representatives of the previous Charter Commission and inform them that the Board of Selectmen is ready to begin the process of updating the Charter.

**Town Manager's Goals and Objectives.** Chairman Montecalvo will review the Goals and Objectives submitted by Board members and narrow them down to three to five goals and will provide them to Board members at the next Selectmen's meeting on July 14, 2008.

**Town Manager's Report.** **1)** Revised Traffic Flow Pattern a Poll Location [High School] – stated he received a draft drawing from Selectman Melia showing a new traffic flow pattern for the poll location at the high school. Town Manager Kozak reviewed the drawing with the Safety Committee, Chief of Police, Town Clerk and DPW Director and it will be instituted at the next election. **2)** Flood Control Study [Rockdale] – mentioned that the DPW Director Richard Sasseville was in contact with one of our consultants SEA, and was able to arrange a meeting with a representative from the core of engineers and will attempt to go for some grant funds. It was suggested to look at Rockdale and see if it can be added to the Rhode Island study of the Blackstone Valley. **3)** Regional Manager's Meeting – attended a meeting in Northbridge to look at regionalization and will meet monthly with the surrounding towns. **4)** BPC Update – met last week and reviewed the specifications for the DPW Facility. Town Manager Kozak mentioned the ad has been sent to the Central Register for advertisement [plan study overview]. The Building, Planning and Construction Committee has also finalized the specifications for the high school fields and will go out for bid in the next few weeks.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Melia 1)** spoke to a resident on Nolet Street regarding the brook and mentioned the resident was happy with the changes that have taken place. He suggested the DPW Director provide an update at the next meeting. **2)** asked for an update on the Linwood Post Office. Town Manager Kozak replied that he hasn't heard anything as of yet but will call to find out.

**Selectman Nolan 1)** mentioned that he spoke to Police Chief Warchol about the increase in vandalism within the town. He is wondering if there is anything they can do as a Board. Police Chief Warchol asked that the Board give him ample time to handle and he will report on it monthly. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** letter from Joanne Alto regarding the School; **2)** second water meters; **3)** any word on the school building audit; **4)** final copy of the cable contract. **Chairman Montecalvo** mentioned that he would like to have both Veterans organizations come before the Board of Selectmen to discuss future Memorial Day parades.

**Items for Future Agenda. 1)** Discuss future Memorial Day Parades with Veterans groups. **2)** Revisit location of polling precincts and bringing Precinct 2 back to the American Legion.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 8: 10 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen  
July 14, 2008**

**Joint Meeting w/Cable Advisory Committee**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

**Cable Advisory Committee:** Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian, Shelley Buma, Dean Fortin, David Miedema, III, and Ronald Guillaume.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**May 5, 2008**

Chairman Montecalvo announced that the May 5, 2008 minutes were voted on in error at the last meeting and that a new vote would have to be taken tonight because Selectman Marzec was absent and the newly appointed Selectmen were not present at those meetings. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the May 5, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec and Montecalvo. Abstain/Messrs. Melia and Nolan.

**May 19, 2008**

Selectman Ampagoomian requested the May 19, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under the item "Town Manager's Contract Extension", he wanted it stated that he did not sign or approve Town Manager Kozak's contract extension. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the amended May 19, 2008 minutes as requested by Selectman Ampagoomian. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec and Montecalvo. Abstain/Messrs. Melia and Nolan.

**May 19, 2008 [Executive Session]**

Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that the May 19, 2008 Executive Session minutes were voted on in error at the last meeting and that a new vote would have to be taken tonight because Selectman Marzec was absent and the newly appointed Selectmen were not present at this meeting. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve but not release the May 19, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec and Montecalvo. Abstain/Messrs. Melia and Nolan.

**June 9, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the June 9, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**June 23, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve but not to release the June 23, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Marzec.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. 1) Cable Advisory Committee [Annual Reappointments]: a) Sharron Ampagoomian; b) Dean Fortin; c) Jerry Bagdasarian; d) Harry Berkowitz (new applicant).**

Chairman Montecalvo noted that the Town Manager had received verbal communication from Mr. Bagdasarian that he would not seek reappointment. He asked that Mr. Berkowitz come forward, since he is a new applicant, so that the Selectmen could ask questions. Selectman Marzec asked Mr. Berkowitz about his previous tenure as Chairman of the Cable Advisory Committee and questioned why there were no minutes ever submitted. Mr. Berkowitz replied that there was never a quorum at his meetings. Selectman Nolan asked how Mr. Berkowitz could bring more users to use the Public Access television. Mr. Berkowitz replied that is not the job of the Cable Advisory Committee but the job of the local access studio to handle. The more programming you have the more interest you generate. Selectman Melia asked if Mr. Berkowitz has reviewed the new policy manual. Mr. Berkowitz mentioned that he has not seen it but has heard about it. He then expressed his concerns about the pornography being aired and the potential lawsuits. Selectman Marzec asked Mr. Berkowitz how many meetings does the Cable Advisory Committee have. Mr. Berkowitz mentioned that are required to have four meetings and he would post them in advance. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Sharron Ampagoomian, Dean Fortin, and Harry Berkowitz to the Cable Advisory Committee. Selectman Marzec asked that the votes be taken individually on each candidate. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Sharron Ampagoomian to the Cable Advisory Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Dean Fortin to the Cable Advisory Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Harry Berkowitz to the Cable Advisory Committee. Vote yes/Messrs Melia, Ampagoomian, Nolan and Montecalvo. Vote no/Mr. Marzec.

**2) Building, Planning and Construction Committee: George Murray.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint George Murray to the Building, Planning and Construction Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Sharron Ampagoomian, 41 Henry Street, Whitinsville, MA,** mentioned that the Board of Selectmen asked to have Cable Access producers present this evening and she wanted to make sure that any producer present had the opportunity to speak on what they believe in. Mrs. Ampagoomian asked if the Cable Policy Manual had come back from Town Counsel. Town Manager Kozak and Chairman Montecalvo informed Mrs. Ampagoomian that a copy of the manual had been placed in the Cable Committee's mailbox. **Heather Vasale Malo, 182 Heritage Drive,** suggested that a speaker be placed in the back of the Selectmen's room so that people in the back of the room can hear people speak. Ms. Malo apologized to the people who are offended by her program and then stated that her program is meant to be funny, educational and informative.

**Town Manager's Goals and Objectives.** Chairman Montecalvo there are four goals and objectives that he and Ted have agreed to. Chairman Montecalvo felt these four goals are measurable and that is why he has chosen them for the Board to review and approve. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the four goals and objectives for Town Manager Kozak as outlined in their packet. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Fall Annual Town Meeting [Tuesday - October 28, 2008].** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to close the Fall Annual Town Meeting warrant Friday, September 12, 2008 at Noon. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Town Clerk [Doreen Cedrone]/ 1) Updating on voting at precincts –** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that some residents in town would like to see the return of polling at Precinct 2 – American Legion in Rockdale. Ms. Cedrone thought everything has gone smoothly since combining the precincts at one location [high school], except for minor traffic problems when entering and exiting the parking lot. Overall, she has received all positive feedback from wardens, clerks and citizens in town. Selectman Melia feels that keeping all the polling in one precinct should remain in tact for another election before making any changes. Chairman Montecalvo asked Ms. Cedrone to provide a report after the national election. **2) Certification –** Chairman Montecalvo presented Doreen Cedrone with a certificate provided by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks announcing her certification as a certified Municipal Town Clerk. He mentioned Ms. Cedrone has completed all requirements by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks for the period of June 30, 2008 through June 30, 2012.

**Cable Advisory Committee Policy Manual. Present: Chairman Sharron Ampagoomian, Committee Members: David Miedema, III, Ronald Guillaume and Shelley Buma. Also Present: Producers of Cable Studio.** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that a copy of the Cable Policy Manual has been submitted to Town Counsel for their review. Once it is approved by Town Counsel, the Board of Selectmen will put in on a future agenda for discussion.

**Cable Studio Location [Cable Committee].** Chairman Montecalvo felt that not enough sites have been explored for the location of the studio. He suggested that the Cable Advisory Committee and Studio Producers get together and view other sites in town that could serve as the location of the Cable Studio. **Note: The Audio of the meeting went dead for about 5 minutes.** Selectman Marzec mentioned that the Cable Studio issue has been ongoing for over a year and a half and that a vote was taken and the issue should be resolved. Selectman Marzec feels the topic has been discussed ad nauseam. The Selectmen were asked for alternative locations and no suitable town-owned locations were mentioned other than the Aldrich School Building. That said, he recommended the vote from the previous Board be upheld. Selectman Melia state that he would like further information before he makes his decision and then asked if the Cable Committee was planning to reorganize. He further suggested that maybe it was time for a new chairperson to take charge and get the job done. Chairman Montecalvo directed the Cable Committee to examine other facilities, gather all their facts and then come before the Board of Selectmen to discuss.

**Update on Union Street Brook [DPW Director Richard Sasseville].** Mr. Sasseville provided the Board of Selectmen with a quick presentation so that the newly elected Board members could have a better understanding of the issues at hand with the Union Street Brook. He mentioned that his department has made some modifications to the drainage system on Louisa Drive and Devon Drive that can be removed or adjusted if needed. Due to the fact there hasn't been any major storm events since these actions were taken, the Highway Department cannot test their effectiveness but will continue to monitor these two areas.

**Water Meters.** DPW Director Richard Sasseville mentioned that Mr. Don Bunker is no longer the manager of the Whitinsville Water Company but will continue to work as a consultant until the new water filtration plant is completed. Mr. Sasseville informed the Selectmen that the Whitinsville Water Company has rules and regulations, which state that they allow only one water meter per service. These rules and regulations have been approved by the Department of Public Utilities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that if the Board of Selectmen chooses to assist the individuals with second meters for their water irrigation systems, it could have a negative impact with the sewer revenues. If you discount irrigation water from being billed on the sewer system, you still have to make up that revenue some other way. David Nowlan, 86 Washington Street, explained why he felt it wasn't fair to pay for water that wasn't going into the sewer system. He suggested bringing back the abatement process. The Board of Selectmen agreed to look into this matter further to come up with a better solution. The Town Manager advised that he will report to the Selectmen at a later date.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Building Inspector Vehicle – Asked the Board if it would be possible for the Building Inspector to utilize the Fire Chief's old vehicle due to the extensive travelling he does in the course of a week. Chairman Montecalvo advised the Town Manager to make that decision. 2) Mileage Reimbursement Rate–He recommended the mileage reimbursement change from 44 cents to 48.5 cents. Selectman Melia and Selectman Ampagoomian recommended the mileage reimbursement rate be changed to 58.5 cents. Town Manager Kozak remained firm on 48.5 cents. 3) Building, Planning & Construction Committee – three proposals will be coming in: a) the athletic fields, b) the Middle School Track and c) DPW Facility. 4) Recycling Facility – Scheduled to open on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at 9 a.m. Brochures have been sent to all residents in Northbridge. 5) Affordable Housing Agreement – received a phone call from the Executive Office of Community Development about a piece of property that is in foreclosure. He asked if the Town authorize the state to reauthorize the marketing of the property. 6) Attended a meeting at Mass Highway with DPW Director Richard Sasseville and Chairman Joseph Montecalvo. They met with Mr. Frost who provided them with updates on the bridge projects and other projects going on in the Blackstone Valley area.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Marzec** 1) High School Fields – requested periodic updates. 2) Progress reports on the future upgrade of the Water Filtration System [Whitinsville Water Company]. 3) Middle School Roof Reimbursement. Town Manager Kozak is looking into this. 4) Status of the Carpenter Road causeway. 5) Cable Programming Issue (content). **Selectman Melia** 1) complaint regarding the recent local access TV show. He feels this should be investigated by the District Attorney Office and determined whether it is an obscene show. 2) Cable Policy Manual – he mentioned that he liked it but it is missing information related to due process. 3) Acknowledged a letter from George Warren on fuel and oil pricing. **Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) Elsa Mason Conservation Trust Fund – status? Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the Town has exhausted all its resources and cannot find any information on this. 2) asked the Chairman and Town Manager to update the Board of Selectmen on their recent meeting with Town Counsel [Kopelman & Paige]. Chairman Montecalvo reported that they discussed their fees and services and felt they were still cheaper than other firms. 3) had a conversation with Town Manager Kozak regarding the power plant that was interested in the Town of Uxbridge and felt the Town Manager should contact them for information. 4) received a packet of information from a pellet factory company in Maine and asked about the status. He was informed the company is building their factory in the Town of Upton. 5) handicap door opener -when is the button going to be placed outside? Town Manager Kozak mentioned that they have to go out to bid first. 6) asked Town Manger to provide the Board with backup information relative to items in his Town Manager's report. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned the Selectmen's packets would be placed in their mail slots on the Wednesday prior to a scheduled meeting by 4:30 PM. 7) suggested that the Executive Sessions should be recorded. Town Manager Kozak will discuss with Town Counsel and report to the Board with his findings. 8) ACLU update? Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he sent a letter to the ACLU requesting a check for the information needed and once the Town Manager's Office receives the check, the information would be forwarded. 9) New Police Officers – will there be a walking beat? Chief Warchol mentioned they only have them on weekends due to budget constraints this year. 10) Noted that a former longtime resident of Northbridge, Andy Avedisian, World War II Veteran, has passed away. His wife, Ruth, was the Town's ~~\*former~~ Assistant Town Clerk. **Selectman Nolan** 1) commended Town Manager Kozak for cleaning up the Great Hall. 2) commended the Fire Department for their wonderful display of fireworks on the Fourth of July. He received numerous responses from citizens who enjoyed them. **Chairman Montecalvo** 1) mentioned that Charter Communications signed the contract and the check is in the mail. 2) received a letter from a resident regarding a traffic study being conducted on Quaker Street who feels the study should be conducted when school is in session. 3) Pointed out that Mr. Davis has requested the minutes of the Executive Sessions for the Building, Planning and Construction Committee.

**Items for Future Agenda.** 1) Discussion on future Memorial Day Parades with Veterans. 2) Revisit bringing polling back to Precinct 2 at the American Legion.

Town Manager Kozak informed the Board that he will be on vacation the week of July 28, 2008. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned the possibility of cancelling the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, pending nothing important comes up. He will notify the Selectmen by the end of next week whether or not the meeting will be cancelled.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**\*At their meeting of August 11, 2008, the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the July 14, 2008 minutes as follows: under Selectmen's Concerns, Selectman Ampagoomian, Item #10, strike the word "former" Town Clerk and insert "Assistant" Town Clerk for Ruth Avedisian.**

**Board of Selectmen  
July 28, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager was not present and it is duly noted.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. John O'Brien, 17 Cliffe Road, Whitinsville,** 15 years old, a sophomore in the Northbridge High School. He briefly spoke on behalf of the sophomore class about the unregulated content of a show that was aired on the local access channel and felt that it was inappropriate for kids his age and below to view. He expressed his concerns on the show being disgusting and distasteful and hopes the Selectmen can protect the children in town by stopping the airing of these types of shows on the local access channel. **Joseph Darrel Kulesza, 281 Samuel Drive, Whitinsville,** shared his concerns with the Selectmen about their lack of action with respect to the airing of an obscene show on the local access channel. He felt the town should deal with the issue in a clear and decisive manner. The producers should not be able to broadcast obscene shows at any given time. **Paul Buma, 218 Hill Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned that the Selectmen have to make a decision tonight to allow or not allow producers to air obscene shows at any given time. He is asking that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the newly enforced Cable Policy Manual. **Carrie Maynard, 116 East Street, Whitinsville,** mentioned she is upset with the possibility of the new board rescinding a previous boards vote with respect to the location of the cable studio. She feels the Town needs to move forward not backwards. That said, she mentioned she hopes the Selectmen approve the new cable policy manual and protect the residents in town from having to view obscene material and sodomy on the local access channel. **Patrick McGowan, 78 Heights of Hill Street, Whitinsville,** expressed his concerns about the local access show that aired.

