

Selectmen's Meeting – August 3, 2009

Dr. Bowcock, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Silvia were present.

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2009. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2009 executive session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Director of Planning and Economic Development updated the Board on current department and Planning Board projects. (See attached list.)

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Director of Tourism and Director of Planning and Economic Development were present. Discussion followed on what the Town may do to open communications with the private sector to make the Town more economically strong and to make it “user friendly” so businesses want to come to Fairhaven. It was suggested that Mr. Roth and Mr. Richard meet with local businesses, including bed and breakfasts and hotels to discuss ideas to enhance revenues. A partnership in marketing with local businesses and the Town was also discussed, along with a possible increase in the hotel/motel and food tax. Mr. Richards is not in favor of increasing the meals tax. He feels many of the restaurants are supported by locals and an increase would put a burden on them. Mr. Silvia motioned to direct Mr. Richard and Mr. Roth to explore the establishment of an Economic Development Advisory Group and to report back to the Board in early September. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

UNO CHICAGO GRILL & BAR

Uno Chicago Grill & Bar, 214 Huttleston Avenue, submitted an application for a Change of Manager. New manager, Marc Cardin, was in attendance. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the application. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Application will be forwarded to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission for approval.

GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT

Director of Planning and Economic Development discussed the “Green Communities Grant Program-Planning Assistance Application. (See attached.) He reviewed the application with Bill

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Fitzgerald, BPW Superintendent, and they both feel the Town can meet two or three of the submittal criteria. He stated that in order to apply, the Board of Selectmen would need to vote on a letter of commitment to meet all five criteria within one year of technical assistance. If the Board also voted on a policy to purchase only fuel efficient vehicles when they are commercially available and practicable, this would assist in meeting a third criterion. Mr. Murphy motioned to submit an application for the Program Opportunity Notice-Green Communities Grant Program and to meet the five criteria within one year of technical assistance. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Dr. Bowcock motioned to adopt the Vehicle Purchasing Policy and to send a copy of the policy to the Police Chief and Fire Chief for comment. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Clerical Union negotiations are scheduled for August 6, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Mr. Osuch and the Town Planner will meet with representatives from NSTAR Electric on August 4, 2009 to discuss an issue in the Doane Street area.

Susan Goldstein from ESI, the Town's new consulting firm for the Employee Assistance Program, will meet with department heads on August 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall to explain available benefits and services.

Mr. Osuch will attend a meeting on August 5, 2009 at the Whaling Museum from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon with Governor Patrick. Commuter rail service to the New Bedford area will be discussed.

Representatives from the Sylvia Group, the Town's insurance agent, and Trident, the Town's new workers' compensation carrier, will meet with department heads on August 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall to explain how Trident will handle claims and the process for filing workers' comp injury claims.

Council on Aging meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the Council on Aging.

Mattapoissett River Valley Water Advisory Committee will meet at 3:00 p.m. on August 11, 2009 at the Board of Public Works.

Mattapoissett River Valley Water District Meeting will meet at 4:30 p.m. on August 11, 2009 at the Board of Public Works.

School Building Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on August 11, 2009 at the School Administration Building.

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Workers' Compensation Hearing for Jean Cote is scheduled for September 1, 2009 at 9:15 a.m. in Fall River.

Mr. Osuch explained information from the Department of Revenue on "Fiscal Year 2010 Waivers to Education Reform Spending Requirements and Minimum Required Local Contributions". (See attached.) Fairhaven's total was reduced by \$482,817. The decrease will not affect May Town Meeting votes.

A replacement truck for the Natural Resource Department was purchased from Manny & Bob's.

Mr. Osuch received a quote to repair the roof on the former Council on Aging building on Sconticut Neck Road. A reserve fund transfer or vote at Town Meeting will be necessary to pay for the repairs.

Mr. Murphy motioned to sign the contract in the amount of \$20,000.00 with Paul Choquette & Company, 7 Pinewood Way, Mattapoisett, MA for Town Hall Phase 3 Window Painting. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Town plans to purchase street lights from NSTAR on or about January 1, 2010.

Mr. Osuch briefly explained the information from the "State Revolving Fund Loan Program for Clean Water Projects". (See attached.) Fairhaven will receive \$7,876,000. for Energy Efficiency, Photovoltaic and Hydroelectric Project.

The RFP for Solar Panels at the Landfill was advertised on July 29, 2009. Bids are due by 2:00 p.m. on August 28, 2009.

Mr. Murphy motioned to "turn back" Town Meeting appropriations for the following articles: Oil Spill West Island \$21,410; Historic District Center Area \$15,000; and misc Street Lights \$1,002. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. The By-Law establishing the "turn back" policy will appear on the next Town Meeting Warrant. Wording on the original article was incorrect.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from Wayne Oliveira, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, requesting permission to utilize funds from an account established to maintain the Route 6 median strip. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from Deborah Jenkins, Executive Director of the Council on Aging, requesting the Board of Selectmen approve a proposed amendment to the COA By-Laws. (See

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attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to have Town Counsel review the proposed amendment. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mr. Murphy motioned to donate the surplus 1997 Ford Ambulance to the Town of Acushnet. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The Board discussed retaining buses to move senior citizens in the event of a major disaster. Town departments agreed to the use of their vehicles, but the Board feels a major bus company is needed for back up. Mr. Murphy will draft a letter to SRTA and Mr. Silvia will present it at the next SRTA meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Chief submitted a request that Donald Joseph be appointed a Special Police Officer. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. The Board thanked Lieutenant Joseph for his dedicated years of service to the Town.

Dr. Bowcock read the request from the Police Chief to call for a Promotional Sergeant's List. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

An application was received from the "Coalition Against Poverty" to rent the Auditorium on Sunday, October 4, 2009 for a musical for a fund raiser to benefit the "Coalition Against Poverty" Mr. Osuch will contact the organization to obtain additional information. The application will be placed on the August 14, 2009 agenda.

NSTAR GAS

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the petition for gas line maintenance at 34 Hamlet Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Approved by the Board of Public Works)

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the petition for gas line maintenance on the Walnut Street side for 40-42 Center Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Approved by the Board of Public Works)

OTHER MATTERS

Massachusetts Office on Disability, in partnership with the Housing Authority and the Council on Aging, will hold meetings on August 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon to discuss how to ensure people with disabilities have the assistance they need in emergency situations. The

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meeting will be held at the Community Room at Oxford Terrace. "Emergency Go Packs" will be distributed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to discuss a letter from the Retirement Board regarding Kevin Villa, two Workers' Compensation Hearings, Clerical Union Contract negotiations, Quinn Bill payment obligations, a right of way issue, the Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbormaster position, Wind Turbine Contract and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary