

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 4, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:04pm by Chairman Patuto with Selectman Rollins, Selectman Gianino, Selectman DiTucci and Selectman Patuto present and Selectman Zenkin absent.

CITIZENS' TIME:

Chairman Patuto held a moment of silence for the armed forces and for the service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Chairman Patuto stated that he will make this a tradition at each meeting.

Chairman Patuto also informed the residents on the passing of Alex the K-9. He was an active member of the Police Force and was the partner of Joe Papsedero.

Town Meeting member Ernie Zabalotny and Mike Trudeau of the Historical Commission came before the Board. They had a meeting with a representative of the Metropolitan Planning Council about putting together a transportation museum and the status of the bike path program. The representative sent a letter encouraging them to continue on with developing a proposal for the Grandview Transportation Museum. They began the process for a preliminary proposal. The new Secretary of Transportation is committing himself to spend \$3.75 million in programs of this type. Mike Trudeau read an abstract proposal by the Historical Commission to propose to establish a transportation museum at Grandview Farm including a stagecoach. The application requires a name of the project; Marion Tavern Stagecoach Station was recommended by Mr. Zabalotny. Selectman Rollins said this is an agenda item and merits time to be discussed by the public and for the Grandview Committee to be present. Chairman Patuto suggested they call the Town Administrators' office to get this on the agenda for a future meeting.

Council on Aging Director Marge McDonald introduced Rita Shaw as the newest member of her staff. She is an outreach worker for the Indian population in Town.

Louis Maliotsy came before the Board requesting a Warrant Article for the Home Rule Petition to be allowed to be hired by Police Department; he exceeds the age of 32. There is a wording issue at the State level and he is requesting that the 2007 test results be admissible to the Town until the 2009 results are available. T. A. Mercier said the warrant is closed and he would have to wait until May. He also said that he has been in touch with Charlie Murphy's office.

Resident Frank Waldron came before the Board with an extremely high water bill for \$2,600 for 196 days. His usage is 240,000 gallons in 196 days or 1,225 gallons/day. He spoke with Mrs. Keene and she informed him he must have a leak. He had a plumber come out and he could not find a leak. Selectman DiTucci said he would speak with DPW Superintendent Sanchez. T.A. Mercier had him leave his phone number with Assistant T.A. Tom Hickey.

001: APPROVAL: Class I License/93 Cambridge Street
Herb Chambers/Kia

Attorney Mark Vaughn was present representing Herb Chambers. Selectman Rollins moved to approve the Class I License/93 Cambridge Street/Herb Chambers/Kia. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

002: APPROVAL: Sewer Allocation/260-264 Winn Street

Michael Murray was present representing 260 Winn Street LLC. Selectman Rollins moved to approve the Sewer Allocation/260-264 Winn Street at 1,760 gallons/day for a total of \$19,800 as reflected in the payment schedule dated December 23, 2009; Phase I, Phase II and Phase III. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

003: DISCUSSION: Proposed Sign Changes/Municipal Purposes

T.A. Mercier said all subcommittees are trying to address the shortcomings in the overall sign by-laws. They are attempting to move forward with some significant sign by-law changes at the May Town Meeting in both general and zoning by-laws. Currently the municipal signs in Burlington are illegal and they are trying to address them. Inspector of Buildings John Clancy said they have proposed a draft to deal with municipal signs for Town properties. Because the by-laws are permitted by district, and the Town signs occupy so many different districts, it would be a lengthy by-law to address them. He said one of the ways municipalities deal with this is to create an exemption for Town owned properties. They are proposing to have wall signs including building directories, marquis signs, free standing signs similar to the schools and a free standing changeable letter sign to replace the electronic traffic trailer. Selectman Rollins suggested having more than one changeable letter sign. John Clancy said they are going back to the Sign By-law Committee on Wednesday morning.

004: DISCUSSION: January Town Meeting/Warrant Review

Selectman Rollins moved to support Article #2, Cordials and Liquers. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Rollins moved to support Article #3, Ice Palace Debt at \$190,158. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Article #4/Funding for the Burlington Police Patrolmen's Association Contract.
This item is on hold.

Selectman Gianino moved to approve Article #5, Real Estate Exemptions. Seconded by Selectman Rollins and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Gianino moved to support Article #6, Real Estate Exemptions. Seconded by Selectman Rollins and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Rollins moved to support Article #7, Meals Tax Increase at .75%. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Article #8/Senior Center Kitchen Renovations
This item is on hold.