**Charles B. Adams, Folk Musician/Requests permission to use Whitinsville Town Common to play music.** Mr. Adams appeared before the Selectmen to request permission to play his music on the Whitinsville Town Common. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that they only allow non-profit organizations. He informed Mr. Adams to contact Ken Taylor, Playground and Recreation to speak with him as his group plays on the Town Common. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec not to allow Mr. Charles Adams, Folk Musician to use the Whitinsville Town Common to play music. Vote yes/ Unanimous.

**St. Patrick's Lease/Vote to affirm.** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that there was a problem with the lease. The changes that Kopelman and Paige submitted were never updated. The School Department signed the old lease agreement and sent it to their attorney, Timothy Wickstrom. Town Counsel [Kopelman and Paige] suggested that the Selectmen pass over until further notice. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to hold off on voting the St. Patrick's lease until Town Counsel speaks with Town Manager Kozak about the updates. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Cable Studio Location [High School]/Vote to rescind prior vote of the Board.** Selectman Nolan mentioned that he is adamantly against changing a vote that was made by a previous board. Selectman Marzec feels the cable studio should be located at the High School and is upset that the current Board is voting to rescind the previous Board of Selectmen's vote. He is also upset with the fact that a fellow Selectman asked Mr. Jerry Bagdasarian to step down from the Cable Advisory Committee so that Harry Berkowitz could come aboard. Selectman Melia gave his reasons for not wanting the cable studio located at the high school and until he hears the other options from the Cable Advisory Committee, he will continue to vote this way. In response to Selectman Marzec's comments earlier this evening, Selectman Ampagoomian stated that he approached Mr. Bagdasarian to advise him that he could no longer support him as a member of the cable advisory committee and that **\*Selectman Marzec should have contacted Selectman Ampagoomian at home to find out why he was not supporting Mr. Jerry Bagdasarian as a member of the Cable Committee. Selectman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Marzec that he did not call Mr. Bagdasarian at home but that he spoke to him at Walmart in Whitinsville.** Selectman Ampagoomian mentioned that everyone thinks that the cost of cable is the taxpayer's money. This couldn't be further from the truth. Cable does not cost the residents in town a penny if they don't have the service. Selectman Ampagoomian also mentioned that he is against the cable studio being located at the high school and would like the cable advisory board bring forth other options. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to rescind the prior vote of a Board of Selectmen's meeting on May 19, 2008, where Town Manager was to negotiate and sign a minimum 5-year agreement with the Northbridge School Administration to place the Northbridge Cable Studio in the High School. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Nolan and Marzec.

**Rules and Regulations for Cable Policy. Present: Kopelman & Paige, Attorney William Hewig.** Attorney Hewig reviewed the proposed cable policy manual and offered his recommendations on the

policy relative to language, freedom of speech, and adult content. He recommended that the following sections in the policy manual be amended and/or adjusted as follows: an establishment of the community standards review board. The board would be comprised of 3 citizens: one member would be selected by the Board of Selectmen; one member appointed by the Cable Advisory Committee, and one member who is a local producer, and who shall be selected by the other two members. The purpose of the community standards review board would be to screen any suspected indecent and/or obscene material and make a preliminary determination about whether they are indecent and/or obscene. That said, the Board would need to schedule the show between Midnight and 4 A.M. and specify the appropriate warning messages for viewers. After meeting the following criteria, the Community Standards Review Board can make the decision to say yes or no to any producer about the airing of a show. Any producer or sponsor who has caused the airing of a least two live shows containing obscene material shall be denied any further use of access facilities for live production. The Board of Selectmen each expressed their thoughts and concerns relative to the recommended changes. Attorney Hewig provided the Board with some free advice by suggesting the Town form an access corporation. By having an access corporation, the liability would be limited. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to move "Rules and Regulations for Cable Policy" from discussion to decision. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Nolan, Melia and Montecalvo. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the Rules and Regulations for the Cable Policy as amended. Selectman Ampagoomian mentioned that he has too many questions and concerns about the policy to vote on it. Chairman Montecalvo asked Attorney Hewig if the Board of Selectmen could make any changes to the policy later on and he replied "yes". That said, Selectman Marzec mentioned there is a motion on the floor. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the Rules and Regulations for the Cable Policy as amended. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Nolan, Montecalvo, and Melia. Vote no/Mr. Ampagoomian.

**Town Manager's Report.** None

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Marzec 1)** Follow-up on High School Fields **2)** Causeway Issue – Chairman Montecalvo mentioned the town does not own the causeway. The Whitinsville Water Company owns it. **3)** mentioned that he received many phone calls and emails regarding the cable show that aired with pornography. He thinks the tape should be sent to the proper authority for handling and would be more than willing to provide a copy of the tape to anyone who wishes to view it. **Selectman Melia 1)** mentioned that the Sewer/Water Rate Issue (2 meters) should be discussed at a future meeting for review. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned there was a fire at 61 Meadow Pond Road, Whitinsville, MA and there were no injuries.

**Items for Future Agenda.**

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

\* At their regularly scheduled meeting of September 8, 2008, the Board voted to amend the July 28, 2008 minutes as follows: Under Cable Studio Location, Line #10, insert the following language: "Selectman Marzec should have contacted Selectman Ampagoomian at home to find out why he was not supporting Mr. Jerry Bagdasarian as a member of the Cable Committee. Selectman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Marzec that he did not call Mr. Bagdasarian at home but that he spoke to him at Walmart in Whitinsville.

**Board of Selectmen  
August 11, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Presentation of the Grand Army of the Republic picture to the Board of Selectmen [Present: Ken Trajanowski, Dir. of Veterans Services; Spaulding Aldrich and Representatives from the Civil War Organization].** Mr. Aldrich presented the Town of Northbridge with a framed document that lists the names of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, which dates back to 1872. He pointed out that the document contains the name of David Patrick Casey, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor in the Civil War and that his great granddaughter is Mary Frances Powers, Chairman of the Finance Committee. Ms. Powers then mentioned that her family is very proud and fortunate to have acquired this medal. Commander Miller read aloud a brief synopsis about the Jesse L. Reno Post 60 and how it was named after General Jesse Lee Reno who was killed at South Mountain, site of a civil war battle. Mr. Miller thanked everyone who represented this memorial document.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**June 23, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the June 23, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Marzec.

**July 14, 2008**

Selectman Ampagoomian requested the July 14, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: under Selectmen's Concerns, Item #10, strike the word "former" Town Clerk and insert "Assistant" Town Clerk before Ruth Avedisian's name. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the July 14, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. 1) Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission:**

**a) Second Delegate.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to nominate Selectman Marzec as the Second Delegate. Vote yes/Unanimous. **b) Alternate.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Selectman Nolan as the Alternate. Vote yes/Unanimous. The information will be forwarded to the CMRPC. **2) Election Workers (Democrat, Republican, and Unenrolled/Vote to appoint.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint the Democrat, Republican and Unenrolled Election Officers as listed in the Selectmen's agenda packets. Vote yes/Unanimous

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**Warrant posting locations/Vote to approve change in posting location from North Main Variety to 1Quikstop.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve change in posting location from North Main Variety to 1 Quikstop. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Presidential Election Warrant/Vote to sign.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to sign the Presidential Election warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**St. Camillus Health Center/Request a one-day Beer and Wine License for a fundraising event to be held Friday, September 12, 2008 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Present: Mr. William Graves, President.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve a one-day beer and wine license as requested above. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Northbridge Fire Department/Request permission to conduct a "Fill the Boot" drive for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 9 AM to 12 PM, at Memorial Square. Present: David Holmes.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request subject to the Town's Boot Drive policy. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**St. Patrick's Lease.** Deferred to a future meeting.

**Community Development Block Grant/Request for waiver of lien.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that this topic was brought up at a prior Board of Selectmen's meeting. He suggested that the Board of Selectmen come up with a policy so that they can be consistent if other homeowners come forward with similar requests. The Board agreed to look at each case individually. Mr. Kozak indicated that he will provide the Board with the individual's financial information for them to review.

**Cable Access Policy/Community Standards Review Committee.** Chairman Montecalvo asked the Board to move forward and appoint an individual to the committee at the next Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Marzec suggested advertising the position on Cable.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Land for Sale [Main Street] – received a phone call regarding property for sale on Main Street. The individual suggested that the land be used for a new Fire Station. Town Manager Kozak provided the Building, Planning and Construction Committee with the information so that they can review and see if it is of any use to the Town. 2) Grand Opening – Regional Recycling Center, Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 AM. Senator Moore will be attending and all residents are welcomed. 3) M.O.R.E. Update – mentioned that the annual meeting of the MORE Board of Directors will be held Thursday, September 11 at 6 PM in the conference room at CMRPC's office in Union Station, Worcester. All board members and committees are welcomed to attend the 7 PM meeting. 4) Personnel Board Meeting – met with the Personnel Board and was informed that they are nearing completion of their review of the Personnel Policy Manual. They plan to finish by September and will hold a Public Hearing prior to meeting and discussing with the Board of Selectmen. 5) Community Development Block Grant – the Town of Northbridge did not receive funding for the Village Infrastructure Improvement Grant. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he met with Wayne Darragh [Community Opportunities Group] who mentioned that the Town received fewer points this year than last year's application, which he could not explain why. Mr. Darragh is investigating with the State to see what their reasoning was for rating the Town of Northbridge so low and will discuss his findings in the near future with the Board of Selectmen. 6) Pellet Company – Town Manager Kozak looked into why the Pellet Company did not look into opening a shop in Northbridge and learned they were looking for a 10-acre site. 7) Announced that Town Accountant Neil Vaidya is the proud father of twin boys. His wife gave birth on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Montecalvo suggested sending a letter of congratulations to the Vaidya family on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Nolan** 1) Update on Linwood Mail Delivery – no decision has been made to date. 2) Status of Aldrich School Renovation – Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he had a company go to the Aldrich School and test for lead paint, which came back positive. A company also came in to give the Town a price to remove the lead paint but he has not received it as of yet. 3) DPW Facility – The BPCC is currently reviewing the various proposals. 4) High School Fields – Town Manager Kozak mentioned the bid has been awarded to Mountain View Landscape and Lawncare, Inc. for the work. **Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) Status of water main break in Rockdale [Lindblad Chassis]. 2) American Legion had their annual car show. Charlie Lachapelle and Jerry Bagdasarian were presented with Ross Rajotte Community Service Awards. 3) On September 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a bike rally through the valley, which starts and ends at the American Legion. All proceeds will go into a fund to help motorcycle accident victims pay their medical expenses. 4) On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a concert will be held at the American Legion [Jeff Mason- local band] from 2 PM to 10 PM. 5) Funding source for an elevator in the Aldrich School. 6) Legion Field Fence – when will it be repaired. **Selectman Marzec** 1) expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Ken Gauthier who passed away suddenly. 2) heating cost concerns. 3) Fields – spoke to George Murray regarding a grant for lights at the fields. **Selectman Melia** 1) letter of appreciation to Jerry Bagdasarian. 2) Veterans groups – regarding the details for next year's Memorial Day Parade. 3) Water/Sewer charges. 4) Cable Studio – visited the proposed cable studio at the High School.

**Correspondence.** NSTAR Gas Company – Public Hearing scheduled Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 2 P.M.

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan 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. Marzec/Yes; Mr. Melia/Yes; Mr. Nolan/Yes; Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; and Mr. Montecalvo/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:58 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen**  
**August 25, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Senator Richard Moore announced that many cities and towns in the Commonwealth are struggling with growing operating costs and sluggish economies. He remains confident that in the spirit of cooperation, state and local governments can work together to ensure we continue to provide the high quality of services our constituents have come to expect. Senator Moore recognizes that Local Aid is an essential part of our state budget and as in past years, he will be hosting several forums on that topic in FY 2010, and encourages everyone to attend. He mentioned that Northbridge is currently receiving 13.28% above its target aid percentage based upon the Chapter 70 formula. The goal of Chapter 70 formula is to ensure that every district has sufficient resources to meet its foundation budget spending level, through an equitable combination of local property taxes and state aid. The target local contribution is based on a municipality's wealth. That said, Senator Moore provided highlights on the following areas: Health Care Costs, General Government, Transportation, Environmental Bond Bills, Local Access to Group Insurance Commission, Expansion of Child Protections, Dairy Farm Preservation, Consumer Protections for Gift Certificates, ID Theft Protection, Senate Sessions on Internet, Tax-Free Weekend, MA Highway Department Projects and the Initiative Petition to Repeal State Income Tax.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager.** Town Manager Kozak recommended the reappointment of Mr. Wiersma [Gas & Plumbing Inspector] and Mr. Harper [Asst. Gas & Plumbing Inspector] for one-year terms. Though one-year terms, he explained that their terms would expire on June 30, 2009, to coincide with the expiration of all other terms. **1) Larry Wiersma, Gas & Plumbing Inspector.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reappoint Larry Wiersma as the Gas & Plumbing Inspector until June 30, 2009. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Peter Harper, Asst. Gas & Plumbing Inspector.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reappoint Peter Harper as the Assistant Gas & Plumbing Inspector until June 30, 2009. Vote yes/Unanimous

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**2008 Greenway Challenge [Charles Thompson]/Request to use a portion of town-owned property to conduct the 2008 Greenway Challenge bike ride on Saturday, September 27, 2008.** Mr. Thompson provided a brief overview of the race to the Board and gave them a map of the course indicating where it begins and ends. He mentioned that there will be approximately 75 teams participating in the mountain bike portion of the race and that each team will send one mountain biker from Plummer's Landing along the Blackstone Canal. Mr. Thompson stated that they are currently designing a 6-mile route, a portion of which will cross town land near the back of the sewer beds before going into the woods and rejoining state park lands and ending at Tri-River Health Center in Uxbridge and that he was requesting permission for that. Mr. Thompson assured the Board that a Certificate of Insurance will be provided to the town by the organization for protection. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to conduct the 2008 Greenway Challenge on Saturday, September 27, 2008 and for the group to traverse a portion of town-owned property at the rear of the Town's sewer beds subject to providing a Certificate of Insurance naming the Town as an additional insured. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Housing Rehabilitation Program/Request for Waiver of Lien.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to table this discussion to a later date. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**FY '07 Management Letter/Present: Tim Harrison, Auditor-Borgatti Harrison & Co. and Neil Vaidya, Town Accountant.** Mr. Harrison mentioned that this was his firm's first audit for the town and felt the audit went smoothly. He then provided the Board of Selectmen with an overview of the results of the audit and prior year recommendations: 1) Reconciliation of the Detail Receivable Ledgers to the Collector's Control Accounts; 2) Budgeted Estimated Revenues and Other Financing Sources; 3) Tailings; 4) Town Clerk's Office Pre-numbered Documents; 5) Statement No. 45 of the Government Accounting Standards Board; 6) Develop a Disaster Recovery Plan; 7) Implement a Risk Assessment Program. Continuing, Mr. Harrison then went through the current year recommendations: 1) Improve In-House Asset System; 2) Strengthen Procedures over Ambulance Accounts Receivable; 3) Obtain Formal Lease for Church Street Property. The complete Management Letter can be found on file in the Town Manager's Office. On a different topic, Mr. Vaidya mentioned that Beth Desmarais, Retirement Board Administrator for Northbridge, attended a PERAC meeting at which Northbridge received an award. The award went to the entire Northbridge Retirement Board in recognition of their exemplary operation of the

system for the audit period of January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005. He mentioned that Northbridge is almost 85% funded which is great compared to most communities.

