

Selectmen's Minutes

October 5, 2009

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the T.O.H.P. Burnham Public Library on Martin Street and announced that the Board would hear Public Comment. No one offered any comments.

Mr. Zubricki presented his Town Administrator's Report for the period covering September 26th, 2009 through October 2nd, 2009, regarding the following items:

Summer Program Advisory Board: Mr. Zubricki reported that of the five people he had contacted regarding an appointment to a Summer Youth Program Advisory Board, only one had accepted the offer. Three others were considering the idea with reservations and the fifth person has not, as yet, responded. Now that the administrative side of the Program has been audited and perfected, next season, the physical location of the Summer Program will be audited and any suggested repairs or improvements incorporated to the extent possible. The only other aspects of the Summer Program that will not have been remodeled or addressed are program content and determination of target age groups. The Selectmen had hoped that an advisory board would make recommendations regarding suggested offerings for the Summer Program. Pending the Selectmen's approval, the Town Administrator would then work with the Youth Director to implement the suggestions made by the advisory board. The Selectmen agreed to temporarily postpone the creation of an advisory board and asked Mr. Zubricki to research other municipally sponsored youth programs for programming ideas that may be useful to incorporate into ours.

The Selectmen were informed that the Youth Director will need help to empty out the storage container at Centennial Grove and inventory the contents. The Selectmen thought that the contents could now be stored in the Concession Building and the Beach Barn. They also asked Mr. Zubricki to inform the Youth Director that they are considering not using the Grove Cottage for the Summer Program.

Route 133 Reconstruction Project Update: Mr. Zubricki said that he and Selectman Lynch had attended a meeting last week to review the current status of the Route 133 Project. MassHighway has asked that the Selectmen reconsider allowing their construction crews to change their daily work period from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. next year. The Selectmen said that they would take the matter under advisement and make a decision in the Spring. The Selectmen asked Mr. Zubricki to find out how much it would cost to professionally change the signs announcing the new work periods and inform the Chamber of Commerce. The Selectmen would like MassHighway to consider night work wherever possible in order to minimize disruption during the day.

National Grid will be moving the power lines from one side of the causeway to the other to facilitate reconstruction of the Seawall. The Selectmen asked Mr. Zubricki to find out how long National Grid would be willing to leave the temporary service and poles in place. They also asked him to check whether National Grid will be removing the old poles when they move the lines across the street. Funding from the Seaport Bond Bill is not likely to happen until at least the year 2012 and the Town is currently seeking funding from the Bill to help develop the downtown waterfront which may include a boardwalk.

If the waterfront project comes to fruition, the utility lines would have to be moved and replaced again during the construction process, along with the corresponding power shut down while the lines are being moved.

Mr. Zubricki reminded the Selectmen that the power shutdown is currently scheduled for October 19th. There will be two groups affected by the shutdown. The first group will lose power for about 5 hours and the second group will lose power for the first and last hour of the shutdown. National Grid will be alerting the property owners this coming Wednesday by letter.

Special Town Meeting Warrant: Mr. Zubricki reviewed the list of potential articles to be included on the November 9th Special Town Meeting Warrant in anticipation of closing the warrant at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on October 19th.

Public Access Project, Seaport Bond Bill: As previously mentioned, the Seaport Bond Bill is not likely to receive any funding for projects before 2012. The Selectmen suggested that Mr. Zubricki talk to Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Ann Margaret Ferrante about the possibility of getting our project moved forward.

Chairman Jones entertained a motion to exempt from § 20 of Chapter 268A of the General Laws a contract with Ramie Reader pursuant to subsection d of said Section and to approve payment of Mr. Reader on the weekly Town warrant dated October 13, 2009. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously Voted.

Mr. Zubricki reviewed a letter from Thomas P. Kehoe, the Advancement Chairman for the North Shore District of the Boy Scouts of America, regarding a recent development involving Daniel White and his Eagle Scout project at Centennial Grove. After much discussion with Daniel, his parents, his scoutmaster, school officials, and the Police, Mr. Kehoe has decided to allow Daniel to continue working on his eagle scout project and hopes that the Selectmen will agree with his decision. The Selectmen were in agreement.

Mr. Zubricki said that Horsley Witten has now presented an invoice in the amount of \$26,116.50 for completion of Task III of their contract. The Selectmen were in agreement about the completion of Task III and asked that the invoice be processed for payment.

Mr. Zubricki said that it has been brought to his attention that the Shellfish Constable and his deputies are spending a lot of time policing the Gloucester clammers with parking stickers for Conomo Point who drift over to Essex flats while digging. The Selectmen asked Mr. Zubricki to research the history of the free stickers issued to the Gloucester clammers and decided to continue the discussion at a future Board of Selectmen's meeting.

In other business, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the weekly warrant in the amount of \$100,651.43.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to approve and sign the minutes for the September 28th, 2009, Selectmen's Open Meeting and the September 28th, 2009, Selectmen's Executive Session.

The Selectmen signed an appointment card for Justin Zwicker appointing him to a full-time police officer's position, effective September 24, 2009. The appointment was previously approved at the 5/19/2009 Board of Selectmen's meeting pending Mr. Zwicker's successful completion of the Police Academy.

The Selectmen were reminded that the Board of Selectmen will meet jointly with the Planning Board on Wednesday, October 7th, 2009 in the Essex Elementary School at 8:30 p.m.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the T.O.H.P. Burnham Public Library.

The Essex Clamfest will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2009.

At 8:05 p.m., citing the need to discuss the value of real property and strategy with respect to litigation, the Chairman entertained a motion to move to Executive Session. He said that the Board would not be returning to Open Session and asked Mr. Zubricki to attend. The motion was moved, seconded, and per a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board move to Executive Session.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:25 p.m. There being no other business before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously Voted to adjourn the meeting.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
Mark W. Lynch