

Selectmen's Minutes
T.O.H.P. Burnham Library

June 8, 2011

Present: Chairman Jeffrey D. Jones, Selectman Lisa J. O'Donnell, Selectman Susan Gould-Coviello, Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the T.O.H.P. Burnham Library and announced that the meeting was being recorded and that the Board would hear public comment. No one from the public was present to offer any comment.

Mr. Zubricki placed a conference call to Town Counsel Gregg Corbo. The Selectmen greeted Attorney Corbo and informed him that the meeting was being recorded.

The Chairman entertained a motion to move to Executive Session to discuss the lease of real property and pending litigation. Chairman Jones stated that discussion of these topics in Open Session would be detrimental to the negotiating strategy with regard to the proposed leases and with regard to the Town's legal strategy. He stated that it is anticipated that the Board will be returning to Open Session and invited Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki and Town Counsel Corbo to attend. Following a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board moved to Executive Session at 7:32 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:45 a.m.

Mr. Zubricki agreed that he would schedule a meeting among the Chairman, himself, Town Counsel, Paul Collins, Judd Pratt, and William Liberti. The Conomo Point representatives had requested the meeting for a status update.

Attorney Corbo and the Selectmen ended their conference call.

Based on the Selectmen's discussion with the consulting real estate appraiser and Town Counsel, the Chairman entertained a motion to release a tentative draft bridge lease as an exhibit to the Request for Proposals for appraisals of Conomo Point properties after final review by Town Counsel, for illustrative purposes only, not to be construed as an offer of final terms to any group, party, or individual, and subject to revision by the Board of Selectmen. The motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted. Mr. Zubricki said that he would place the exhibit on the Town website so that it could also be reviewed by the Conomo Point Planning Committee and Town residents and lessees.

In other business, the Selectmen discussed the error made by the contractor for MassDOT when constructing the sidewalks on the causeway. Unpaved strips were supposed to be left on the curb side of the sidewalks to provide places for plantings. Various corrective methods were discussed and the Selectmen favored the solution suggested by Merchants Group member Robert Coviello to place the planting strips to the rear of the sidewalks. The Selectmen asked Mr. Zubricki to discuss their views for fixing the sidewalks with MassDOT's resident engineer.

The Selectmen also discussed the suggestion offered by a member of MassDOT's contractor group to keep the detour for the work being done on the northern side of the causeway bridge in place around the clock until reconstruction was completed. By doing this, the contractor thought that the construction could be completed a week ahead of schedule. The Selectmen agreed that they would be in favor of the continuous detour as long as it was approved by Chief Silva, and as long as large trucks could be managed (something that Mr. Zubricki doubted would be possible, since Police details would be required around the clock).

Mr. Zubricki said that MassDOT intends to add the final layer of paving from Water Street through to the bridge and that will complete bringing the roadway up to its finished elevation. When completed, the finished grade will be approximately 6 to 8 inches above the old grade in a specific area that is prone to flooding. The merchants and the Town had asked for a greater increase, however, MassDOT's engineer had said that they would only be able to raise it the 6 to 8 inches.

There being no more business before the Board at the present time, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
Lisa J. O'Donnell