**Water Meter Issue/Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Dir. and Randy Swigor, Manager of the Whitinsville Water Company.** Mr. Randy Swigor introduced himself and provided the Board of Selectmen with a synopsis of his accomplishments and achievements. Chairman Montecalvo explained to Mr. Swigor that several residents are looking to add a second water meter to monitor their usage of sewer vs. water. The Town of Northbridge owns and operates a sanitary sewer system, which consists of a collection system serving approximately 70 percent of the Town's population, businesses and a wastewater treatment plant, which processes the sewage and ultimately discharges the treated effluent to a tributary stream of the Blackstone River. At the end of December 2007, there were 3,125 Sewer System Accounts and of these, approximately one-half or 1,566 were customers of the Whitinsville Water Company with nearly an equal number being customers of the Northbridge Water System. Since the late 1990's the annual operating budget for the Sewer System has grown dramatically. The total operating expense for the Sewer System in FY 99 was \$431,241.08 and FY 07 was \$2,025,494.09. Residents in town are now questioning the rate structure, which charges them for sewer usage based on metered water consumption. Their position is that water used for irrigation and other outdoor activities does not go into the sewer system and therefore should not be included in their sewer charges. They have proposed as a remedy, the installation of "irrigation" water meters that would account for outdoor water usage and allow these uses to be deducted from their sewer charges. That said, should the Town and the Whitinsville Water Company allow the installation of second "irrigation water meters"? If so, the loss in sewer revenue resulting from this change would have to be made up. While there are a number of ways to modify the current sewer rate structure to make up the difference, it is estimated that an across the board rate increase of about 7% would be required to make up the lost revenue. The Whitinsville Water Company would concur with whatever the Town of Northbridge decides to do. Selectman Marzec would like to know why the previous Board voted to change the process. Both Selectman Ampagoomian and Montecalvo mentioned that after a lengthy discussion, they went with the recommendation of the DPW Director, Richard Sasseville. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that residents are complaining about their water and sewer bills because the sewer rates are based upon the usage of water used in a home. The usage of water being used is outside their home, and the residents are upset they are paying for it in their sewer bill. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectmen, DPW Director Richard Sasseville and WWC Manager Randy Swigor decided to gather more facts and information before making any decisions.

**Responsibility for Maintenance of Sewer Service. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that a business owner had a problem with sewer backing up into his business. The owner contacted a company called "GEM" and had the sewer pipes cleared from the building to the end of his property. The company then sent a camera through the line and found that a tree root infiltrated the sewer pipe from his property line to the center of the road and there was a possible misalignment of that pipe. The company then informed the business owner that the main problem is with the sewer line on Town property. Mr. Sasseville informed the Selectmen that the "Building Sewer" shall mean the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal. That said, if there is a problem in the sewer line between a building/house and the main line, it is the responsibility of the owner of the building/house. ~~Chairman~~ \*Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the problem within that line was caused directly/indirectly by a town-owned tree. Mr. Sasseville mentioned that it's not the tree that is the cause of the problem; it's the defect in the pipe that allows the roots to enter it. If the pipe didn't have a defect, the roots could not get into it, regardless of who owns the tree. Selectman Nolan inquired as to how often this type of problem occurs. Mr. Sasseville replied that this issue occurs a couple times a year and in the past, the ownership has always been on the property owner. Mr. Steve Asadoorian mentioned that he owns the property located at 3 Cottage Street, where the sewer has backing up into his building. He provided the Board with a copy of the report he received from the Company that performed the work on his property. He then went on to say that the roto-rooting is not working anymore and something needs to be done. He doesn't feel that it is his responsibility to fix the collapsed pipe and is appealing to the Town for assistance. The cost to fix this is roughly \$6,000.00. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that the Board of Selectmen would have to review the situation further and get back to him with an answer.

**Playground & Recreation Commission: Request to reduce number of committee members from 7 to 5.** Chairman Montecalvo stated that this topic would be deferred to the next meeting.

**Lodging House License/Present: Attorney Henry Lane.** Attorney Lane mentioned that he is speaking on behalf of Pegasus Holding as to who acquired the Northbridge Nursing Home. His client is proposing to rezone the parcel of land from an R-2 zone to an R-3 zone so that they can receive a lodging house license. The majority of the building is in the R-2 side of the line and in order to rezone it, they would need to move the R-2 zone line about 100 feet to 200 feet north. This would allow multiple occupancies and a permit would be required from the Board of Selectmen to operate a temporary housing facility. After their situation is resolved with the Building Department, a formal application would then need to be submitted. Attorney Lane is asking the Board for their support in this project. That said, the facility

would be as such to attract higher end clientele such as business executives. He also mentioned that there has been some interest from Tufts University and UMASS Medical for temporary housing needs.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Fall Annual Town Meeting – reminder that the warrant articles are due on Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> by noontime. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that one article requires a small correction from the Spring Annual Town Meeting because we overspent free cash by \$36.00. He also mentioned that there shouldn't be many articles for the Fall Annual Town Meeting. 2) Aldrich School Update – spoke to some companies regarding stabilizing the loose paint at the Aldrich School Building and the estimated cost is \$5,000 to \$10,000. 3) High School Fields & Track – both contracts have been awarded and the company will begin work within the next couple of weeks. 4) Community Standards Review Board (Cable Board) – Selectmen's Representative – the Board of Selectmen are still looking for individuals to come forward to be on this Board. 5) informed the Board of Selectmen that he joined the International City Management Association by applying for a grant to attend their annual meeting in Virginia and received it. That said, he will be attending their meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Marzec 1)** mentioned that there was an incident that occurred at Look Out Rock, Quaker Street, on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a 9-year old girl and her father were walking in the woods and the girl was hit in the head with an object. The girl was seriously hurt and the Police Department is investigating the incident; **2)** someone brought to his attention that a former plumbing and gas inspector for over 29 years "Chick Lachapelle" was never given a plaque or certificate for all his years of service to the Town. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that a policy would need to be put in place and then everyone will receive one. **Selectman Melia 1)** Asked if all departments could start producing monthly reports like the Senior Center—especially the larger departments. **Selectman Nolan 1)** status of the St. Patrick's lease; **2)** Regarding a new fire facility, he requested clarification on whether there is one or two parcels of land located on Main Street. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that he thought it was only one but will talk to the Planning Board to be sure. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** status on the Superintendent Search Committee; **2)** marquee in front of the middle school – he would like for someone to contact the Principal of the Middle School [Mike Gauthier] and see if the board could be used for advertising all school functions; **3)** follow-up with the Building, Planning and Construction Committee for cost projections on installing an elevator in the Aldrich School.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

\*At their regularly scheduled meeting of October 6, 2008, the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the August 25, 2008 minutes as follows: Under the topic **Responsibility for Maintenance of Sewer Service, line 10, strike out the word "Chairman" and insert the word "Selectman"**.

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
September 8, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Montecalvo, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**July 28, 2008**

Selectman Ampagoomian requested the above minutes be amended as follows: under Cable Studio Location, Line #10, insert the following language: "Selectman Marzec should have contacted Selectman Ampagoomian at home to find out why he was not supporting Mr. Jerry Bagdasarian as a member of the Cable Committee". Selectman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Marzec that he did not call Mr. Bagdasarian at home but that he spoke to him at Walmart in Whitinsville." A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the July 28, 2008 minutes as amended. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**August 11, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve but not release the August 11, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** Ronal Madnick, Director at American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. Mr. Madnick mentioned that their lawyers are looking into new regulations regarding cable and once they make their determinations they will notify the Selectmen of their findings.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Playground & Recreation Commission [2 Vacancies]**

**a) Louis Bernard, Jr. b) Alicia Cannon and c) Cheryl Rocheleau. Present: Bruce Frieswick, Chairman - Playground & Recreation Commission.** Chairman Montecalvo asked that each candidate provide a brief summary about themselves. Ms. Rocheleau was not present at the meeting because of a sick child. After a brief question and answer session, Chairman Montecalvo asked for nominations. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Alicia Cannon to the Playground and Recreation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Louis Bernard, Jr. to the Playground and Recreation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous. Before the candidates left, Chairman Montecalvo informed them that they have to be sworn in by the Town Clerk's office. **2) Community Standards Review Board/Selectmen's Rep.** Applicants: Carrie Maynard & Anne Stefaniak. Chairman Montecalvo asked that each candidate provide a brief summary about themselves. After a brief question and answer session, Chairman Montecalvo asked for nominations. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Anne Stefaniak to the Community Standards Review Board. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Melia and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Nolan and Marzec. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to nominate Carrie Maynard to the Community Standards Review Board. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan and Marzec. Vote no/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Melia and Montecalvo. Chairman Montecalvo informed Ms. Stefaniak that she needs to go to the Town Clerk's office tomorrow to be sworn in.

**Safety Committee Minutes [August 20, 2008]/Vote to accept recommendations.**

Chairman Montecalvo provided the Board of Selectmen with a brief update on what was discussed at the August 20, 2008 Safety Committee Meeting. Items discussed were: residents leaving trash receptacles on the sidewalks, National Grid Expansion, McDonald's Redevelopment, streetlight requests, and a fire hydrant issue. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Melia.

**Sewer Service Policy. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.**

Mr. Sasseville mentioned that after further review of the Sewer Service policy, there is no benefit to the ratepayers to change the regulation and assume liability for an unknown number of future repairs, which have not been the responsibility of the ratepayers in the past. Selectman Marzec advised that the Board of Selectmen should really think about this before making a decision as they could be opening an assortment of problems. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to ask DPW Director Richard Sasseville, Sewer Superintendent Mark Kuras and Property Owner, Steve Asadorian to negotiate a shared cost for the problem with the sewer pipe located at 3 Cottage Street, Whitinsville, MA. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian and Nolan. Vote no/Messrs. Montecalvo and Marzec.

Mr. Sasseville spoke briefly about adding additional water meters. He suggested putting a notice on the sewer bills asking each sewer customer to call the phone number listed if they would be interested in adding an additional meter.

**Fall Annual Town Meeting/Vote to place articles on the warrant.** Chairman Montecalvo read aloud each article. **Article 1.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds the following sums of money and authorize the payment of miscellaneous prior year bills. **Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 6 of the 2008 Spring Session of the Annual Town Meeting (May 6, 2008), appropriations and transfers under the Omnibus Budget Article, as follows: NON-DEPARTMENTAL: Line 41: Employee Insurance Benefits; By reducing the amount previously appropriated from free cash \$36.00. Line 44: Stabilization Fund; By raising and appropriating an additional sum of money \$ \_\_\_\_\_; or take any other action relative thereto. **Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the custody and control of the Town owned property located off Driscoll Lane and shown on Assessors' Map 24 as parcel 130 to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of sale; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey such property and execute all documents and take all action necessary in connection therewith; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for any legislation necessary for such conveyance; or take any other action relative thereto. **Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer the custody and control of the Town owned property located off C Street and shown on Assessors' Map 6A as parcel 136 to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of sale; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey such property and execute all documents and take all action necessary in connection therewith; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for any legislation necessary for such conveyance; or take any other action relative thereto. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to place Articles 1 through 4 on the Fall Annual Town Warrant. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Verizon/Update [Ellen Cummings, Regional Director].** Ellen Cummings was not present at the Board of Selectmen Meeting.

**National Grid [Mike Peterson]/Interstate Reliability Project. Present: Mike Peterson and Representatives from National Grid.** Representatives from National Grid provided the Board of Selectmen with a fifteen-minute PowerPoint presentation addressing the Interstate Reliability Project that is going to pass through the Town of Northbridge. The project, which is a high voltage electric transmission line, will improve the reliability of power to the Blackstone Valley. The project will begin in 2009 and end sometime in 2013. Mr. Peterson mentioned that the overall project will cost over \$400 million dollars once completed. That said, he mentioned that the Board of Selectmen would be invited to an open house sometime in October for further discussion on this project.

**Employee/Volunteer Appreciation Policy.** Chairman Montecalvo provided the Board of Selectmen with a copy of the Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Program that he and the Town Manager prepared. Town Manager Kozak suggested going back three years from now and provide a certificate or plaque to all employees/volunteers who retired from the Town. The Board of Selectmen agreed to place this item on a future agenda for decision.

**Playground & Recreation Commission/Request to reduce number of committee members from 7 to 5. Present: Bruce Frieswick, Chairman of the Playground & Recreation and Committee Members: Cari-Lynn Fisher, Scott Macintosh and Francis Puda.** Mr. Frieswick mentioned that he and other members on his committee would like to reduce the number of members needed on their board due to the lack of attendance at their meetings. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that the Chairman of every Board should be keeping track of their members' attendance. The Board of Selectmen will consider their request and then suggested to help the Playground & Recreation with maintaining a quorum if need be. At this time, Ms. Cheryl Rocheleau came forward and provided some information about herself and why she wanted to be on the Playground and Recreation Commission. The Board of Selectmen thanked her for coming forward, however, due to the Playground & Recreation appointments made earlier this evening they suggested she wait for another opening on the Board and/or apply to another committee.

**Town Manager's Report. UPDATES:** **1)** Winter Heating and Energy Meetings – mentioned the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be holding a meeting in Worcester, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM at Quinsigamond Community College. **2)** Building, Planning & Construction Committee Update – provided an update on the fields, infiltration pond, DPW Study (interviewing 3 companies to do the study) and Aldrich School. **3)** Superintendent Search Process – provided the Board of Selectmen with a schedule of focus group meetings. Everyone is welcomed to attend and express his or her views. **4)** Department Head Meeting Update – discussed various topics such as: management letter, monthly reports, senior citizen tax work-off program, personnel, goals and objectives. **5)** Whitinsville Water Company Bond Hearing scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup> in Boston. **6)** State Primary [September 16, 2008] at the Northbridge High School from 7 AM to 8 PM. **7)** MORE Meeting is scheduled for Thursday night, September 11<sup>th</sup> at Union Station.

