

A weekly meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Present: Brian Connors, Chair; Robert M. Condon, Clerk; Joseph Miksch, George G. Samia, Town Administrator; Catherine Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance

Open Forum

Dina Livingston of the Town Clerk's office was present to inform the public of upcoming dates and deadlines concerning upcoming elections; as well as to remind the public to return their census forms.

Pending Issues

Mr. Connors updated the public on the pending issues on the Agenda. Mr. Samia reported on the current status of the following issues:

1. Eastern States Steel – report received; need to set up meeting with DEP
 - Eastern States Steel Site has been an ongoing issue for over a decade. The taxes on the site have been unpaid for a number of years but the town has been reluctant to take possession of the property due to hazardous waste issues at the site. The town has currently engaged a number of lawyers, as well as representatives of the D.E.P. and O.C.P.C., to find a solution in both cleaning up the site and its ultimate taking by the town. This process, most likely, will not see fruition for several years.
2. Master Plan – discuss with Economic Development Comm. and Capital Planning Comm.
 - a. The Master Plan as well as the following zoning bylaw changes are, in fact, more a function of the Planning/Building Department than the Board of Selectmen. However, in the past the Board helped procure a \$15,000.00 budget to hire a gentleman, by the name of Tom Mayo, to engage in a Master Plan Process. In reality, a Master Plan requires much more money than \$15,000.00 and has only accomplished a small portion over the years. The Town Administrator recently contacted Roy Gardner to see if there was interest in procuring more funds to continue the process. Mr. Gardner indicated that though they are interested in cleaning up various planning and zoning issues. In moving forward, the board would like to pursue a different path on how it should be accomplished. The Town Administrator's last meeting with Mr. Gardner still left open the possibility of additional funds at a future town meeting, once we have a better feel of the direction.
3. Cleaning up the Town's Zoning By-Laws in an effort to stay consistent with current building practices.
 - a. Over the past several years, under the guidance of a Planning Board and Building Inspector, Ed Gardner, there have been several changes made to fee structures and minor Planning/Zoning Laws. This issue, as Number 2 states above, is more a function of the Planning Board with the Board of Selectmen aiding by placing articles onto Town Meeting Warrants. Once again, monetary aid can be provided by the Board of Selectmen.

4. Current state of Town Hall
 - a. Over the past several years as we have experienced budget cut backs. The Town Hall, like many municipal buildings, has fallen into disrepair. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator to approach the Capital Improvement Committee with a bonding issue that would correct both the HVAC/air conditioning, as well as many of the structural problems currently existing at the Town Hall. Though nothing is engraved in stone, it would appear that replacement of the chiller will cost between \$75,000.00-\$100,000.00. Also, repair and painting of the Town Hall's roof and siding could cost another \$100,000.00-\$150,000.00. We would be pursuing a bond issuance of approximately \$250,000.00 to be paid over a 10 year period.

5. Road maintenance plan
 - a. DPW Director, John Haines, has devised a road maintenance plan, but, like many departments, has been unable to pursue implementation due to budgetary constraints. This year, Chapter 90 is slated to go up, giving the DPW a little more flexibility in what they have accomplished. In addition, Capital Planning may be in a position to aid in moving forward with some more substantial projects. Please note, Capital Projects, that I am referring to on this page, would all be funded from within the existing budget and not with an override or debt exclusion.

6. Town-wide trash collection and recycling plan
 - a. As you know, the contract for trash pick up is ending on June 30, 2012. The DPW Director, John Haines, along with a number of consultants, the Town Administrator and Selectmen Chairman, are currently engaged in the pursuit of several options in this area. You should be aware that a number of years ago, a fund was established with remaining BFI revenues to offset the cost of bags to the general public. This fund has been depleted and the program needs revamping to continue on.

7. Town Hall technology plan
 - a. The Technology Plan for East Bridgewater Town Hall is in fact adequate at the moment. Several years ago we engaged a company by the name of Hub Technological to stand in as the Town's IT resource. The current cost of Hub Tech is approximately \$115,000.00 per year. This service includes maintenance, repair and technical assistance on all town computers including School, Police, Fire, etc... In addition, there is a full time technical person from the company on site 40 hours a week. At this point, the Town Hall is probably where it should be in so far as its technology upgrades and resources. However, with the advent of the new school, which will be even more technologically intense, there has been talk of a technological restructure. This process is under way and we are hoping for a grant of \$75,000.00 to aid in both the restructuring of technology as well as maintenance.

8. Energy
 - a. The town has been successful in pursuing several energy related topics over the past several years. First, the town, in conjunction with National Grid, refitted lighting in most of the town buildings on a grant. This refitting has aided in energy conservation, there are monthly payments they should be ending over the next several years. More recently the town contracted with Earth Wind Solar for solar energy distribution that will provide the town between \$75,000-\$125,000.00 of both savings and taxes in any particular year. Though both these projects have aided in energy conservation, the town will continue to pursue other avenues, not only to save money but conserve energy in a green fashion.

Action Items

M/Condon, s/Miksch, a unanimous vote, approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

M/Condon, s/Miksch, a unanimous vote, approve under the Provision of 19.3 of the newly executed Solar Contract, to accept the \$25,000.00 check from Sage Stone, LLC for purposes of offsetting any and all legal costs in the preparation of the Solar Contract.

M/Condon, s/Miksch, a unanimous vote, approve the appointment of John J. Murad as a Constable effective immediately through June 30, 2013.

Reminders

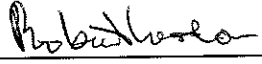
Trash & Recycling must be on the curb by 7 a.m.; no exceptions

Hazardous Waste Day – April 28, 2011 – 8 a.m. – noon – Thatcher Street/BFI Site – more info to follow

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm



Board of Selectmen Clerk