

**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**September 6, 2011**  
**4:00 pm**

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; Michael J. Donaroma, and Margaret E. Serpa. Also present was Ms. Pamela Dolby.

At 4:00 p.m. Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and the advertised hearing for a street license for MV Transport, Ron Minkin. Present were Mr. Minkin, Police Chief Tony Bettencourt, and a room full of concerned citizens.

Mr. Smadbeck recognized Mr. Minkin. Mr. Minkin stated that he had a difficult time expressing himself and introduced Mr. Ralph Pirozzi as his representative. Mr. Pirozzi stated that he had worked in public relations for quite a while and now he was a tour driver. He felt that Mr. Minkin had a "great product". The tours are very informative and a great deal of historical information is given. They get a lot of positive feedback from guests. The vehicles used are not buses they are 14 passenger vans.

Mr. Minkin then stood up and stated that he had been in business 5 years and this was his 5<sup>th</sup> visit to the Board of Selectmen. He had appealed to the state, who had ruled he could not go into downtown Edgartown with a ticketed tour. He was allowed several roads out of the downtown area and now he was looking for a seasonal addendum to his license. His opinion is that there is no more traffic now than in 1996 downtown.

Mr. Smadbeck clarified that he was looking for permission for a street license from Labor Day to June 24<sup>th</sup> for in town roads and from June 24<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day to go as far as Church Street and drop off and pick up there. He then asked Police Chief Tony Bettencourt for his opinion.

Chief Bettencourt stated that he felt it would still be too dangerous in the "off season". The streets were still congested and it would not be safe. He had no reason to support this application.

Ms. Courtney Brady stated that the priority should be the people who live here not the people visiting. The 14 passenger vans are still large and she sees them going over curbs downtown.

Mr. Paul Ronan was opposed to the vans. The streets are too small to be safe for vans. He stated that he lives near the corner of S. Water St. and Cooke St. at which he often sees taxi vans having a hard time maneuvering the corner. He felt that drivers cannot drive and give a guided tour at the same time. He was also concerned with the residential area and the pollution from the vehicles. The houses are all close to the street and he felt, in addition to the pollution, there would also be an invasion of privacy. He stated that Mr. Minkin was just using this off season attempt as a "foot in the door" tactic.

Ms. Claudia Rogers from Cooke St. stated that vans and taxis go by her house all the time and she doesn't want her house pointed out on a tour and her privacy invaded. She felt that the streets were too narrow.

Ms. Susan van Roen stated that if the town let MV Tours have the street license, then they would have to let others have them also.

Mr. Peter Weisman stated that on South Summer St. between High St. and Katama Rd. that there were no sidewalks in that area and people walk in the street.

Mr. Walt Looney from Fuller St. stated that it is a pedestrian street and people walk down to the beach. He remarked that the corners are tight and would be dangerous with buses and vans. He also felt that they would ruin the charm, quiet and residential peace of the area.

Ms. Sally Houser stated that with the traffic on South Water St. and Cooke St. she has a hard time just pulling into her driveway. She wants the Board to protect the taxpayers and not the business owner.

Mr. Smadbeck asked Mr. Minkin if he would like to respond.

Mr. Minkin responded that he understands people's concerns. He stated that he does not stop in front of houses and goes 15 mph with no megaphones. He stated that he does point out pretty houses and gardens but is not specific about the owners. He then pointed out the

fact that other taxi companies are giving tours illegally by picking up people at the ferry terminals.

Mr. Ronan asked if there had been any correspondence with the Board on the issue.

Mr. Smadbeck replied that the Board had received 33 emails and letters opposed to Mr. Minkin's application and none in favor.

Mr. Donaroma asked if there was anyone in the audience who was in favor and would like to speak.

There being no one, Mr. Smadbeck closed the public input portion of the hearing and asked the Board for their input.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the shoulder season still has a lot of traffic and that the Board takes the concerns of the Police Chief and the public seriously. There are some things that affect the traffic that are out of the Board's control. This is something they can vote on.

Ms. Serpa stated that this had all been discussed before. The traffic does not stop in the shoulder season. The roads that have been granted are appropriate. She sees no reason to approve the change to the street license.

Ms. Serpa moved to deny the request for an addendum to MV Transport's street license based on the input of the Chief of Police and the public with concerns of traffic and safety. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then appointed Ms. Georgiana Greenough as the alternate member of the Sick Bank Board for a two year term.

The Board approved the August 15, 2011 minutes.

Ms. Dolby stated that the Board had received a letter from the Friends of Sengekontacket stating that they were concerned about the kayak tours being given from the Edgartown side of the big bridge. She had given a copy to Lenny Jason, Building and Zoning Inspector, and he was looking into it with Town Counsel. The portion that they are using may belong to the state.

Mr. Donaroma asked if the state had a permitting process.

Ms. Dolby replied in the affirmative and that it was lengthy.

The Board voted to set the Special Town Meeting date for October 25, 2011 at 7pm in the Whaling Church.

Ms. Dolby announced that there would be public hearings concerning leasing public land for cell towers on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Board of Selectmen's meetings at 4pm.

At 4:41 pm the Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

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Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

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Michael J. Donaroma

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Margaret E. Serpa  
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose  
Assistant