Chairman Montecalvo mentioned the next Selectmen's meeting would be September 15<sup>th</sup> instead of September 22<sup>nd</sup> as Town Manager Kozak will be away on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Marzec** 1) Updates on legal issues. 2) Asked Town Manager Kozak if has spoken to George Peterson regarding the causeway. 3) received a request regarding the lights on the Town Common during the Holiday season. 4) anyone interested in attending the Master Plan Committee, a Tentative Workshop Meeting is scheduled at Alternatives on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. **Selectman Melia** 1) read aloud a letter from Mary Bilodeau thanking the Northbridge Police Department, Paramedics and EMT's for their rapid response on August 18<sup>th</sup>. 2) Monthly Reports from Department Heads – very informative. 3) Thanked the Police Department for investigating and solving recent car break ins. **Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) letter from Jack Davis requesting public records. 2) letter from the Secretary of State to Jack Davis regarding Executive Session minutes (waiting to hear from Town Counsel). 3) Agenda's should be on cable. **Chairman Montecalvo** 1) An ABCC Regional Seminar for Local Board's on Training Regulations for Licenses is being held at Holy Cross on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 3 PM. If you would like to attend, let Sharon Susienka know so that she can register you. 2) mentioned that the Library and Council on Aging are open full-time now and thanked the volunteers who gave their time (with no pay): Edna John, Marlene Bishop and Gloria Rauth.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:35 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen  
September 15, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**August 11, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the August 11, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager. 1) Permanent Intermittent Police Officers: a) Brian Collins b) Randy Lloyd c) Jarrod Woeller. Also Present: Lt. Timothy Labrie.** Lt. Labrie introduced the three candidates and provided the Board with a brief overview of their qualifications. He also noted the fact that all three candidates were born and raised in Northbridge and attended Northbridge High School. Chairman Montecalvo then asked each candidate to tell the Board a little about themselves. Each Selectman welcomed and congratulated the three candidates. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to affirm the appointments of Brian Collins, Randy Lloyd and Jarrod Woeller as Permanent Intermittent Police Officers as recommended by Town Manager Kozak. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. 2) Industrial Development Finance Authority & Committee. 2) William E. McGowan.** Mr. McGowan introduced himself and provided some information about himself to the Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen then asked Mr. McGowan a few questions and welcomed him aboard. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint William E. McGowan to the Industrial Development Finance Authority & Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**Northbridge Association of Churches/Request to hold the annual Blackstone Valley Cropwalk, Saturday, October 18, 2008 at 9 A.M.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Policy/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to adopt the following Employee and Volunteer Appreciation Policy as recommended by Town Manager Kozak.

Annually, on a fiscal year basis, employees and volunteers will be recognized for their years of service as follows:

- Employees with 10, 15, and 20 years of service will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Town Manager.
- Employees with 25+ years of service [in five year increments] will receive a Plaque from the Town Manager at a Board of Selectmen's meeting.
- Volunteers with 10, 15, and 20 years of service will receive a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board of Selectmen.
- Volunteers with 25+ years of service [in five year increments] will receive a Plaque from the Board of Selectmen.

Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Superintendent's Search Committee/Vote to appoint a Selectmen's Representative.** Chairman Montecalvo asked for nominations. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to nominate Chairman Montecalvo as the Selectmen's Representative to the Superintendent's Search Committee. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded Mr. Marzec to nominate James Marzec as the Selectmen's Representative to the Superintendent's Search Committee. **All those in favor of Chairman Montecalvo:** Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian, Marzec and Montecalvo. Vote no/Mr. Nolan. **All those in favor of Selectman Marzec:** Vote yes/Mr. Nolan. Vote no/Messrs. Melia, Montecalvo, Ampagoomian and Marzec. As the result of a 4 to 1 majority vote in the affirmative, Chairman Montecalvo has been duly appointed to the Superintendent's Search Committee as the Board of Selectmen's Representative.

**Master Plan Update Committee-Public Workshop September 30<sup>th</sup> (6PM to 8PM). Present: Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt and Committee Members: Cindy Key, Brian Houlihan and Barbara Gaudette.** Selectman Ampagoomian informed everyone that he and Selectman Marzec both serve on the Master Plan Committee. Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt advised that there will be a Public Workshop on

September 30, 2008, from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Alternative's Mill Complex. He explained that the Committee is tasked with updating the Town's Master Plan, which has not been updated since 1994. It is a dynamic process with a number of elements and components including Open Space, Housing, Transportation, Municipal Buildings and Infrastructure. The Committee will be posting the workshop on the website and cable so that they can get the message out to the public to have a well-attended session. Immediately following the Public Workshop another workshop will be scheduled for sometime next year.

**Fall Annual Town Meeting (October 28, 2008)/Vote to sign warrant.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to sign the October 28, 2008 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant upon completion and final review by Town Counsel. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Verizon Update [Ellen Cummings, Regional Director].** Ms. Cummings provided an update regarding the future availability of FIOS in Northbridge. She stated that Town Manager Kozak had expressed interest in starting negotiations with Verizon but advised him that as of this time, the Town was not scheduled to receive FIOS in 2009. Though she indicated that Northbridge wasn't included in her company's 2009 budget, it doesn't mean that it won't be added in 2009.

**Town Manager's Report.** **1)** MMA Legislative Breakfast – will be attending the MMA Breakfast on October 10, 2008 in Milford. If any of you would like to attend, please contact the Town Manager's Office so that Sharon Susienka can register you. **2)** Grand Opening of Recycling Center will take place this weekend. Everyone is welcome and there will be a special tribute for Marilyn Baker. **3)** Patriot's Day Observance –a ceremony took place outside Town Hall to honor the memory of 9/11. **4)** Tomorrow, September 16, 2008 is the State Primary – please vote at the Northbridge High School.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** Asked about the Community Development Block Grant. Town Manager Kozak responded that he sent a letter to DHCD asking for a meeting to sit down and discuss why the Town of Northbridge lost the grant two years in a row but hasn't heard back from them. **2)** ICMA Conference – would like Town Manager Kozak to find out more information about receiving grants for the Town while he is attending his conference in Virginia. **3)** Shaw's Supermarket will not be closing their doors. **4)** Letter from Attorney Triplett – is this a public document and is it a judgment against our insurance company? **Selectman Melia 1)** Asked if there was any word from the Cable Advisory Committee regarding a new site. Town Manager Kozak responded that the Committee is meeting this week to discuss that very issue. **Selectman Marzec 1)** Inquired about the status of the handicapped accessibility of the main entrance doors. **2)** Update on sewer issue and costs. **3)** received two letters in his mailbox from residents concerned about the decision the Board of Selectmen made regarding the sewer pipe issue. A suggestion by Selectman Melia is to revisit this subject and their decision. This will be placed on the next Board of Selectmen's agenda. **Selectman Nolan 1)** St. Patrick's Lease – any update? Town Manager Kozak replied that Town Counsel has it.

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#2 Disciplinary Issue & M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#3 Litigation--not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec/Yes; Mr. Melia/Yes; Mr. Nolan/Yes; Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; and Mr. Montecalvo/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:02 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

**Board of Selectmen  
October 6, 2008**

**Portions of this meeting were not audible due to sound equipment problems.**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**August 25, 2008** – Selectman Ampagoomian requested the August 25, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under the topic **Responsibility for Maintenance of Sewer Service, line 10, strike out the word "Chairman" and insert the word "Selectman"**. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to amend the August 25, 2008 minutes as shown above. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**September 8, 2008** – Selectman Marzec requested the September 8, 2008 minutes be amended due to an issue he had with respect to the July 28, 2008 minutes, which were previously amended by Selectman Ampagoomian and approved by the Board on 9/8/08 by inserting the following language: *Under Cable Studio Location, Line #10, insert the following language: "Selectman Marzec should have contacted Selectman Ampagoomian at home to find out why he was not supporting Mr. Jerry Bagdasarian as a member of the Cable Committee. Selectman Ampagoomian informed Mr. Marzec that he did not call Mr. Bagdasarian at home but that he spoke to him at Walmart in Whitinsville.* Selectman Marzec stated that his recollection about this matter was that Mr. Bagdasarian's name would be brought forth for re-appointment to the Cable Advisory Committee at the previous meeting and that he was shocked when he learned that Jerry Bagdasarian's name was not being put forth after being contacted by Selectman Ampagoomian. As such, Mr. Marzec wanted the record corrected to reflect that he knew nothing about this prior to the meeting and therefore couldn't have contacted Mr. Ampagoomian at home. Continuing, Selectman Ampagoomian clarified that his prior amendment of the July 28, 2008 minutes was only to correct a response made by Mr. Marzec when it was said that "Mr. Ampagoomian contacted Jerry Bagdasarian at home." Selectman Ampagoomian once again explained that he was trying to correct a misstatement and that he had spoken to Mr. Bagdasarian at Walmart and thus that was the reason he wanted the July 28, 2008 minutes amended. He further stated that if Mr. Marzec was concerned about why Mr. Ampagoomian had persuaded Mr. Bagdasarian not to seek reappointment to the Cable Committee, he could have been contacted at home. After further discussion, Selectmen Marzec and Ampagoomian agreed to view the Selectmen's meeting tape for clarification. There being no further comments, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan **to defer** the vote [until the next meeting] on the September 8, 2008 minutes until after the tape(s) is/are reviewed. Discussion on the motion: Selectman Ampagoomian requested the Town Manager to obtain the pertinent tape(s) for their review or to air it again at another meeting for everyone's benefit. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Beverly Morrissette, Council on Aging.** Council on Aging Chairman Constance Dion introduced Ms. Morrissette and stated that she had attended a recent meeting and would be a good fit for the Council. Ms. Morrissette then told the Board that she retired from Allmerica Financial and that she enjoys serving and helping the elderly. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Marzec to appoint Beverly Morrissette to the Council on Aging. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments/By the Town Manager. John Orasy, Senior Center Bus Driver.** Council on Aging Chairman Constance Dion introduced Mr. Orasy to the Board and stated that he would be replacing William Jorritsma who recently retired due to illness. Mr. Orasy then told the Board that he was a long time employee of Dauphanais Concrete now Aggregate Industries. After his retirement from Aggregate, he worked on Cape Cod for the Regional Transit Authority. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to affirm the appointment of Mr. Orasy as recommended by Town Manager Kozak and Gail Anderson, Senior Center Director. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input./NONE.**

**Office of Community Development/Request to execute a Discharge of Certificate Not to Encumber (548 Sutton Street, Northbridge, MA).** A motion made and seconded to execute and sign the Discharge of Certificate Not to Encumber. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Ash Street/Vote intent to lay out the alteration and extension of Ash Street as a public way.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to vote our intent to lay out the alteration and extension of Ash Street as a public way and refer this matter to the Planning Board for a recommendation. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Green Meadow Court/Vote intent to lay out Green Meadow Court as a public way.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to vote our intent to lay out Green Meadow Court as a public way and refer this matter to the Planning Board for a recommendation. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Sewer Service Policy/Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Town Manager Kozak explained that this issue was taken up and voted on at the Board's September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at which time the DPW Director was asked to negotiate a shared cost for the problem with the broken sewer pipe located at 3 Cottage Street, Whitinsville, MA. The Town Manager pointed out that since that particular meeting at which the policy was changed, several phone calls have come in from people who had experienced similar problems. Continuing, Mr. Sasseville explained that he had given an erroneous answer at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He understood the question to be—had the Town ever repaired or assisted in the repair of private sewer service in the past and he answered no. However, he soon realized that he had answered the wrong question. The correct question asked by Selectman Melia was: in your 15 years as DPW Director, were you aware of any other similar type sewer problems. Mr. Sasseville said the correct answer to that question is yes, he was aware that there were a number of other similar issues. Selectman Melia indicated that Mr. Asadoorian hadn't heard from anyone in several weeks and that he never would have brought this matter forward to the Town if he didn't believe that it was partly the Town's fault.

Selectman Nolan stated that in light of the new information he would like to put forth a motion. \*A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec, to rescind the prior vote of the Board made at their September 8, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan, Marzec, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo. Vote no/Mr. Melia.

**Town Finances/Present: Mary Frances Powers, Finance Committee Chairman, Henry O'Donnell, Interim School Superintendent, Melissa Walker, and Mary Contino, School Committee Chairman.**

Mr. O'Donnell announced they were present to clarify the School Department's present financial position. He said there are various numbers floating around Town and noted that the Town Accountant and the School Business Manager have reconciled the amount to within ten cents. He further stated that he and Town Manager have met on several occasions to discuss this issue and that the entire Finance Committee and School Committee have been briefed on this matter.

Mr. O'Donnell explained that the School Department's Operational Budget is made up of three parts: Appropriation, Grants, and Revolvers. **1) Appropriation:** Mr. O'Donnell explained that this money comes from the Spring Annual Town Meeting and is made up of Chapter 70 money from the State and money from the Town. It is approximately a 75%/25% split. **2) Grants:** He added that grants are another source of revenue and can come from Chapter 1 grants, Special Education grants, and/or Public Health grants. Grants usually total around \$1 million dollars depending on what the government has available. **3) Revolving Accounts,** another source of revenue together with the grants are added to the Town's appropriation at town meeting. Mr. O'Donnell explained these accounts are responsible for the high balances that remain in the School's accounts from last year. He indicated that there are four such revolving accounts: **School Choice,** which is revenue received from other districts whose students reside in that district but attend school in our district. **Tuition Revolver,** which is preschool revenue and tuition from other towns whose children reside at Sunshine Haven and are provided educational services in Northbridge. **Circuit Breaker,** Special Education reimbursement for 72% of the cost per student above 4X the statewide per pupil cost. **School Use,** which is revenue earned from the rental of school facilities to outside groups. The balance in the Revolver Accounts on July 1, 2005 was \$1,663,832; On July 1, 2006 the balance was \$1,627,556; On July 1, 2007, the balance was \$2,255,761; and as of July 1, 2008, the balance was \$2,939,111. Mr. O'Donnell then asked Melissa Walker, Business Manager, to explain how the balance got to be \$2,939,111. Ms. Walker began her presentation showing the balance on July 1, 2007, to be \$2,255,761, projected revenues of \$977,843, and projected expenses of \$2,069,286 leaving an ending balance of \$1,164,318 on June 30, 2008. However, she pointed out that the **actual** revenue came in at \$1,063,504 (an increase of \$85,660) due to a one-time revenue called "extraordinary relief". This revenue, which the Town qualified for, was due to an increase of more than 25% in special education costs. Continuing, Ms. Walker explained that another factor contributing to the high balance in the revolver accounts was the fact that **actual** expenses were only \$380,153, a difference of \$1,689,132, which was due to expenditures that were not made during the previous year including the following: Salaries -\$250,000; Dir. Of Operations position not filled - \$100,000; Sick bank for extended leave that was not used - \$180,000; Tuition for out of district placements that was not used - \$800,000; and Unemployment Insurance money not used - \$350,000. The total of unused expenses is \$1,680,000, thus leaving an actual balance of \$2,939,111 in the revolver accounts as of June 30, 2008. Mr. O'Donnell then stated that in order to avoid such occurrences in the future, budget monitoring practices have been established by the School Committee as follows: 1) quarterly meetings with Chairs of the School Committee, Finance Committee, Selectmen, and Town Manager; 2) Re-establishment of Budget sub-committee within the School Committee; 3) Monthly reconciliation of expenses and revenues between the School and Town; and 4) Adjustment of projections on a quarterly basis. That said, Mr. O'Donnell stated that the School will still continue to move forward cautiously because of the uncertainty of the State's financial position and not knowing if the Town's State/Local Aid will be reduced and/or whether grants will continue to be available. The Town Manager then presented a 3-year projection of the School Department's finances through FY 2011. He pointed out that the Town's funding of the School Department will not increase substantially enough over the next few years forcing the School to make better use of their grants and revolving accounts to sustain them through FY 2011, which at this time will leave a projected balance of \$579,053 in their revolving accounts. Comments: Selectman Marzec opined that someone should take responsibility for this information being withheld from the residents of Northbridge. Why was the Town faced with going for an override when based on the information presented this evening, it wasn't necessary. He also said that matters like this totally throws public trust right out the window. School Committee Chair Mary Contino advised that conservative budgeting is what led to this and asked if the Board of Selectmen wants the School Committee to continue conservative budgeting or spend the money down. Mr. O'Donnell acknowledged Mr. Marzec's remarks and agreed that the School Committee has lost some trust from the public and it will take time to get it back by being more transparent and more open in communication. Select Board Chair Montecalvo interjected that the discussion was heading off track and therefore will place this item on the next Selectmen's agenda for further discussion. Selectman Melia thanked Mr. O'Donnell and Mrs. Walker for their detailed presentation this evening. He remarked that he understands what preparing a budget is all about—a difficult task at best and agreed that the issue here was due to conservative budgeting. He liked the fact that budget monitoring and quarterly projection adjustments will be implemented. Mr. Melia also commented about the fact that people in the community probably feel that because of issues like this [a large sum of money sitting in the School Department's Revolving Accounts] it is probably the reason that the Town doesn't have a new Fire Station or DPW Facility. At the conclusion of this discussion, Chairman Montecalvo thanked everyone for coming and for presenting and explaining the information.

