Pledge of Allegiance/Moments of Reflection

The General Session of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the members of the armed forces and emergency responders.

271 Discussion: Tax Classification

James Doherty, Town Assessor and Paul Sagarino, Town Accountant, were present to review options to spread the tax levy and additional information on setting the annual tax rate. Back up included tax rates of other communities indicating that Burlington's taxes are in the bottom scale, results of selected options, and average assessments for 1975 to 2014. Mr. Sagarino said all provided options will raise the appropriate amount of tax dollars to balance the tax budget. T.A. Petrin said there is a strong corporate base to assist in setting the tax rate. Mr. Doherty said no vote was expected until the public hearing scheduled for November 18, 2013.

272 Approval: Health Insurance Rates for 2014

At the October 28, 2013 meeting Jack Sharry, President of Group Benefits Strategies (GBS), reviewed the proposed health insurance rates which would be effective January 2014. Blue Cross Elect will increase by 10%, Blue Cross HMO by 4% and Harvard HMO by 8%. Representatives from all unions were informed of the increases. T.A. Petrin explained that these rates will be effective for entire year of 2014, and the rates are consistent with other communities. BOS members who are employees of the town may vote on the rates that affect the vested interest of all employees.

Motion: Selectman Patuto moved to accept the health insurance rates for 2014 as presented by Group Benefits Strategies. Seconded by Selectman Grattan and approved. (5-0-0)

The audit committee study results are expected to be complete by the BOS's next meeting.

273 Continued

Public Hearing: Grant of Location

(From 10/7/13 & 10/28/13)

Verizon/NStar, Princeton Road

T.A. Petrin recommended the public hearing be continued to the November 18, 2013 meeting as Verizon has not yet addressed the concerns of the neighbors for the proposed grant of location. Town Engineering is involved in this issue and a recommendation is forthcoming. The BOS commented that this issue needs to be addressed and finalized.
Motion: Selectman Patuto moved to continue to November 18, 2013 the Grant of Location for Verizon/NStar, Princeton Road. Seconded by Selectman Grattan and approved. (5-0-0)

274 Hearing: All Alcohol License/Change of Manager
     State Road Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Busa Liquors
     34 Cambridge Street

Ann Sobolewski, Posternak Blankstein & Lund LLP, was present representing Busa Liquors along with Andrew Busa, owner and new manager, seeking BOS approval for an All Alcohol License, Change of Manager at Busa Liquors. Mr. Busa gave a brief background of the family business and stated he has served as a manager for almost ten years at several locations.

Motion: Selectman Grattan moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Selectman Patuto and approved. (5-0-0)

Motion: Selectman Patuto moved to approve the All Alcohol License Change of Manager, State Road Liquor, Inc. d/b/a Busa Liquors. Seconded by Selectman Grattan and approved. (5-0-0)

275 Approval: Burlington Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales

Motion: Selectman Patuto moved to approve the Burlington Lions Club's request to sell Christmas Trees on the property of Shaw's Supermarket from November 29, 2013 through December 24, 2013 as per the letter of support from Shaw's Supermarket. Seconded by Selectman Grattan and approved. (5-0-0)

276 Discussion: FY15 Budget
T.A. Petrin said members of Ways & Means, the School Committee, Capital Budget, and the BOS met to discuss the FY15 budget. Some of the issues discussed were plans and policies for the budget, capital requests and potential capital projects, line items, warrant articles, school and other town facilities, appropriate debt service, and project prioritizing.

277 Subcommittee Reports
Selectman Grattan
Bow Hunting: Correspondence has been received and discussions held about concerns from hikers, bikers and other users of the Landlocked Forest. There are hunters who are not aware of the Town's permitting regulations. Discussions are being held regarding community responsibility and enforcement.

Selectman Hartling
The tickets are sold out for the November 9 Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce and Bonefish Grill collaboration to raise funds for Relay for Life.

278 Town Administrator's Report
Veterans Day will be held on Monday, November 11, 2013. Citizens were invited to Burlington's 9:00 a.m. ceremony on the Town Common to pay respects for what veterans have done for our country.

Lord Baron Fire: Christine Shruhan, Director, Burlington Community Life Center (BCLC) was introduced, and she provided an update on the fire and what is being done by her department for those affected and how they work to find social service agencies to assist.

Chairman Hogan explained that any assistance provided is not through the use of town funds, and T.A. Petrin added that BCLC may counsel and assist those in need to reach out for referrals to social service agencies. The staff was commended for their continued service work in this unique situation.

279 Assistant Town Administrator’s Report
Grandview Farm: Phase 4, landscaping, etc., is expected to be complete by November 15, 2013. Shawsheen Tech students have returned to complete their portion of work in the house. Chairman Hogan congratulated Mr. Hickey on the ongoing progress.

280 Chairman’s Report
Veterans Day, 11/11/13: The five service flagpoles will be rededicated and the flags re-raised on Veterans Day. The 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice to end the hostilities in Korea and the 40th anniversary of the release of POWs in Vietnam will be observed and MIA’s will be remembered.

281 Old/New Business
Tax Write Off Work Program: Selectman Patuto recognized the fine program created for seniors to work off their tax bill. He would like consideration to be made to study what other communities are doing to assist those seniors who are physically unable to participate. T.A. Petrin said the program is tied to state law, but the Assessor's Office could take this recommendation under advisement.

Grandview Commons: Selectman Patuto recommended that eligibility policies and procedures for living at Grandview Commons be re-evaluated and updated. The HP parking spaces also need to be reviewed, and the policy should also address that HP parking spaces should be released when the handicapped individual is no longer living in the unit. T.A. Petrin said his office will create a written outline of the procedures and added that a workshop could be held.

Citizen’s Time: None.

Adjourn: Motion: Selectman Patuto moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Runyan and approved. (5-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty McDonough
Recording Clerk
BURLINGTON, MA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – NOVEMBER 4, 2013

271       Discussion: Tax Classification –

272       Approval: Health Insurance Rates for 2014 - primary status quo active plan renewal rates (self-funded); retiree plan renewal rates (fully-insured); estimated group health insurance funding - 2014 (proposed status quo renewal funding); estimated group health insurance funding-2014; trust fund estimates and projections

273       Continued Public Hearing - Grant of Location, Verizon/NStar, Princeton Road: 10/29/13 postponement letter to Verizon; 10/8/13 postponement letter to Verizon; grant of location back up from engineering; order for joint or identical pole locations; petition for joint or identical pole locations; map/plan

274       Hearing - All Alcohol License/Change of Manager State Road Liquor, Inc d/b/a Busa Liquors, 34 Cambridge Street: 10/9/13 list of requirement letter from Michael Rubin of Posternak; petition for change of license; manager application; personal information form; birth certificate; State Road Liquor Mart, Inc. written consent of the directors dated 9/30/13; TIPS certification

275       Approval - Burlington Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales: 10/10/13 approval letter from Shaws

276       Discussion - FY Budget -

277       Subcommittee Reports -

278       Town Administrator's Report -

279       Assistant Town Administrator's Report -

280       Chairman's Report -

281       Old/New Business - Discussion: Tax work off program; Grandview Commons regulations -

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