

Present: Chairman Mark W. Lynch, Selectman Jeffrey D. Jones, Selectman A. Raymond Randall, Jr., Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham

Chairman Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Teachers' Lounge at the Essex Elementary School on Story Street and announced that the Board would hear Public Comment. No one had any comments.

Kirk Smith, a Conomo Point tenant of 111 Conomo Point Road, appeared before the Board to discuss the Town's role in the application process of requesting a Chapter 91 License from the State. Mr. Smith said that the State has requested a letter of approval from the Selectmen. The Selectmen offered the help of the Selectmen's Assistant to provide Mr. Smith with sample documents from other applications, plus a copy of the standard agreement form between the Town and a resident seeking a Chapter 91 License. It was noted that it was voted at the May 3rd, 1993 Annual Town Meeting that "Licenses for any and all sites on town-owned or controlled land shall be exclusively in the name of the Town of Essex." They requested Mr. Smith to submit a written request for the Selectmen's approval of his Chapter 91 License. Mr. Smith thanked the Selectmen and left the meeting.

Mr. Zubricki presented his Town Administrator's Report for the period covering April 26th through May 2nd regarding the following items:

Youth Commission Program and Budget Planning: Mr. Zubricki said that the members of the Youth Commission have informed him that they will be able to provide an update on their progress after this coming Wednesday. The Board will discuss the update on May 19th.

Marine Cleat Donation, Route 133 Reconstruction Project: Mr. Zubricki reported that he had spoken with MassHighway officials during the Annual TIP Day that he had attended recently in Boston. MassHighway said that language about the cleats would have to be incorporated into the contract and that would cause a delay in the reconstruction project. The Selectmen did not want to risk a delay in the construction schedule and asked Mr. Zubricki to contact the donor and decline the offer to provide cleats for the new seawall.

Extension of Health Insurance Coverage for Dependents: The Town's insurance agent Miia had contacted Mr. Zubricki to inquire whether the Town wished to provide an extension of health insurance coverage for dependents. MIIA would offer the coverage at no increased premium, if the Town wants it. However, MIIA cautioned that the increased coverage could result in indirect increased costs in the future since more people will be covered for a longer period of time. The Selectmen decided against expanding the Town's coverage to include dependents.

Town Hall Grounds Landscaping: The Enhancement Committee has provided an estimate for their proposal for the beautification of the Town Hall grounds. They estimated \$1,315 for plants, \$600 for pruning, \$150 for mulch, and \$465 for plantings around the new Town events sign. The amounts can be adjusted up or down, depending on the quality and maturity of the plants chosen. The Selectmen decided to approve the

pruning and mulching. They asked Mr. Zubricki to inform the Enhancement Committee that the Selectmen would like the plantings to include as many perennials as possible and that they have authorized \$1,000 towards the purchase of plants. They also asked Mr. Zubricki to investigate an offer to donate plantings for the new Town events sign.

Town Events Sign: Mr. Zubricki said that he has spoken with the Superintendent of Public Works and that the Board of Public Works has not discussed the relocation of the Town events sign nor its maintenance. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to keep the sign at its current location.

Town Counsel Gregg Corbo joined the Selectmen's meeting.

Police Chief Peter G. Silva appeared before the Board to discuss the latest draft of his successor agreement. Citing the need to discuss contract negotiations, the Chairman entertained a motion to move to Executive Session. He said that the Board would be returning to Open Session and invited Chief Silva, Attorney Corbo, and Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki to attend. The motion was made, seconded, and per a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board moved to Executive Session at 6:43 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:46 p.m.

The Selectmen thanked Chief Silva for the excellent job he is doing and recognized his continuing efforts toward building a strong Police Department. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign Chief Silva's successor agreement. Chief Silva also signed the agreement and left the meeting.

Final Town Meeting Motions: Mr. Zubricki reviewed the latest draft of the motions to be made at the Annual Town Meeting this evening. Some minor changes were made regarding presentation.

In other business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the weekly warrant in the amount of \$97,820.37.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the minutes for the April 28th, 2008 Selectmen's Open Meeting. A motion was also made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the minutes for the April 28th, 2008 Selectmen's Executive Session.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter of resignation from Karen Wright, the co-chair of the Youth Commission. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to accept the resignation.

The Selectmen signed an application for a commercial clamming permit for William Fitts. The application deadline was previously waived at the March 24th Board of Selectmen's meeting.

The Selectmen were reminded that there will be a ceremonial signing of a Memorandum Of Understanding for the Essex TRIAD Group at the Senior Center on Monday, May 12th, 2008 at 10:30 a.m. Selectman Randall will attend.

Essex Senior Recognition Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at the American Legion Hall in Hamilton, MA.

The next collective bargaining session with the Teamsters is scheduled for Thursday, May 15th at 7:30 a.m. at the Senior Center.

The Cape Ann Breakfast Club will meet on Friday, May 16th at 7:30 a.m. at the Gloucester House Restaurant. The presentation will include a panel discussion "Options for Healthy Living" by three local wellness practitioners. The Town Administrator will not be able to attend.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the T.O.H.P. Burnham Public Library on Monday, May 19th, 2008.

The Cape Ann Museum will host the Tourist Division of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce's Tourist Mixer on Wednesday, May 28th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its Twenty-first Annual Goods and Services Auction on Friday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. at Cruiseport Gloucester.

Attorney Corbo reported that he has just returned from Worcester where Judge Agnes presided over the hearing regarding the William Allen case. He said that the Judge has authorized the court appointed receiver in the Allen case to sell Mr. Allen's property on Pond Street and to use the sales proceeds to finance the continuation of the clean up of the Southern Avenue property. The Judge has also ruled that no one is to be allowed on the Southern Avenue property without the receiver's permission and that as soon as the receiver has funding, he may erect a fence around the property.

There being no other business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 and proceed to the Annual Town Meeting in the Essex Elementary School Gymnasium.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
A. Raymond Randall, Jr.