**Fuel Assistance/Present: Gail Anderson, Senior Center Director.** Town Manager Kozak asked Fire Chief Nestor to come forward as well. He noted that he invited Ms. Anderson tonight to talk about some of the programs available for seniors and other members of the community. She advised that she is very concerned about the seniors, especially those living on fixed incomes because this year with the price of fuel, some will have to choose between getting fuel, food, or perhaps medicine. Ms. Anderson said that the Fuel Assistance Program is run through the SMOC office in Framingham for those 60 years of age and older from Nov. 1 – April 30. Residents under 60 years of age can apply for assistance through Catholic Charities, which is located on Spring Street in Whitinsville. She noted that if someone is eligible for fuel assistance they may also be eligible for other programs such as reduced electric and phone rates and a home heating repair program as well. Ms. Anderson also mentioned that in this area, Unibank will also be providing some fuel assistance to seniors but that they have to apply through the Worcester Community Action Council. Other programs available: The Salvation Army, which manages a program called the Good Neighbor Energy Fund with eligibility income levels that are a bit higher, which helps those who wouldn't qualify for the regular fuel assistance program. NStar/National Grid provide discounts of about 20% for people who meet their eligibility guidelines. Lastly, a federal government program called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program [SNAP], is also available to help seniors buy food, which will help free up some of the seniors other money to pay for fuel or other necessities. Next, Chief Nestor said a meeting was held today to discuss what could be done to help those in need and one idea brought forward was the gifting of food or fuel to those deemed to be in need. In addition, he explained that the R-U-O-K Program monitored by the Fire Department but administered by the Senior Center is available for seniors or those living alone. If interested, they can fill out a form at the Senior Center and the information will be entered into the system. Every day at a particular time, the person will be called and checked on. If the call is not answered, the police and ambulance respond to see what is going on. Chief Nestor said occasionally someone forgets about the call and may not answer because they scheduled a doctor's appointment at the same time that their call is scheduled for. One last thing that the Fire Department is concerned about is if there is a heating crisis this winter-- people will be trying to find/use alternative heating devices like space heaters, wood stoves, and coal/pellet stoves, etc. He stressed the fact that the devices should be UL approved. In addition, a permit is required from the Building Inspector and all devices must be inspected. As far as space heaters go, they should be placed at least three feet from any combustible surface and extension cords must be in good condition and of proper amperage. Chief Nestor also stated that smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors are required for anyone having a garage attached to their house. Chairman Montecalvo thanked both Ms. Anderson and Chief Nestor for attending tonight's meeting.

**Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce/Present: Joe Deliso. 1) Regional Infrastructure Mapping Project Update.** Mr. Deliso thanked the Board and Town Manager for the invite to this evening's meeting. He then advised that the Chamber has been working very closely with the Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission [CMRPC] to develop a regional infrastructure map. The purpose of the project was to get a good accurate map of the infrastructures [sewer, water, power, roads, etc.] throughout the Blackstone Valley and how they connect to Town's target development sites. Mr. Deliso was pleased to announce that the work is nearly completed on the map and that it is ready for an initial presentation. He said that the local DPW and Planning Departments have had input in this project and will be invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, where the updated map will be presented for review and at which they will receive a copy of Northbridge's map. Mr. Deliso noted that the next step [Phase II] is to deal with gaps that exist in the infrastructure in the valley. **2) Economic Development Council Update.** Continuing, Mr. Deliso encouraged the Board/Town Manager to attend an 11-town meeting also scheduled for Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. The agenda will include an update on Economic Development Councils. A map was then presented showing the formation of Economic Development Councils across the state. Mr. Deliso thanked the Board for the invite to this evening's meeting.

**Memorial Day Parade/Present: Veterans representing various Veterans Groups/Posts in Northbridge.** William Audette introduced members of the various Veterans groups that were present. He then announced with sadness that one group of Veterans of which he is a member [John and Richard Moran Post #6145-Veterans of Foreign Wars] recently turned in their charter to the State and therefore any remaining members will have to join another post. Chairman Montecalvo said the Select Board itself is split on how to properly observe Memorial Day in Northbridge. That said, he would like the various Veterans groups to meet to see what their opinion is. Mr. Audette said that various veterans groups have met and discussed this issue in depth and the groups felt that nothing should be changed as far as the parade goes. Mr. Berkowitz said that his group meets with the Am Vets and they have not had a thorough discussion with the body. He said that he doesn't know what the answer is except that some sort of celebration must take place on the Rockdale Common. Selectman Ampagoomian suggested taking turns holding the parade one year in Rockdale and one year in Whitinsville. Mr. Audette said that was unfair to the part of town where no celebration would take place because of the long tradition currently in place. He again noted that the consensus among the Veterans groups were to leave the parade as it is now—one day in Whitinsville and one day in Rockdale. They indicated that this matter will be discussed more in depth with all groups and they will have an answer for the Board prior to Memorial Day of 2009.

**Cable Studio Update/Present: Harry Berkowitz, Chairman-Cable Advisory Committee [CAC].** Mr. Berkowitz advised that his committee met last Thursday but had two members absent. In addition, he stated that the landlord of the current cable studio location asked that his building [upstairs] be considered for relocation of the Cable Studio. As such, the CAC will conduct a site visit on Thursday at 7PM. Mr. Berkowitz also stated that the landlord said the upstairs can be made handicapped accessible and will give the CAC a good rate on rent. Continuing, Mr. Berkowitz indicated that his committee is also looking at the Pythian Building, Baker Building, and the High School for possible relocation of the cable studio. He said the CAC will also be meeting a week from Thursday to vote on a new location. Selectman Marzec asked the Town Manager if he planned on visiting the proposed locations. Mr. Kozak responded that he would if the Board would like him to.

**Town Manager's Report/1) Report on ICMA Conference-Virginia.** Advised that the conference was very informative and that he met a lot of Managers from across the country and abroad. Attended workshops concerning: performance measurement, public safety strategies; citizen issues; budgeting; and goals/objectives for Boards and Committees. **2) Master Plan Committee Meeting.** Meeting held last week at Alternative's for citizen input regarding the Master Plan—very well attended. **3) Department Head Meeting.** The Personnel Board was present to review some of the recommended changes to the current Personnel Policy Manual and to hear suggested changes from Department Heads. **4) Building, Planning & Construction Committee Meeting.** The BPCC has chosen Earth Tech to be the consultant for a DPW Facility Study to begin now and hopefully be finalized in time for the Spring Annual Town Meeting in May. **5) Meeting with Uxbridge Town Manager Jill Myers and Uxbridge Fire Chief Peter Ostrosky.** A regional outreach meeting was held to discuss ways to save revenue. Mr. Kozak noted that Uxbridge is also looking for a location for a Fire Station. Will also be looking at automatic personnel-a way to help each other by sharing personnel between two communities. **6) Regional Recycling Facility:** Announced that a clothing drive will be held at Walmart next weekend.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Marzec/1)** inquired about the status of former Selectman Davis' request to release Executive Session minutes. Mr. Kozak has not heard anything as of now. **2)** With possible oil and energy problems on the horizon, he suggested the Town look at alternative sources of power such as wind, solar, and energy conservation. **Selectman Melia/1)** thanked the department heads for their quarterly reports and said they were very good. **2)** Polling location at the High School—after working the last election, he would like to suggest a minor change in the traffic pattern and will submit it for review. **3)** Status of the Town Hall security system. Mr. Kozak responded that the bids have gone out for the automatic door opener. He said that once that is completed and if there is enough money left over, the security system would be the next step.

**Selectman Nolan/1)** Asked about the Linwood Mail delivery status. Mr. Kozak responded that he contacted both the Linwood and Worcester post offices and no decision has been made as of now. Mr. Nolan pointed out that the sooner we know the answer the better it would be for the residents because winter is coming and the ground will be frozen thus the residents would not be able to install a mailbox. Mr. Kozak said that he will follow up again.

**Selectman Ampagoomian/1)** Commended the Fire Department for its quick and professional response to a recent call on Hillview Lane. **2)** Any word on sharing a Library Director with Uxbridge. Mr. Kozak replied that he is working on that matter. **3)** Annual Halloween Party – American Legion Post – Saturday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. **4)** Community Standards Review Board/**a)** do they have their third member yet. Mr. Kozak responded not yet. **b)** Will they have a budget? The Town Manager said probably not but suggested that they talk to the Cable Advisory Committee. **c)** Have they talked with Town Counsel yet. Mr. Kozak replied yes, that they have reviewed the policy and made suggested changes.

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to go into Executive Session Under MGL Chapter 39, S.23B #3 Litigation and #3 Negotiations and #5 [Investigation of Complaint], not to return to Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec-Yes, Mr. Melia-Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian-Yes, Mr. Nolan-Yes, and Mr. Montecalvo-Yes.

Meeting adjourned: 9:41 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nolan, Clerk

/sls

\*At their regularly scheduled meeting of November 24, 2008, the Board voted to amend the October 6, 2008 minutes as follows: Selectman Melia recommended the following change; Under Sewer Service Policy, change the motion to read as follows: A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to rescind the prior vote of the Board made at their September 8, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan, Marzec and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Melia and Ampagoomian.

**Board of Selectmen  
October 20, 2008**

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. Nolan and Melia. **Absent:** Messrs. James Marzec and Chairman Joseph Montecalvo were absent and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes. None.** Vice Chairman Ampagoomian asked if any other Board members reviewed the July 28, 2008 disputed minutes. Town Manager Kozak stated, "Selectman Marzec reviewed them and is satisfied with the way they were written". Mr. Ampagoomian noted that he has a copy of the disputed minutes if anyone is interested in reviewing them.

**Appointments/By the Board of Selectmen. Election Officers/Vote to appoint additional election officers. Present: Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk.** Ms. Cedrone mentioned there are 13 students from Northbridge High School who have shown interest in working at the polls. Ms. Cedrone mentioned that she is working with High School teacher, Renee LaFayette, who holds a Citizens In Action class as a Social Study Elective for students and will be coordinating the details with her for the students to work the polls. Ms. Cedrone mentioned that four of the students will work from 10 AM to 3:00 PM, one in each precinct. The students will observe and then sit in and help the election workers during lunch breaks by serving as Election Officials. Other students will work in shifts as "Greeters". That said, a motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to appoint the following Northbridge High School students as additional election workers: Toni Egnitz, William Keaton, Olivia Marchi, Nicholas Tonelli, Amanda Consigli, Matthew Haas, Seth Bergeron, Tyler Roy, Julia Switzer, Alec Labonte, Joseph Susienka, Danielle Brown, Megan McGowan and Andrew Todd. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, and Ampagoomian.

Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he recently received a memo from Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk that the Town of Northbridge is in first place for the Lou Bertonazzi Foundation-Citizenship Award. This award is based on attendance at each election. Mrs. Cedrone mentioned that this started back in 2005, when Mr. Bertonazzi asked Town Clerk's from 19 towns to submit to him the total number of active voters and how many people turned out to vote after each election. That said, should Northbridge win, they would receive a \$1,000 check to use towards elections and voting.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Middle School Students and Ms. Sherri Travers - Invitation to Selectmen to attend a Veterans' Day Celebration.** Present: Taylor Brock, Daniel Clasby, Nicole DeFazio, and Ezequiel Deleon. The students mentioned that on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will hold their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Day Breakfast and would like to extend an invitation to all the Veteran's and their families in Town. Vice Chairman Ampagoomian suggested that this event be posted on cable so that everyone is aware when this is taking place.

**Presidential Election Warrant/Vote to sign.** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to sign the Presidential Election Warrant. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian.

**Operation Graduation 2009 [Julie Daoust]/Request permission to conduct a "Boot Drive" on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Memorial Square.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the above request subject to the Town's Boot Drive policy. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian.

**Holiday Tree Lighting Committee/1) Request permission to use the Whitinsville Town Common on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 3 PM to 6 PM for a Tree Lighting Ceremony.** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to grant permission to the Holiday Tree Lighting Committee to use the Whitinsville Town Common on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 3 PM to 6 PM for a Tree Lighting Ceremony. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. **2) Request permission to hang a banner over Church Street from November 23, 2008 through December 7, 2008 to advertise the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to grant permission to the Holiday Tree Lighting Committee to hang a banner across Church Street from November 23, 2008 through December 7, 2008 to advertise the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 3 PM to 6 PM for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian.

**Fall Annual Town Meeting/ 1) Vote position on warrant articles. Present: Mary Frances Powers, Finance Committee Chairman.** Vice Chairman Charles Ampagoomian read the warrant articles aloud. **Article 1 (FY'08 Prior year bills):** Town Manager Kozak provided the Board with details of the prior year bills. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 1. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 1. **Article 2 (FY '09 Budget**

**adjustments):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to support Article 2. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 2. **Article 3 (Sale of town-owned property off Driscoll Lane, Map 24, Parcel 130):** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 3. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 3. **Article 4 (Sale of town-owned property off C Street, Map 6A, Parcel 136):** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to support Article 4. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 4. **Article 5 (Amend bylaw 4-316 by reducing number of members from 7 to 5):** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 5. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 5. **Article 6 (Amend Art. 2 of 3/14/06 Spec. Twn. Mtg. to authorize the expenditure of not more than \$75,000 to replace the HVAC at the Northbridge Police Station):** A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to support Article 6. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted to support Article 6. **Article 7 (Road Acceptance/Ash Street):** Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt mentioned that the Planning Board has recommended passing over this article because they don't have all the required information needed from the developer to move forward. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to take **no position** on Article 7 at this time. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted not to support Article 7. **Article 8 (Road Acceptance/Green Meadow Court):** Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt mentioned that the Planning Board has recommended passing over this article because they don't have all the required information needed from the developer to move forward. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Melia to **pass over** Article 8 at this time. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted not to support Article 8. **Article 9 (Amend Zoning map to extend the R-3 Zone an additional 230 feet near Upton Street & Providence Road [Rockdale].** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to take **no position** at this time on Article 9. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan and Ampagoomian. The Finance Committee voted not to support Article 9.

**2) Road Layouts:** a) Ash Street – Vote **not** to lay out the alteration and extension of Ash Street as a public way. b) Green Meadow Court – Vote **not** to lay out Green Meadow Court as a public way. No action was taken on this matter.

**Cable Studio Location. Present: Harry Berkowitz, Chairman-Cable Advisory Committee and Member Shelley Buma.** Chairman Berkowitz informed the Selectmen that his Board met last week to discuss moving the Cable Studio to the Pythian Building. ~~\*A majority of members were present and a vote was taken (5-1).~~ “All members were present and a vote was taken (5-1-1)”. Committee Member Shelley Buma stated that she was the one dissenting vote as she felt that taxpayer's dollars could be better spent on things other than paying \$20,000.00 a year in rent. She stated she is in favor of relocating the studio at the High School.

