

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday evening, June 14, 2010 at 7:40 pm

Present: Theresa E. McNulty, Chair; Robert M. Condon, Clerk Pro-Tem.
George G. Samia, Town Administrator
Christine White, Principal Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointment

Chrisoulas Nohos, Manager of Liberty Pizza and Subs, 118 North Bedford Street, was present to apply for a Common Victualer License effective immediately and valid through December 31, 2010.

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote in favor, approve the application for a Common Victualer License for Liberty Pizza, 118 North Bedford Street, Chrisoulas Nohos, Manager effective immediately and valid through December 31, 2010.

Appointment

Claire Yocum, Chair of the Conservation Commission was present to discuss policy changes effective July 1, 2010, specifically a new checklist containing permit requirements the Commission has compiled. Conservation Commission Clerk Kim Eldredge and Delano & Associates engineering firm were instrumental in devising the checklist to assist applicants in providing accurate information so as to facilitate the permitting process. The proposed checklist would eliminate potential discrepancies that would delay the permitting process with the Registry of Deeds, and serve as a guide to the homeowner seeking to make changes in his/her property in compliance with conservation laws. The form would be available to the public either at the Conservation Commission office or on the Town's website in printable form. In addition, the Commission would send out informational packets, including the new form, to all engineers presently known by the Commission as having done work in the Town.

Theresa McNulty commended the Commission for its diligence in devising the form.

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote in favor, adoption of the Conservation Commission permit checklist, effective July 1, 2010.

Action Items

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting.

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote to approve the request of Tom Kerrigan of the Cable Advisory Committee to disband the Cable Advisory Committee immediately, due to the successful negotiations of the contract with Comcast. For purposes of clarification, Mrs. McNulty stated that the Cable Advisory Committee is a separate entity from the Cable Board, which would stay in existence, and the Cable Advisory Committee was specifically and solely for the purpose of negotiating the contract.

Mrs. McNulty commended the Committee for a "wonderful job."

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote to approve the disbanding of the Cable Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote to approve the application for an Amusement License from Fiesta Shows, John A. Flynn, Vice President, to hold a 5-day event at the High School

Fields sponsored by the Recreation Commission, contingent upon receipt of letters of approval from the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Building Inspector and the DPW Director.

Citation/Presentation

Upon his retirement/resignation, Albert "Bud" Mondeau was given a Certificate of Appreciation in honor of his 25 years of service on the Finance Committee. Mr. Mondeau's children (including Town employees Jeanne Bennett and Joy Lovell) and grandchildren were in attendance. Mrs. McNulty read the citation. Town Administrator George Samia expressed his thanks to both Mr. Mondeau and his late wife, Marilyn Mondeau, both of whom were extremely helpful to Mr. Samia in his 22-plus years in the employ of the Town. Finance Committee Chair Martin Crowley commended Mr. Mondeau for his historical perspective and "institutional memory," as well as his consistently professional, respectful and civil responses to even the most "raging debates." Mr. Crowley concluded, "He's a real gentleman, and we're going to miss him on the Finance Committee." Mr. Mondeau thanked everyone, stating that the present committee is "the best I've been on and I hope they all stay 25 years." To any prospective new members, Mr. Mondeau stated that a position on the Finance Committee isn't easy at first but "once you're in it, you don't want to leave it." He also thanked all the town unions that took the wage freeze, making the Finance Committee's task a bit easier.

Additional Action Item

M/Condon, s/McNulty, a unanimous vote to approve the Chapter 44 Section 33B End-of-Year Budget Transference provided by Town Accountant Phyllis Tirrell. The request was reviewed line by line. The vote was taken after some changes/deductions were made at the advice of the Finance Committee, which was in attendance. Mr. Samia explained that the deficit as a result of the deductions in this request will have to be addressed in next year's budget. The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee are required to approve such minor transfereces in lieu of having a Special Town Meeting.

Announcement

Mrs. McNulty announced that the Finance Committee now has two openings and urged prospective members to submit letters of interest to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Town Administrator's Report

In response to Mr. Crowley's observation that FY10 was a difficult year but that the 2-year wage freeze will help, Mr. Samia summarized the Town's financial situation as "about as good as you can get," given the economic climate throughout the state of Massachusetts. He stated that the Town's reserves are intact, and that there has not been a significant drop in services. He thanked the Financial Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Department Heads and the Town Meeting participants for their cooperation.

Mrs. McNulty thanked all who helped with the Town Meeting on June 7 and expressed her appreciation for the patience shown by all participants despite the glitches and delay as a result of the unusually large number of attendees.

Reminders

Bridge Street Recycling Center is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month from 9 am – 1 pm.

The Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Fiesta Shows carnival at the High School Fields from June 16 through June 20, 2010. There will be a fireworks display on Friday, June 18.

The Recreation Commission is sponsoring the first of its Summer Events on the Common tomorrow night, June 15. Venerable local entertainers Dale and the Duds will be performing. Various other concerts and movies will take place on Sunday evenings. Check the Recreation Commission website at www.ebrecreation for specific dates and times.

Mail Bag

Robert Condon commented on an article in the current issue of the Massachusetts Municipal Association's newsletter, *The Beacon*, regarding the State Senate Amendment that would give cities and towns authority over the design of municipal health insurance plans, or the ability to enroll in the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) without collective bargaining. Although the measure has inherent flaws, the Board agreed that it is a good start toward giving municipalities more freedom to change health care benefits. Mr. Samia stated that besides out-of-control contracts, the soaring cost of health insurance plans is the single biggest challenge that municipalities face; an increase of 10 – 12 percent per year on average.

Open Forum

No one present

M/Condon, s/McNulty, motion to adjourn.

VOTE: Yes – McNulty, Condon; a unanimous vote in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Board of Selectmen Clerk