

Selectmen's Meeting – August 14, 2009

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

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of August 3, 2009. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2009 executive session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dr. Bowcock and Jeffrey Osuch will interview firms for project manager for the new elementary school on August 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Finalists will be interviewed again on August 25, 2009.

Retirement Board will meet on August 26, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Dr. Bowcock will meet with Jim Sweeney on August 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Finance Committee will meet on August 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Bids for the Landfill Solar Project are due on August 28, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Murphy motioned to re-appoint Alfred Raphael to the Mattapoissett River Valley Water District Commission. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Term to expire May 31, 2012.)

The Town will receive approximately \$870,000. in Community Development Block Grant Funds for housing rehabilitation and upgrades to Green Street.

The Board will review an article on the Quinn Bill that appeared in the Boston Globe and a letter from Town Counsel. The Police Union filed a grievance concerning the Quinn Bill, which the Board of Selectmen has not yet received.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Report for July 2009 will be placed on file.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Dr. Bowcock summarized the letter from Town Counsel regarding the Council on Aging's proposed amendment to its regulations. (See attached.) The Board stated if there is a problem with any of the members, the Director is to notify the Board of Selectmen.

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NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The Harbormaster requested assistance to have the Natural Resource Department WEB site up and running. John Nunes will work with Mr. Darmofal to have the site up and running by January 1, 2010.

The Harbormaster discussed the amended Mooring Regulations, approved by Town Meeting on May 2, 2009 and approved by the Attorney General. (See attached.)

Matthew Loo and Timothy Cox were interviewed for the second time for the position of Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbormaster. Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Timothy Cox Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbormaster. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Cox will begin work on Monday, August 17th. Rate of pay is level 10, step 2.

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Marlene Pollock from the Coalition Against Poverty submitted additional information to rent the Auditorium on Sunday, October 4, 2009 for a musical. (See attached.) The Board agreed to waive the rental fee, but the organization must pay for a Custodian and Police Officer.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from Riverside Cemetery requesting a surplus file cabinet stored at the Town Hall be donated to the Cemetery. (See attached.) The Board agreed to donate the file cabinet.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE SALE

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from T.A.P. Enterprises, Inc. announcing they will hold a two day tool and general merchandise sale at the VFW, 109 Middle Street, on September 8th and 9th from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (See attached.) The Building Commissioner will be instructed to contact T.A.P. Enterprises and inform them of the Town's By-Law regarding signs.

MOVING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the Moving Permit for lot 2A-2 on Rivard Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the Moving Permit for 126 Weeden Road. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

NSTAR GAS

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the petition to relay gas service at 48 Pleasant Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Approved by the Board of Public Works.)

Representatives from NSTAR Gas were in attendance and apologized for the situation that occurred on Saturday, June 27th, Homecoming Day. Because of a "Class II" gas leak, NSTAR sent a petition to the Town in April to open Center Street. In addition to approval from the Town, Dig Safe had to be notified. Due to the bad weather in June, NSTAR got behind, and work was started on the afternoon before the Homecoming Day Fair. The NSTAR Supervisor promised to be done by 5:00 p.m. The crew worked that afternoon patched the road and left before 5:00 p.m. Because of the smell of gas, they returned several hours later and worked till early Saturday morning. Then re-appeared at 6:00 a.m. and worked till early afternoon, during the Fair. It was then a "Class I" gas leak and a public emergency. The Board stated this was an unfortunate situation. The gas company has been aware of the leak for sometime, and their decision to repair the leak right before the Homecoming Day Fair was a poor decision. Vendors were displaced, music could not be heard because of the noise from the equipment and the equipment blocked the street. Many non-profit organizations had their booths in the area where the gas company was working. They suffered financial losses because of NSTAR. The Board suggested NSTAR send letters of apology to the Fairhaven Improvement Association and the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. The Fairhaven Improvement Association works all year to make Homecoming Day a success. Mr. Silvia reported the North Fairhaven Improvement Association made a fraction of the money they usually do. NSTAR agreed to send letters of apology.

OUR LADY OF ANGELS

The Board received an invitation and will participate in the Our Lady of Angels Annual Festival Procession on Monday, September 7, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

OTHER MATTERS

Al Benac discussed his letter to the Board regarding illegal placement of signs on utility poles throughout the Town. The Board informed Mr. Benac the Building Commissioner is aware of the problem and is pursuing it. The Police Chief will be asked to have Officers be on the look out for the person(s) placing signs on poles.

Mr. Benac also discussed "double utility poles" and the Verizon switching station at the entrance to Cushman Park. He said cables are hanging from the structure and shrubs around the building are over grown. Mr. Osuch was asked to contact Verizon to discuss this matter.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:45 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to discuss Clerical Union Contract negotiations and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary