

Date: April 7, 2008

Date Minutes Approved: April 14, 2008

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

Present: Jon Witten, Chair; Elizabeth Sullivan, Vice-Chair; and Andre Martecchini, Clerk.

Absent: No members were absent.

Staff: Richard MacDonald, Town Manager; John Madden, Finance Director; and Barbara Ripley, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

OPEN FORUM

No items were discussed.

MEETING OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONERS

At 7:31 PM, Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board adjourn the meeting as Selectmen in order to meet as the Water & Sewer Commissioners, with the intent of re-convening as Selectmen afterward. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners instruct the Treasurer to collect the amount of \$638,146.46 for water, sewer, and service. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Martecchini moved that the Board adjourn the meeting as Water & Sewer Commissioners in order to re-convene as the Board of Selectmen. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.

SAVE-AS-YOU-THROW (SAYT) UPDATE

Mr. Peter Buttkus, Acting DPW Manager, and Ms. Christine Smythe, DPW Office Manager were present to discuss the April 1st implementation of the new SAYT program at the Duxbury Recycling Center. Mr. Buttkus stated that residents have been very cooperative. Extra staff has been available at the Recycling Center to answer questions and offer assistance. Mr. Buttkus noted that only one trailer filled with Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) was transported to the SEMASS facility at the end of this week, while three trailers would normally have been filled. This amounts to approximately four-thousand dollars in savings to the Town for the week. More time is needed to learn whether these savings will be consistent.

Ms. Smythe reported that the disposal bags are currently being sold at ten locations, and two more locations will be added this week. There was an unexpected shortage of available bags at the end of last week. It was found that many residents were purchasing enough for 6-12 months, which left the stores short-handed. The stores were quickly re-stocked, and plenty of bags are available at this time. In addition, it was found that a small number of bags were defective. The manufacturer has been alerted, and will be responsible for replacement of these bags. Residents with defective bags may exchange them at the Recycling Center. Bags will be available for purchase at the Recycling Center for the next several months.

Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Witten, and Mr. Martecchini all reported making trips to the Recycling Center over the weekend, and finding that the operation was running smoothly. Mr. MacDonald commended Mr. Buttkus, Ms. Smythe, and the rest of the DPW Department for their work on SAYT implementation.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PLANNING

Mr. Witten began the discussion by saying that several people asked at Town Meeting about a capital budget and capital plan. The implication was that people would feel more comfortable deciding about large building projects if they knew what else may be on the horizon. Mr. MacDonald said that the Town has had capital plans in the past. The problem is that they are not always followed. For example, renovations for the Percy Walker Pool were not anticipated at this point in time. However, Town Meeting did vote to undertake this project.

Mr. Madden added that another problem has always been the revenue stream. The plans are there, but the funds are not.

Mr. Martecchini said that, as a civil engineer, he sees that capital plans are rarely followed. Mass Highway and other agencies often have plans. However, the order of projects is rarely dictated by those plans. Other events always seem to come into play. This does not mean that plans are not important, he said. However, they are not as predictive as some may hope.

Ms. Sullivan said that the Town should exercise discipline and dedicate the revenue to some of these capital projects. Delays end up costing more money in the long run.

Mr. Mangione, Chairman of the Fiscal Advisory Committee, said that communication between groups can often be the problem. The various financial committees in Town plan to begin developing a plan and committing it to writing. Mr. Martecchini said that he hopes something will be in place in time for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Martecchini noted that the Public Safety Building Feasibility Study Committee (PSBFSC) met on April 4. The meeting was well-attended by interested citizens and committee members. Mr. MacDonald said that he has added two new members: Ms. Georgeann Blatterman and Mr. Dmitri Theodossiou. Since the ballot question for building design money failed at the March Town Election, the PSBFSC must develop a new strategy for the future. Several ideas were proposed. One idea is to hold a Special Town Meeting in the Fall, with a ballot question to appear on the November election ballot.

Another idea involves asking for design and construction money at the same time. This reverses the Town's usual practice. Normally, Town Meeting is asked first for design money. Then, at a later Town Meeting, construction funds are requested. However, since the design costs for public safety buildings are so high, Mr. Martecchini said it would be catastrophic to spend a million dollars on design, and then have Town Meeting turn down the construction.

Mr. Martecchini said that the PSBFSC speculated that five reasons may have led to the defeat of the ballot question: 1) A feeling that a new Fire Station is not needed; 2) A preference for a combined facility; 3) Objections to the police station site selection; 4) The large cost; and 5) A feeling that the proposed facilities were too large.

Ms. Sullivan commented that she feels that a new Fire Station is needed. She attended a six-hour mock Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station emergency drill last week, and noted that the Emergency Operations Center is woefully inadequate. She hopes that the Town will come forward to support a new facility for the Fire Department.

Mr. MacDonald stated that, for the size of the community, a combined facility may be most efficient.

Mr. Mangione spoke about some of the pros and cons of using cemetery land for a combined facility.

Mr. Martecchini noted that the next meeting of the PSBFSC will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the Senior Center.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE LOTTERY COMMISSION (MSLC): KENO-TO-GO

Ms. Ripley explained that the Town received notice from the MSLC that current lottery agents are now eligible for a new type of Keno license, specifically "KENO-TO-GO". With "KENO-TO-GO", the ticket purchaser can check whether s/he has winning numbers by going home and checking on the internet. No new KENO television monitors are provided as part of this program. The tickets are therefore similar to Megabucks and MassCash. There are six lottery agents in Duxbury who would be eligible for this new program.

If a municipality objects to having "KENO-TO-GO", it must claim its right to a hearing before the MSLC. It appears that the Town must first hold a hearing with applicants for the "KENO-TO-GO" licenses in Town.

Board members agree that they have no objection to the program, so long as no KENO monitors are involved. Mr. Martecchini moved that the Board not object to "KENO-TO-GO", provided that no monitors are provided. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) The Town Manager and Finance Department will soon begin the annual comprehensive review of fees.**
- 2) The Town Manager and Finance Director will soon begin the development of a comprehensive Policies & Procedures Manual. (Ms. Sullivan suggested the use of a college or graduate school intern to help with this project.)**
- 3) An FY10 Budget Working Group will soon be convened.**
- 4) Construction for March 2008 was \$1,488,000.00. This is reduced from last year at this time. This reduces "New Growth", which in turn has a negative impact on Town revenues.**
- 5) A reminder that Town Hall hours change effective May 5: Mondays----8am to 7pm; Tuesdays-Thursdays----8am to 4pm; and Fridays----8am to 12:30 PM.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Witten announced that 2008 Commercial Shellfish License Applications are available in the Selectmen's office during Town Hall business hours. Applications for a Commercial Shellfish License may only be made during the month of APRIL.

GOODRICH LUMBER PROPERTY

Mr. Witten noted that the developers of the Goodrich Lumber property have signaled their intention to file a Chapter 40B application with Mass Housing. Mr. Witten asked the Town Manager to schedule a meeting with the developers, so that the Selectmen can be informed about the project.

MINUTES

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board approve the Executive Session minutes of March 24, 2008 as presented, and that the contents remain sealed until the need for confidentiality has passed. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board approve the Open Session minutes of March 24, 2008 as presented. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

APPOINTMENT

Cable Advisory Committee: Ms. Sullivan moved that the Board appoint Mr. Peter Frame to the Cable Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2010. Second by Mr. Martecchini. Vote: 3:0:0.

Ms. Sullivan noted that she is very enthusiastic about this appointment due to Mr. Frame's experience with the cable industry.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Martecchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Second by Ms. Sullivan. Vote: 3:0:0.