**School Department Finances.** Town Manager Kozak presented a three-year projection of the School Department's finances and explained how the school used their operational monies first and then their grants, leaving them with a June 30, 2008 balance of \$2,939,111 in their revolving accounts. The chart illustrates that the balance in the revolving accounts at the end of the three years will have a balance of \$579,053.

**Town Manager's Report.** **1)** M.O.R.E. Meeting – Mr. Kozak mentioned he attended the breakfast meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting were budget issues/cuts and transportation. **2)** Building, Planning and Construction Committee Update – provided an update on the High School fields and hope to have the project completed by the end of October. He then mentioned that EarthTech won the bid to do the DPW Study. **3)** Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony – citizens in town are fundraising and working together to provide Tree Lighting for the Holidays. They would like to light trees in three locations [Rockdale Common, Whitinsville Common, and Linwood]. A concert will take place at Alternatives on December 7, 2008, from 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM. **4)** Parks and Recreation will be having their Holiday Bazaar at Northbridge High School from 9 AM to 5 PM on December 7, 2008. **5)** Community Standards Review Board – the Committee is working on procedures for producers to follow. Town Manager Kozak mentioned the committee is still looking for a third person who must be a producer. Forms can be picked up at the studio. **6)** Linwood Post Office Update – mentioned that Linwood residents will begin having delivery to their home mailboxes beginning sometime in February 2009. **7)** Upcoming Recycling Events – two recycling events took place at Wal-Mart this past weekend, clothing drive and collection of household appliances to help reduce the Carbon Footprint. **8)** Rural Development Meeting – informed the Board of a meeting he had with Representative Steven Bonavita from USDA to learn about programs that can be used by the community. **9)** Impact of Question 1 on Ballot – he informed everyone of the potential impact should Question #1 pass at the election: Chapter 70 monies reduced, Local Funding reduced, it would threaten public safety by cutting funds for police, fire protection and emergency medical services; reduction in state funding for public schools; reduce funding for vital local services such as libraries and senior centers; and repairs to aging roads and bridges would be held off.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Nolan 1)** exploring an ADHOC Committee **2)** volunteered to help gather a group of individuals to help assist installing posts for Linwood Residents. **Vice Chairman**

**Charles Ampagoomian 1)** suggested posting a meeting for October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM before Town Meeting. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that it was already done. **2)** FYI - Holiday Lighting was privately donated by Tom Berkowitz and Robert Mellor. **3)** Invite the Community Standards Review Board to their next meeting. **4)** Look into Green Technology for DPW Study. **5)** Inquired if any information has been received from the Department of Public Utility regarding the rate hearing.

**Items for Future Agenda.** Representative George Peterson, Jr. will conduct office hours at the Town Hall on November 10, 2008, from 7 PM to 8 PM

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:02 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

dg/

At their regularly scheduled meeting of November 10, 2008, the Board voted to amend the October 20, 2008 minutes as follows: Under the heading **Cable Studio Location**, in Line 3- insert the following language after the word "building". "All members were present and a vote was taken (5-1-1)". Also, Line 4 should continue to read as follows: "Committee Member Shelley Buma stated that she was the one dissenting vote as she felt that taxpayer's dollars could be better spent on things other than paying \$20,000.00 a year in rent."

**Board of Selectmen  
October 28, 2008  
Fall Annual Town Meeting**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph J. Montecalvo at 6:30 PM, at the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium, 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Marzec, Nolan and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager and Sharon L. Susienka, Asst. to the Town Manager.

Town Manager Kozak advised the Board that they should consider re-voting their position on Articles 3, 4, and 6, and vote their recommendation on articles 7 and 9 for tonight's town meeting.

**Article 7 - Road Acceptance/Ash Street:**

At a previous meeting, October 20, 2008, the Board voted to take "No Position" on article 7 pending further information from Town Counsel. Mr. Kozak informed the Board that this article would have to be passed over tonight because the Board had not voted to lay out the road prior to Town Meeting as recommended by Town Counsel. He further acknowledged that last year's vote on Ash Street was nullified because the road acceptance was not recorded within the 120-day required timeframe. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian **not to support** Article 7. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Article 9 – Zoning Amendment / Upton Street & Providence Rd. [Northbridge Nursing Home property]:**

At a previous meeting, October 20, 2008, the Board voted to take "No Position" on article 9. Town Manager Kozak informed the Board that the Planning Board does not recommend passage of this zoning change. In addition, he was notified late this afternoon by the petitioner's Attorney that the petitioner would be offering a motion to pass over this article at tonight's town meeting. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian **not to support** Article 9. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Article 6 – Authorize expenditure not to exceed \$75,000 for HVAC system at Police Station:**

At a previous meeting, October 20, 2008, the Board voted to support article 6. However, the Town Manager advised the Selectmen that due to there being an incorrect town meeting date in the warrant article that it cannot go forward tonight and as a result, the article would have to be passed over. Therefore, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to **pass over** Article 6. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Article 3 – Sale of town-owned property off Driscoll Lane:**

At a previous meeting, October 20, 2008, the Board voted to support Article 3. The Town Manager pointed out that the motion for article 3 contains additional language, which sets the minimum sale price for this property at \$1,500. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Montecalvo to **support** Article 3 in the amount of \$1,500. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Article 4 – Sale of town-owned property on C Street:**

At a previous meeting, October 20, 2008, the Board voted to support Article 4. The Town Manager pointed out that the motion for article 4 also contains additional language, which sets the minimum sale price for this property at \$25,000. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to **support** Article 4 in the amount of \$25,000. Vote yes/Unanimous.

At this time, Selectman Marzec requested a revote on Article 5, which involves a bylaw amendment reducing the number of members on the Playground & Recreation Commission from 7 to 5 and which the Board previously voted to support at their October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Marzec explained that he has since heard a lot of discussion against reducing the number of members on the Playground & Recreation Commission. Selectman Nolan concurred. Chairman Montecalvo informed Mr. Marzec that as long as a board member who previously supported Article 5 wished to reconsider the vote, it could be done. That said, a motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to reconsider the vote on Article 5. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan and Marzec. Vote no/Messrs. Ampagoomian, Melia, and Montecalvo. The original vote stands to **support** Article 5.

Town Manager Kozak reminded the Board that the 11-town meeting [sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce] will be held at Blackstone Valley Tech School, tomorrow, at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at the conclusion of the Fall Annual Town Meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

/sls

**Board of Selectmen  
November 10, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Marzec and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Chairman Montecalvo reminded everyone that Veteran's Day is tomorrow, November 11, 2008.

Selectman Ampagoomian informed everyone that today is the anniversary of the United States Marine Corps and wished them a "Happy Birthday".

**Approval of Minutes.**

**September 8, 2008**

Selectman Ampagoomian asked Selectman Marzec if he was in agreement with the submitted minutes. Selectman Marzec replied "yes". A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the September 8, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**September 15, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the September 15, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**September 15, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve but not release the September 15, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**October 6, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve but not release the October 6, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**October 20, 2008**

Selectman Melia requested that the October 20, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under Cable Studio Location, the information should read as follows: Under the heading **Cable Studio Location**, in Line 3- insert the following language after the word "building". "All members were present and a vote was taken (5-1-1)". Also, Line 4 should continue to read as follows: "Committee Member Shelley Buma stated that she was the one dissenting vote as she felt that taxpayer's dollars could be better spent on things other than paying \$20,000.00 a year in rent." A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the October 20, 2008 minutes as amended with the readings omitted. Vote yes/ Messrs. Melia, Ampagoomian and Nolan. Abstain/Messrs. Marzec and Montecalvo.

**October 28, 2008 [Fall Annual Town Meeting]**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the October 28, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Public Hearing/7:05 P.M./Allocation of Local Tax Levy for FY '09. Present: Robert Fitzgerald, Assessor.** Chairman Montecalvo read the public hearing notice aloud. A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Unanimous. Mr. Fitzgerald announced that the DOR requires this hearing each year. He then passed out a handout and mentioned that last year some of the Selectmen questioned whether they had to vote on the Allocation of Local Tax Levy if the Board was not going to shift the tax burden and the Department of Revenue responded "no". However, if the Selectmen do not vote, the town will keep a single tax rate as in the previous year. A vote allows the Selectmen to decide whether to shift the tax allocation between classes of property, which does not increase the revenue, but just shifts the tax burden. The question is does the Town want to shift some of the tax burden away from the residential and move it to the commercial, industrial and personal property classes. That said, Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that there was a 7.5% decrease in single family homes as well as a slight decrease in the commercial and industrial classes. He further stated that the Board of Assessors recommends maintaining a single rate for all properties.

Selection of a residential exemption distributes taxes among the residential class. It is up to a 20% discount and is based on the average valuation of a home. This year the average value of a single family home is \$305,300. Single family homes below that amount would get the discount but the difference would be made up by all properties over the average amount. For the Board's benefit, Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that the projected 2009 tax rate is \$10.06. 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 allow a tax break of up to 10% of the valuation for small commercial properties. To qualify, a business must have less than 10 employees and be valued at less than \$1 million. Around 100 businesses qualify for such an exemption. If you give them a tax break, then it needs to be made up by the businesses that are over \$1 million. There are only a few communities in the Commonwealth that use this exemption. The Board of Assessors does not recommend this exemption.

Chairman Montecalvo stated that the Board of Selectmen does not need to vote tonight because nothing is changing; they are not shifting the tax burden. Therefore, the Town of Northbridge will continue with a single tax rate for all classes of property including residential, commercial and industrial.

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

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Representative George Peterson, Jr.** was present to discuss what's going on in the State House. He mentioned that most communities are suffering because of the loss of new growth and decreasing property values. The State has a 1.4 billion dollar shortfall and money was taken out of the rainy day fund to cover it. He will have a better idea of the deficit when revenues come in January 2009, but then said it doesn't look good especially because there is difficulty getting bonding right now. Local Aid, Chapter 70 and Lottery funds could be cut. He mentioned that next year there will be reductions in several communities; they don't expect any level funding.

Chairman Montecalvo mentioned there have been several complaints regarding coyotes and therefore **Dan Chauvin, Animal Control Officer**, is present to discuss the problem. Mr. Chauvin mentioned that Massachusetts holds the shortest coyote hunting season in the country and as a result, the population is high. Coyotes are considered opportunistic and are very adaptable and efficient. He said that the hunting season opened on October 14<sup>th</sup> for coyotes and he has killed two since then. **Bruce Caissie, 197 Benson Road, Northbridge**, stated that he and his wife have lived in Northbridge for a long time and for the past 6 months they have listened to the coyotes getting louder and louder and that they are coming out at all hours of the day. He stated his concern about the children in Town. That said, Mr. Caissie would like to discuss this issue a month from now to hear an update. Chairman Montecalvo asked Mr. Chauvin to discuss this issue with the Police Chief and then report back to the Selectmen at their meeting of December 8, 2008. **Bob Parker, 20 Nolet Street, Linwood**, in response to a statement made by Chairman Montecalvo earlier this evening—Mr. Parker noted that landlords already do pay extra taxes to have rental property. In addition, Mr. Parker brought up a point regarding postal delivery in Linwood. He indicated that a letter should not have gone out until all the details were worked out regarding this issue as there were still a lot of unanswered questions. Town Manager Kozak stated that further details will be worked out at a later date. Mr. Parker also said that the residents in Linwood feel they should have a Whitinsville zip code and not an Uxbridge zip code.

**Playground and Recreation/Request to hang a banner over Church Street from November 11<sup>th</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup> to advertise a "Holiday Bazaar" to be held Sunday, December 7, 2008.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve Playground and Recreation's request to hang a banner over Church Street from November 11<sup>th</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup> to advertise their Holiday Bazaar to be held on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to move Item G "Middle School Roof Project/Request for SBAB Funding" from discussion to decisions. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Middle School Roof Project/Request for SBAB Funding.** Town Manager Kozak recommended that the Board of Selectmen vote to support this request. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan that the Northbridge Board of Selectmen in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorized the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority a Statement of Interest dated 11/14/08 for the Middle School located at 171 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category as a structural failure of the Middle School roofs. The priority category is Priority 1. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Playground & Recreation Policy & Procedures Manual/Present: Bruce Frieswick, Chairman, Playground & Recreation Commission [P&R] and Members: Alicia Cannon, Cari-Lynn Fisher and Louis Bernard.**

Chairman Bruce Frieswick mentioned that P & R came before the Board of Selectmen some time ago to discuss their suggested changes to the policy and procedures manual and was present tonight to provide the Selectmen with an update of P & R's final recommended changes. Chairman Frieswick stated that his board made changes with respect to fines in order to help alleviate some problems they were having with groups practicing on fields when they should not have been. Selectman Marzec expressed his concerns about not being notified sooner about fines that were being imposed on leagues. As an elected official of the Town, he said that the Board of Selectmen should have been made aware of these changes. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that he received some phone calls about these fines and had no idea what was going on. He also pointed out that the Playground and Recreation Commission would need a vote of the Board of Selectmen prior to implementing any fines. Regarding offenses for leagues who abuse use of the fields, Selectman Ampagoomian feels the fourth offense, permanent loss of field usage, is too harsh and the other Selectmen agreed. Selectman Melia suggested that the Playground and Recreation Commission handle all minor offenses but that the serious offenders would need to come before the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager for review and determination. There being no further comments, Chairman Montecalvo advised that the Selectmen will review the policy and procedures manual and provide their feedback to the Playground & Recreation Commission. This item will be placed on a future Board of Selectmen's agenda for approval.

**Cable Advisory Committee Policy Manual [Community Standards Review Board]. Present: Anne Stefaniak and Carrie Maynard.** Town Manager Kozak provided a document from Attorney William Hewig, [Kopelman & Paige] for the Selectmen to review. The document contained proposed changes to the Cable Advisory Committee's Policy concerning duties related to the Community Standards Review Board.

**Cable Studio Location Process.** Town Manager Kozak stated that the Board of Selectmen has not taken a vote on the location of the cable studio. Continuing, he informed the Chairman of the Cable Committee that a decision on a location can not be made until it goes through the 30B process. Thus, if the Town decides to relocate the studio at privately owned property then we have to go through the 30B process. However, if the committee chooses to implement a non-profit cable access corporation, we do not have to go through the 30B process.