T.A. Mercier informed the Board that Bond Council said that the Board has to reauthorize the entire schedule. Selectman Rollins moved to support Article #9, Mitre Field Improvements for the sum of \$5,100,000. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman DiTucci moved to support Article #10, Cemetery Expansion-Soil Exploration. Seconded by Selectman Rollins and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Gianino said that he does not think it makes sense to add to the reserve fund since the increase has not been used in years. T.A. Mercier said it is requested because each year we are cutting back on budgets. Selectman Rollins moved to approve Article #11, Transfer of Free Cash/Reserve in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Rollins moved to approve Article #12, Transfer to Stabilization in the amount of \$500,000. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

T.A. Mercier said this Article will null and void the M.O.U. Selectman Rollins moved to approve Article #13, Wildwood Transfer of Land. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Gianino moved to approve Article #15, Mount Hope Christian Center/Meadowbrook Lease Extension until 2030. Seconded by Selectman Rollins and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Selectman Rollins moved to support Article #16, CISCO Five-Year Lease. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Article #17/Transfer of Funds FY2010/Various Accounts.
This item is on hold

005: DISCUSSION: Ground Lease Cell Tower/Blanchard Road/10 Year Lease

Assistant Town Administrator Tom Hickey said that over the last several months he has been engaged in discussions with two companies. The first company is interested in leasing on Blanchard Road and they have entered into an agreement. The second company is interested in the flag pole at Pine Haven Cemetery. They are working with Town Council on both agreements establishing permanent licenses. Both entities are interested in paying a license fee upwards of \$1,200/month with a CPI built in each year of 3%. T.A. Mercier said we generate \$250,000/year. Selectman Gianino asked when they will be painting the Center Street water tower and was informed that DPW Superintendent John Sanchez is in the process of getting quotes.

006: DISCUSSION: FY2011 Budget Guidelines

Town Administrator Mercier informed the BOS that State aid has dropped from \$9.2 million to \$7.6 million for 2011. He said they have imposed upon themselves a cap in the increase in the levy and this would allow \$3,000,000 in new moneys. Ways and Means voted budget increases to rise by no more than 2.5%. He talked about not filling any vacancies except for public safety. He will fill the Assessor position in FY2011. He also said he will not support new hires and will support and advocate restructure and reorganization in departments for efficiency and cost savings for residents.

007: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Presented by Selectman Rollins the Grandview Farm Committee is meeting on January 27th at the Town Hall Annex. The Chairman has an aggressive approach for 2010 and is excited to move forward with new projects. The Town Center Overlay Committee has been meeting and will set a more definitive schedule. The 3A Sub-Committee is discussing signage, different from the discussions earlier this evening.

Presented by Selectman Gianino, the Fire Department has requested residents to clear the snow from fire hydrants, to clear both entrances to homes and clear front walkways to their homes. The new Fire Chief search process has begun. The Town Clerk issued an email to elected officials about the Code of Ethics and the Conflict of Interest. The online training program deadline is April 2, 2010 and can be found on the Town Clerk's website.

Presented by Selectman DiTucci the DPW responded to two snow events. Eastern Winwater will be contacting residents and setting up dates to replace water meters with the new automated meters. Christmas trees will be picked up the week of January 11th. Trees must be free from decorations and plastic bags and must be curb side by 7:00am. DPW Superintendent John Sanchez was one of five judges that participating in choosing the winner of the ACEC competition

008: TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

T.A. Mercier and Selectman DiTucci met with the Housing Partnership. They will be getting together to establish parameters to maintain the 10% affordable housing. The Town's audit has been completed by the firm of Powers & Sullivan. They will come before the Board to discuss the findings. The Police Chief process is ongoing and will be completed soon. He received an email from the Chairman of the Board of Assessors to begin the search for replacing Mr. Washburn who will be retiring in August.

009: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

RAD, a self defense program for seniors, teaches awareness and defense strategies. The program will be taught by the Police Department. If interested call Detective AnneMarie Brown at 781-505-4909, Sergeant Glenn Mills at 781-505-4945 or call 781-272-1212 for more information.

Selectman Rollins moved the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Seconded by Selectman DiTucci and unanimously voted. (4-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Nichols
Recording Secretary