**Community Standards Review Board/Present: Anne Stefaniak and Carrie Maynard.** Ms. Stefaniak and Mrs. Maynard provided the Board of Selectmen with a progress report. That said, Ms. Stefaniak reviewed what her Board has accomplished in their first month.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Skateboard Park Update – Mr. Kozak mentioned the skateboard park has been completed and thanked the DPW crew and students for all their help. 2) Blackstone Heritage Corridor Presentation on Reuse of Old Mills – some employees attended a workshop for reuse of old mill buildings. 3) Workshop on Green Community Act – Town Manager Kozak and DPW Director Richard Sasseville attended a workshop in Worcester regarding the Green Community Act and ways to save money. 4) Building, Planning & Construction Committee – field work has been completed at the High School and bids for the infiltration work have gone out. DPW Facility – Earth Tech will do the study. 5) Personnel Board Update – the committee finalized their recommended changes to the personnel policy manual. A draft will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen within a week or two for their review. 6) Election went well, 84% voter turnout.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) Skateboard park concerns; a trash receptacle should be placed on the premises; signage and a mechanism for complaints. 2) Would like to be notified when the Town Manager and/or employees attend workshops so that if the Selectmen can't attend, they can submit questions for you to take to the meeting. 3) Progress on High School Audit – Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he spoke to the SBAB a couple months ago and they are still working on the audit. 4) Has the Safety Committee looked at the traffic patterns on the off-street parking of Church Street. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that the committee has not met this month. 5) Revisit the traffic pattern at Memorial Square. Selectman Melia requested that DPW Director Richard Sasseville come before the Board to discuss this issue as he felt he is the most qualified. 6) Acknowledgement of Kevin Plant [new Eagle Scout] completed a project on Lake Street (revitalized tables and park benches). 7) Saturday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Church @ 11 AM there will be a memorial service for Scott Metcalf, a soldier who was killed in Afghanistan. **Selectman Nolan** 1) voting went very well. 2) Update on second water meters. Town Manager Kozak responded that the process has begun. **Selectman Melia** 1) ornamental streetlights from Memorial Square to Aubuchon's are not working. Town Manager Kozak mentioned they were turned off last year due to loss of funding. 2) Thanked everyone who worked at the polls. 3) Scott Mackintosh resigned from the Playground & Recreation Commission and would like a letter to be sent thanking him for his services. **Selectman Marzec** 1) mentioned the polls went very smoothly and thanked everyone who worked that day. 2) He checked out the upper fields and thanked the Building, Planning and Construction Committee and the workers for doing such a great job. 3) Update on the Union Street Brook issue – would like to place it under discussions at a future meeting. Chairman Montecalvo recalled that it would be looked at in the spring. 4) Echoed what Selectman Ampagoomian stated about the Green Community Act workshop. 5) Any information on the handicap accessibility of Town Hall. Town Manager Kozak mentioned the company had to delay the installment of the automatic door opener for another week but that it should be completed by next week. 6) Update on St. Patrick's Lease-Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the attorney for the church has not contacted the town's attorney.

**Items for Future Agenda.** Green Community Act.

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#5 Disciplinary Issue & M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#3 Litigation--not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec/Yes; Mr. Melia/Yes; Mr. Nolan/Yes; Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; and Mr. Montecalvo/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

/dg

**Board of Selectmen  
November 24, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Marzec and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**October 6, 2008**

Selectman Melia recommended the October 6, 2008 minutes be amended as follows: Under the title, Sewer Service Policy, amend the motion to read as follows: A motion/Mr. Nolan, seconded/Mr. Marzec to rescind the prior vote of the Board made at their September 8, 2008 meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan, Marzec and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Melia and Ampagoomian. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to amend the October 6, 2008 minutes as recommended above. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Chairman Montecalvo** advised everyone that Mr. William Jorritsma's appointment would be postponed to a future meeting.

**Resignation: Playground & Recreation Commission/Scott Mackintosh.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the resignation of Mr. Scott Mackintosh and send him a letter of appreciation. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** 1) Skateboard Park [Sherri Travers and Former Students]. Present: Matt Perry and Justin Varteresian. Mr. Perry read aloud a speech he prepared thanking the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, Playground & Recreation, Finance Committee, Highway Department, Building, Planning & Construction Committee, Engineers, Advisory Committee and residents for all their help and support so that the Skateboard Park could become a reality. Mr. Varteresian also read aloud a speech he prepared thanking Mrs. Travers and others mentioned above for making their dreams come true. He mentioned the greatest lesson he learned was that contrary to popular belief, change is not rapid. The amount of time it takes to accomplish something is enumerable and through hard work and dedication brings about a solution. 2) Student Election Workers/Presentation of Certificates [Present: Doreen Cedrone, Town Clerk and Mr. René Lafayette, Teacher]. Ms. Cedrone thanked the 14 High School Students who worked the election on November 4, 2008, and noted she was very proud of them. That said, she extended her appreciation to the Department of Public Works, School Department, School Committee, Election Workers, Wards and Clerks, Police Department and last but not least Connie Hills, the Assistant Town Clerk. Mr. Lafayette read aloud a speech he prepared thanking Town Clerk Doreen Cedrone and Assistant Town Clerk Connie Hills. He mentioned that his students learned practical and valuable lessons about democracy and provided each of them with a certificate of appreciation.

**Community Standards Review Board Policy [Attorney William Hewig, Kopelman & Paige].**

Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that Attorney Hewig is present for tonight's meeting so that the Board of Selectmen can amend the Community Standards Review Board Policy. Attorney Hewig mentioned that because of the American Civil Liberties Union some changes have to be made to the policy. Selectman Nolan asked if a decision needed to be made tonight and Attorney Hewig responded "no". A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to place the final draft of the Community Standards Review Board policy under discussions at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. Selectman Melia mentioned that since the attorney is present tonight it makes no sense to hold off on this. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to rescind the previous motion made above. Vote yes/Unanimous. After a brief question and answer session, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to table this matter until their next meeting. Vote yes/Messrs. Ampagoomian and Nolan. Vote no/Messrs. Marzec, Melia and Montecalvo. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the amended Cable Policy as presented by Attorney Hewig. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Melia and Montecalvo. Vote no/Messrs. Ampagoomian and Nolan.

**2008 Holiday Schedule.** Town Manager Kozak suggested changing the 2008 Christmas Holiday Schedule on Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday, the employees would work until 1 o'clock and then close on Thursday and Friday. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to amend the 2008 Holiday Schedule as follows: Wednesday, December 24, 2008 & Wednesday, December 31, 2008, the Town Hall will close at 1 P.M. The Town Hall will be closed all day on: December 25, 2008, December 26, 2008, January 1, 2009 and January 2, 2009. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2009 Holiday Calendar/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the 2009 Holiday Calendar. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2009 Board of Selectmen's Meeting Schedule/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2009 Board of Selectmen's Meeting Schedule. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Winter Parking Ban [December 1, 2008 to April 1, 2009]/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve the Winter Parking Ban from December 1, 2008 to April 1, 2009 as recommended by the Chief of Police. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Fees for Sanding and Plowing Unaccepted Subdivision Roadways/Vote to approve rates.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the rates as recommended by the Director of Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Knights of Columbus [Mr. Bob Jacques]/Request permission to hang a banner across Church Street from December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 14<sup>th</sup> to advertise their Annual Children's Christmas Party.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to grant permission to the Knights of Columbus to hang a banner across Church Street from December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 14<sup>th</sup> to advertise their Annual Children's Christmas Party. Vote yes/Messrs. Nolan, Ampagoomian, Melia and Montecalvo. Abstain/Mr. Marzec.

**Holiday Events [Playground and Recreation Commission, Alternatives & Holiday Tree Lighting Committee].** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned the following events all take place on December 7, 2008: 1) Holiday Bazaar runs from 9 AM to 5 PM @ the Northbridge High School. Call 508-234-5811 for information. Chairman of the Playground and Recreation Commission Bruce Frieswick asked about placing signs around town to advertise their Holiday Bazaar event. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the town has a policy for placing signs on Town property, public ways, etc. and to contact Richard Sasseville at the Highway Department for the policy guidelines. Playground and Recreation Committee Member Cari-Lynn Fisher mentioned she would contact Sharon Susienka for assistance. Selectman Ampagoomian pointed out to each committee that they should be aware of the significance of the December 7<sup>th</sup> date [Pearl Harbor Day]. 2) The Holiday Concert runs from 2 PM – 3:15 PM @ Alternatives Whitin Mill Complex. Call 508-266-6502 for information. Alternatives Representative Donna Prior and Kathy Lyons, Chairman of the Holiday Tree Lighting Committee were both present to discuss their events. Ms. Lyons thanked Fire Chief Gary Nestor and the Fire Department for all their help and support. Mrs. Prior informed the Selectmen and residents of the activities and events that will be taking place at Alternatives. 3) The Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony runs from 4 PM – 5PM @ the Whitinsville Town Common. Call 508-234-6224 for information.

**Blackstone Valley Regional Economic Development Council.** Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that he and other Board members attended the Regional Selectmen's Meeting on October 29, 2008 for a discussion on Regional Economic Development. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that due to the financial constraints of the town, the Northbridge Board of Selectmen support the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's concept however would not be able to support them financially. A letter will be sent from Town Manager Kozak to Mr. Joseph Deliso, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee advising him of the town's position.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Employee & volunteer recognition program –provided an overview of the analysis prepared by Town Clerk and Treasurer/Collector's Office. At a future meeting, bring in individuals who qualify for recognition. 2) Building, Planning and Construction Committee Projects – work on the fields is almost completed. Final work to be done in the springtime. The BPC is currently working on a plan to address handi-cap access. The Committee received bids on the infiltration basin work and will make recommendations at their next meeting. The BPC is working with consultants on the scope of work for the DPW facility study. 3) Timber Management of Town Owned Property – DPW Director and Town Manager are working with Timber Management Consultant to prepare bids for a winter harvest. 4) Fire Truck Purchase – Fire Chief has awarded the purchase of the fire truck to Pierce Manufacturing. 5) Chapter 43D Grant Award – Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt notified the Town Manager of the grant award of \$99,000.00 for planning and development of land use in the Town. 6) attended a Cable Committee Meeting – the committee is working with a consultant to start working on providing new equipment in the Board of Selectmen's room.

**Selectmen's Concerns.** **Selectman Marzec** 1) extended his deepest condolences to Police Chief Warchol and family for the recent loss of his mother; 2) Handi-cap access door has been installed at the Town Hall; 3) update on Union Street; 4) Whitinsville Water Company Filtration Plant; 5) updating Town Website; 6) Green Committee [Alternative Energy Usage] – place on a future agenda. **Selectman Melia** 1) any survey results on the second water meter issue. DPW Director Richard Sasseville informed the Selectmen that over 1,000 bills went out to sewer customers and only 14 residents stressed their interest in having a second meter. 2) any more issues or complaints on coyotes? **Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) School Audit, Town Manager Kozak and Chairman Montecalvo replied, "not completed". 2) Rumor about an addition to Balmer School. 3) Key card system? Will begin after the holidays per DPW Director Richard Sasseville. 4) update on 2 articles [from the Fall Town Meeting] regarding town-owned

property. Town Manager Kozak replied they are working on articles. 5) Cable Studio Location. **Selectman Nolan 1**) attended a meeting at the CMRPC in Worcester.

**Items for Future Agenda.**

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#3 Negotiations--not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec/Yes; Mr. Melia/Yes; Mr. Nolan/Yes; Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; and Mr. Montecalvo/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:39 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

**/dg**

**Board of Selectmen  
December 8, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Marzec and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Presentation of Wreath from clients of the Evergreen Center, Milford, MA.** Clients from the Evergreen Center presented a wreath to the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Kozak. Chairman Montecalvo and Town Manager Kozak thanked them for the wreath and mentioned it will be hung outside on the Town Hall.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**November 10, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the November 10, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**November 10, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to approve but not release the November 10, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**November 24, 2008 [Executive Session]**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve but not release the November 24, 2008 Executive Session minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Public Meeting. FY '09 Community Development Block Grant Program/Strategy Session.**

**Present: Gary Bechtholdt, Town Planner.** Chairman Montecalvo opened public meeting for the fiscal year 2009 Community Development Block Grant Strategy Session. Ted Kozak, Town Manager, explained one of the first steps in the application process is to apply for funds through this program. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the purpose of tonight's public meeting is to open the review and public comment period for the Town's Community Development Strategy in preparation for Northbridge's FY2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program application. Mr. Bechtholdt provided a handout for the meeting and then briefly highlighted the program and what the town needs to do as a community to set the stage for the application. Mr. Bechtholdt explained town's seeking grant funding shall annually review and update its Community Development Strategy (CD Strategy). The Community Development Strategy shall summarize the various planning documents developed locally and will outline a plan of action to accomplish specific community development goals. The CD Strategy should also target certain portions of the town for priority development purposes and include how the community expects to address these priorities with CDBG & non-CDBG funds. Mr. Kozak mentioned Northbridge has completed a number of municipal infrastructure projects most recently on Border Street, which was the first phase of a 3-phase project. In addition, Mr. Bechtholdt also noted the town has had a successful housing rehab and sign and façade program through CDBG funding. Mr. Bechtholdt stated that Northbridge was not awarded CDBG funding last year and that it was his initial intention, based upon that public input, to seek similar project funds for the FY09 CDBG program. Mr. Bechtholdt cited that in addition to infrastructure improvements, other eligible projects include housing assistance such as lead paint abatement, economic development/commercial rehabilitation such as sign and façade improvements, public facilities, (architectural barrier removal), public social services, and certain planning projects. The eligible projects must satisfy one of the three national objectives of the CDBG program: (a) benefit low and moderate incomes; (b) prevent or eliminate conditions of slums or blight; or (c) address an urgent or critical community need. Mr. Bechtholdt stated again that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to open up the dialogue and public review comment as we prepare this year's application. The FY08 CD strategy was completed for last year's submission and we are currently using it as a template for this year and certainly want to take input from the residents to see if they want to expand the target area and/or seek other program activities through CDBG funds. Mr. Bechtholdt continued by suggesting a number of things one may want to ask themselves, as we move forward in the review process: Should the town continue to seek funding for the reconstruction of streets and sidewalks? Are there other streets & sidewalks that need improvement? Should the town continue to offer housing rehabilitation assistance to its lower income residents? Are there public buildings that are not accessible to all residents? What projects should the Community Development Block Grant funds be targeted to in Town? Are there some neighborhoods in more need than others? Are there services that could increase the economic stability of Northbridge's low & moderate-income residents? Should Northbridge consider regional approaches to addressing certain community needs? The Community Development Block Grant application is due February 13, 2009, and the town is presently working with the Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) in Worcester on the preparation of this year's CDBG application. The intent tonight is to initiate review and keep that comment period open through the end of the month (December 31, 2008), which will be followed by a public hearing in January specific to the application. Copies of the draft CD Strategy are

on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Office and may also be viewed online on the town's website along with notice on the local access channel with contact information. Those interested in providing comments are encouraged to do so by contacting the Planning or Town Manager's Offices. Mr. Bechtholdt indicated Northbridge is no longer considered a mini-entitlement community and has not been for a couple of years and reviewed the option of submitting the grant application under CDF I or CDF II. Mr. Bechtholdt briefly explained the differences of the two grant funding pools (CDF I / CDF II), noting for CDF II, the Community Need Score is not calculated in the overall scoring of the application. Mr. Bechtholdt explained the purpose of tonight's meeting was not necessarily to speak specifically about the program but to talk about the Town of Northbridge and its Community Development Strategy moving forward, identify target area, prioritizing initiatives in preparation of putting together a worthy application for this grant program. Mr. Montecalvo asked when the public hearing would be held. Mr. Kozak explained the opening of the hearing would be the first meeting in January and asked that the public who would like to offer comments and ideas to contact the town during the open review period and during the public hearing process. Mr. Bechtholdt advised the public hearing would be advertised and posted. Mr. Ampagoomian asked if anyone contacted Wayne Darragh, the consultant who assisted Northbridge in the past. Mr. Bechtholdt indicated that the Town Manger did communicate with Mr. Darragh, who has been very helpful in our transition. Mr. Kozak reminded the Selectmen tonight's meeting is a good opportunity to offer thoughts and ideas. Mr. Melia asked if anyone has contacted the State to determine why Northbridge did not get the grant last year and if we are looking to get past that as we move forward with this year's grant. Mr. Bechtholdt & Mr. Kozak explained as part of their meeting with Mr. Darragh they also met with Mark Siegenthaler the Community Development Manager at DHCD. Mr. Kozak explained that a big part of the application is the Community Need score. The good news is that the community is improving its economic and social economics with higher income levels and better housing stock. However, it lowers the number on the applications, which makes it more difficult to compete with other communities. In conclusion, Mr. Kozak noted that the Community Need score was really the hurdle, which makes him think we may want to look at CDF II instead of CDF I. Mr. Ampagoomian agreed and suggested looking to fund installation of an elevator in the old Aldrich School so that the entire building could be used for municipal activities. Mr. Bechtholdt suggested that may be considered as a public facilities and architectural barrier removal project. Mr. Kozak explained that he had also considered it. Mr. Bechtholdt explained that the town had a really strong application last year for the infrastructure project so we could pick up a second activity for the grant and would explore other activities and see how to make our application stronger. We may get bonus points for doing multiple projects, however, we may not benefit in the application. Mr. Kozak noted the other concern with the Aldrich School is the property is not currently within the target area. We could look to extend the target area but to extend and submit a project in the first year may not be received well. Mr. Ampagoomian noted the Aldrich School is just outside the existing target area, which is the next block over. Mr. Bechtholdt noted if we are to add activities, we need to make sure it is within the target area or expanded target area as well as satisfy one of the three National objectives. Mr. Kozak said he may contact landlords to see if there is a housing need and if those watching could contact the town; could be outside our target area but we could expand it if there is a clear need to expand. Mr. Bechtholdt noted housing rehab was a successful program for the town in the past. Mr. Kozak also mentioned soliciting for social public programs as well as looking into foreclosure or different types of programs. Mr. Montecalvo expressed the need to address sidewalks as they are in terrible shape. Mr. Bechtholdt noted that during the Community Development Strategy session, we should look to prioritize things. Mr. Kozak noted anyone with comments/suggestions to please contact the Town with their thoughts and ideas. After soliciting input from those in the audience, A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec voted to keep the comment period open for the Community Development Strategy through December 31, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Citizens' Comments/Input. Loretta Donahue, 12 Taft Street, Northbridge,** concerned parent and advocate for the sports programs in Northbridge. She explained there are nine travel basketball teams but not enough practice time in our gymnasiums. The teams are only allowed to use the gymnasium for one hour and fifteen minutes a week for practice time. She was here to ask the board for assistance with using the schools gymnasiums for additional practice time. Chairman Montecalvo advised her to speak with Town Manager Kozak so that he can coordinate something with the Superintendent of Schools. Town Manager Kozak informed Mr. Montecalvo that he spoke with Henry O'Donnell, Interim Superintendent, and that he wasn't aware there was a problem. Mr. O'Donnell asked that Ms. Donahue contact him so they can arrange something.

**The Village Congregational Church (Pastor Robert G. Sherwood) /1) Request permission to use the Whitinsville Town Common for a Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. (Rain Date: Sunday, June 21, 2009).** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to The Village Congregational Church to use the Whitinsville Town Common for a Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. (Rain Date: Sunday, June 21, 2009). 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. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request subject to the safety requirements of the Police Department and Department of Public Works. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**JoAnn Warren d/b/a JoAnn Warren Studio [JoAnn Warren, Mgr.] /Vote to approve dance permit.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the JoAnn Warren d/b/a JoAnn Warren Studio dance permit. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Excavation and Trench Safety Regulations. Present: Richard Sasseville, DPW Director.** Mr. Sasseville provided the Board of Selectmen with a “draft” copy of the Trench Safety Regulations and explained that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopted a new law to protect the public from open trenches. In addition, the Safety Committee will have to designate a permitting authority at their next meeting and then the regulations need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen will review the information and place it on their next agenda for approval.

**Holiday Events Update [Playground and Recreation Commission, Alternatives & Holiday Tree Lighting Committee.** Present: Bruce Frieswick, Chair of Playground and Recreation Commission, Committee Members: Frank Puda and Alicia Cannon. Donna Prior, Alternatives, and Kathy Lyons Chair, of the Holiday Tree Lighting Committee. The Board of Selectmen thanked each committee and all the volunteers for their hard work and effort in making the Holiday Events such a success. That said, the Selectmen also provided some suggestions on how to conduct future Holiday events in the Town of Northbridge.

**Playground & Recreation Policy Manual.** Present: Bruce Frieswick, Chair of Playground and Recreation Commission and Committee Members: Alicia Cannon and Frank Puda. The Board of Selectmen mentioned they would review the policy manual and provide their comments to the Playground and Recreation Commission for their review. Chairman Montecalvo mentioned that he will go along with their policy but if he feels something needs to be changed, it could be changed in the future. After the Board of Selectmen review the policy manual, the Playground and Recreation Committee will be invited to a future meeting at which the Board of Selectmen will take a vote on the policy manual.

**Northbridge High School Accreditation. Present: Christine Johnson, Principal and Mary Contino, Chairman of the School Committee.** Chairman Montecalvo announced that Northbridge High School has been accredited for the next 10 years. Chairman Contino mentioned they were thrilled to hear the good news. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Ms. Johnson, Ms. Contino and all who contributed to making the accreditation happen.

**Town Manager’s Report.** **1)** Building, Planning and Construction Committee Update – the committee has begun a feasibility study for the fire station [Heritage Design]. Looking at the possibility of placing the fire station behind the police department. Hired a firm for the infiltration basin. Currently working with an engineer on a DPW study but the quote came in high. **2)** Community Development Meeting – a representative from the State came out to meet with Gary Bechtholdt and Town Manager Kozak to discuss the town’s application. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that he and Mr. Bechtholdt would be attending a workshop on grants tomorrow in Boston. **3)** Personnel Board Meeting - finalizing the personnel policy and will be holding a public meeting sometime in January. **4)** Cable Advisory Committee Update – met with the Chairman of the Cable Committee to discuss Community Access design. Town Manager Kozak will work with the attorney to put together a packet for the Board to review. **5)** Update on website for Financial Information – spoke to Bob Thayer about the budgets and will make sure the information is out on the website for individuals to review. **6)** Update on Aldrich School Work – received bid proposals for work to be done at the school. Hopefully, the building will be ready for spring time so that employees can move into the building. **7)** Employee & Volunteer Recognition Program – working with Sharon Susienka on putting together plaques and certificates with hopes to present the plaques/certificates at the first Board of Selectmen’s meeting in January. **8)** Ambulance Update – a deer hit the ambulance and the ambulance is at Kearn’s Auto Body for repair. **9)** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the Town of Northbridge won the “Best Voting” award for 2008. According to the Lou Bertonazzi Foundation, Northbridge’s average was 40.02 percent.

**Selectmen’s Concerns. Selectman Marzec 1)** A citizen approached him about replacing a sign on St. James Court and he is willing to help foot the bill. Mr. Sasseville informed the Board that they have a sign, however, they just need a place to put the sign. **2)** Memorial Square – asked if the Safety Committee could review the intersection; **3)** attended a workshop at UMASS Amherst on green initiatives. **Selectman Melia 1)** Memorial Square gridlock problems. **Selectman Ampagoomian 1)** suggested inviting Verizon and National Grid in to their next meeting to discuss getting rid of poles; **2)** Cable Studio Location and following the 30B Process. Town Manager Kozak will contact the Inspector General regarding the grant money for the 30B process. **Selectman Nolan 1)** timing of SBAB funding for the Middle School Roof Project – Town Manager Kozak mentioned the school submitted the application and hasn’t heard anything yet? **2)** Veteran’s Building on Hill Street – asked who is responsible for the upkeep? The roof looks like its deteriorating; **3)** inquired as to when the Animal Control Officer will be coming in again to provide an update to the coyote situation. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that Dan Chauvin, Animal Control Officer, would be coming to the first meeting in January to discuss

further. 4) Resolution of St. Patrick's Lease – Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the draft version was signed and they are now waiting for St. Patrick's attorney to respond regarding the language.

**Items for Future Agenda.**

**Executive Session.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 39, S. 23B#3 Negotiations--not to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marzec/Yes; Mr. Melia/Yes; Mr. Nolan/Yes; Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes; and Mr. Montecalvo/Yes.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:49 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

**/dg**

**Board of Selectmen  
December 22, 2008**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Joseph Montecalvo at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. **Present:** Messrs. Ampagoomian, Nolan, Marzec and Melia. **Also Present:** Theodore D. Kozak, Town Manager, Sharon Susienka, Assistant to the Town Manager, and Donna Gosselin, Administrative Assistant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**Approval of Minutes.**

**November 24, 2008**

A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the November 24, 2008 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Appointments. By the Board of Selectmen: Historical Commission: Dan O'Neill.** Dan O'Neill, 25 Leland Road, mentioned that he has lived in Northbridge off and on for 45 years. He is a graduate of Northbridge High School and received an Associates Degree in optics. Town Manager Kozak mentioned that the Chairman of the Historical Commission, Ken Warchol, could not attend the meeting tonight but recommended that the Board of Selectmen appoint Mr. O'Neill to their Commission. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Dan O'Neill to the Historical Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous. **By the Town Manager: Re-appointment of Special Police Officers: 1) Thomas Melia 2) George Hamm.** Town Manager Kozak mentioned that these appointments are for a three-year term. **Selectman Melia left the room for this discussion/vote.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Marzec to affirm the Town Manager's appointment to reappoint Thomas Melia and George Hamm as Special Police Officers. Vote yes/Messrs. Marzec, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Nolan.

Selectman Melia returned to the meeting.

**Resignation. Playground and Recreation Commission: Ken Taylor.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Nolan to accept the resignation of Ken Taylor from the Playground and Recreation Commission. Vote yes/Unanimous. A letter will be sent to Mr. Taylor thanking him for all his years of service to the Town.

**Citizens' Comments/Input.** None.

**2009 Annual Liquor License Renewals/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Nolan to approve the 2009 annual liquor license renewals subject to the payment of all outstanding liens. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**2009 Miscellaneous License Renewals [Common Victualler, Class II, Class III, Automatic Amusement Devices, Entertainment, etc.]/Vote to approve.** A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2009 miscellaneous license renewals subject to the payment of all outstanding liens. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Safety Committee Minutes [December 10, 2008]/Vote to accept recommendations.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the recommendations of the Safety Committee as outlined in the minutes of December 10, 2008. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Excavation and Trench Safety Regulations/1) Vote to designate the DPW as the permitting authority 2) Vote to approve regulations.** Town Manager Kozak advised that the Safety Committee recommended the DPW serve as the permitting authority. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Melia to designate the DPW as the permitting authority based on the Safety Committee recommendations. Vote yes/Unanimous. DPW Director Richard Sasseville made some minor corrections to the regulations he presented at the last meeting for the selectmen to review. Mr. Sasseville also advised the Board that the current Town regulation on Road Opening Permits would be amended in the near future to add the required safety provisions that are in the new Trench Safety Regulations. A motion/Mr. Marzec, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve and adopt the Excavation and Trench Safety Regulations. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Superintendent's Search Committee/Vote to appoint a Selectmen's Representative.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Nolan to appoint Selectman James Marzec as the Selectmen's Representative for the Superintendent's Search Committee. Vote yes/Messrs. Melia, Nolan, Ampagoomian and Montecalvo.

**Storms Update [Richard Sasseville].** Mr. Sasseville provided an update on the past three storms that occurred within a nine-day period. He mentioned that Northbridge was fortunate that our town wasn't hit as hard as our neighbors [referenced the ice storm that effected North of us, Sutton, Worcester, Leominster, Rutland, etc]. He then elaborated on the rainstorm which caused flooding in several areas

such as; Rockdale, Church Street Extension and Carr Street. The first snowstorm lasted over a day and then the second storm followed shortly thereafter which caused a shortage in salt. That said, he mentioned that salt continues to be difficult to get. He ordered 16 loads of salt [equates to almost 500 tons of salt] and is almost out. They received 1 load today and hope to receive another one tomorrow. He advised everyone that they have two suppliers and two contracts this year and when and if they build a new DPW facility, he hopes to have two salt sheds to have a better supply.

**FY 2009 MA Community Development Block Grant. Present: Town Planner Gary Bechtholdt.** Mr. Bechtholdt announced that the public hearing of the Board of Selectmen for the FY 2009 CDBG program would be held on January 12, 2009 at 7:05 P.M in the Board of Selectmen's Room. He then mentioned that Community input is very important along with the support of the proposed activities. Representatives from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission will be attending to help assist the Town with the application process.

**Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission's Report. Present: Town Accountant Neil Vaidya.** Mr. Vaidya provided the Selectmen with a brief update of the PERAC Examination of the Northbridge Retirement System from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. That said, there were no significant findings to report.

**Town Manager's Report.** 1) Treasurer/Collector Resignation – Deb Kristoff handed in her resignation effective January 9, 2009, and we are currently advertising for a replacement. If needed, we will entertain hiring an Interim. 2) Department Head Meeting – reviewed the financial forecast and submittal of budget information from Department Heads for FY 2010. Discussed job descriptions for town employees. 3) Finance/School Department Meeting - Quarterly meeting with representatives from Superintendent, School Committee and Finance Committee regarding school department revolver accounts. 4) Telephone Pole Removal Update – contacted various utility companies to discuss the removal of double and stub poles. A meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009. 5) Cable Studio/30B Update – Contacted the Inspector General's Office regarding town's requirements for purchase of equipment and studio space with cable company grants funds. 6) Senior Tax Work-Off Program – the program will begin after the first of the year. Currently, we have twelve seniors from the previous year wanting to participate and we will be seeking additional applicants. 7) C Street Garage – received communication from Mass Development regarding potential funding for removal of municipal buildings. They will enter the C Street Garage as a candidate for funding. 8) St. Patrick's Church Lease – Town Counsel has not received a response from the St. Patrick's Church attorney regarding his proposed changes. He does not believe the church is interested in changing the current agreement.

**Selectmen's Concerns. Selectman Marzec** 1) update as to when free cash will be available. Town Accountant Neil Vaidya mentioned that he should be notified by the first or second week of January. 2) attended a workshop @ UMASS Amherst on alternatives for energy conservation. 3) requested an update on the coyote situation; 4) recognition awards. 5) received some information in the mail regarding Verizon, is there any word on when verizon will come to Northbridge? 6) requested an update on when the renovation of bridges in town will take place; 7) residents are expressing interest in sewer hookup off Sutton Street. **Selectman Melia** 1) wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; 2) are any staff members in the Town Hall able or certified to be the Treasurer/Collector. 3) Asked if Northbridge was prepared for a short-term or long-term evacuation, along with shelter. Town Manager replied that Northbridge would be prepared for short-term; however, long-term might be something we should look into. **Selectman Ampagoomian** 1) advised residents that the ponds are not frozen, be careful and stay off the ice. 2) discussed the flooding in Rockdale; suggested that the Town Manager be more visible; 3) American Legion held their annual Kid's Christmas Party and mentioned that it went well; 4) Congressman Neal will be attending a future meeting and will advise the Board of Selectmen once a date has been confirmed. 5) asked when the Town Manager's Performance Evaluation is due. Town Manager replied in the spring.

#### **Items for Future Agenda.**

**Correspondence.** National Park System.

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Daniel Nolan, Clerk**

/dg