



**Board of Selectmen  
Minutes  
Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 7:00pm  
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Marie Sobalvarro, Ron Ricci, Bill Johnson, Tim Clark and Lucy Wallace were all in attendance as well as the Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

### **MINUTES**

On a Sobalvarro/Johnson motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 11/20 & 12/4, as presented.

### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC) APPOINTMENT**

Lucy Wallace invited candidates Willie Wickman and Beth Williams to come forward and express their interest in serving on the CPC. CPC and BOS members asked a few questions and then the votes were taken.

Sobalvarro nominated Willie Wickman to the open position seconded by Clark. The roll call vote went as follows: Sobalvarro – Aye, Clark – Aye, Chadran – Aye, Thompson – Aye, Blair – Nay, Lee – Nay, D. Ricci – Nay, Sprague – Nay, Gorss – Aye, Brooks – Nay, R. Ricci – Nay, Johnson – Nay, and Wallace – Aye. (6 Aye/7Nay)

R. Ricci nominated Beth Williams to the open position seconded by D. Ricci. The roll call vote went as follows: Chadran – Nay, Thompson – Nay, Blair – Aye, Brooks – Aye, Gorss – Nay, D. Ricci – Aye, Sprague – Aye, Lee – Aye, Wallace – Nay, Sobalvarro – Nay, R. Ricci – Aye, Johnson – Aye, Clark – Nay. (7 Aye/6 Nay)

Beth Williams was appointed to the open position.

### **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Stu Sklar, 39 Scott Road, said as the newest member of the Cable Committee and Co-Chair of the Bromfield School Council he is hopeful the BOS will vote in favor of the cable studio relocation to Bromfield. He said it will be nice for the Cable Committee to finally have a permanent space for their studio. He admits the space is not perfect but it is a good start. He envisions many town organizations being able to take advantage of the space.

Worth Robbins, (Harvard Solar Gardens), 115 Massachusetts Avenue, said the Selectmen's previous decision to amend the residential solar fees was basically a fulfillment of Harvard's obligation to participating in the Solarize Mass program. He also noted as a Green Community we need to continuously meet requirements to comply and believes the request to amend the solar permit fees for commercial projects is consistent with this. He referred the Selectmen to the state of California and how they determine their fees. Robbins stated their rationale is based on

capacity and not value which moves their permit fee process in a direction meant to cover the costs of service and not a tax on construction.

Ellen Leicher, 58 Warren Avenue, said she sits as a citizen representative on the Bromfield School Council who voted unanimously in favor of the cable studio relocating to the Bromfield School. She explained she has always advocated to broadening electives and this will provide a great avenue to do this. She asked the BOS to keep the politics aside and take advantage of this good opportunity for the schools and the town.

Alexia Lipman (Bromfield Junior), as a leader on the Bromfield Film Club said the club is limited on what they can do due to limited access to equipment. She said having the cable studio located at Bromfield would be more convenient for the club and a wonderful resource for them. She is very supportive of the studio relocation.

Joann Sueltenfuss, Monty Tech. Rep. for Harvard, was made aware of the studio relocation by Selectmen Bill Johnson. She said use of the Monty Tech. students for this project is a wonderful idea as their dedication to excellence is apparent. She said they handle all the repairs at their school and have been involved in many other projects.

#### **CABLE COMMITTEE UPDATE - RELOCATION TO BROMFIELD SCHOOL**

Cable Committee members John Burns, Jonathan Williams, Stu Sklar along with Program Coordinator Robert Fernandez were all present. School Committee member Keith Cheveralls was also invited to come forward to participate in the discussion.

Burns reported a lot of progress has been achieved over the past couple of weeks. He confirmed the Monty Tech. students would be able to take on the project which lowers the interior fit up costs by \$15,000. He explained they have met with architects to finalize the design which provides a plan that will meet all the needs required. Also, the School Committee increased their cash contribution significantly. At this time the committee is seeking approval from the BOS for their contribution. Burns said the community support for the studio relocation is obvious and noted this will also solve the long term problem of a more permanent home for the Cable Committee. Questions were submitted in writing previously to the committee members by Tim Clark and Marie Sobalvarro. Written responses to these questions were not fully discussed at the meeting due to time constraints. Bill Johnson made the following motion seconded by Ron Ricci for discussion: On a Johnson/Ricci motion, the board voted for the selectmen to authorize up to \$27,000 to be expended from the Rantoul trust towards the proposed renovation fit up to the Bromfield school basement for cable studio capabilities for the town.

Tim Clark open the discussion of the motion by saying he has always been a strong advocate for cable and development of extra curricular programs. He continued to express concern over the handicapped accessibility and the ceiling height of the space.

Clark inquired why the School Committee would not allow the use of the space adjacent to the Bromfield Library know as the Media Room for Cable as it was originally designed during the last school renovation.

Cheveralls did say the space was considered but is being used for classroom space. Some discussion and debate ensured around the pros and cons of each space. Clark then asked

Cheveralls why if an accessible classroom space is being created below the middle school wing that was less suitable for a Video studio (due to the low ceiling height) that the current academic classes in the Media room could not be relocated to allow the Cable Committee to use the Media room as originally intended by the taxpayers and School building committee.

Clark said he is ready to support the studio relocation but wants to invest in the best possible space. Bill Johnson pointed out finding an affordable solution to start will solve our immediate needs. If the program evolves to a curriculum based opportunity it can be re-evaluated. He said we have to trust the School Committee and Superintendent understand the best use of the facility. Marie Sobalvarro is interested in supporting the Cable Committee with a permanent space but is more comfortable funding the project through a warrant article at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). She understands the Rantoul funds are to be used only to meet town government needs. Johnson explained if we wait until the ATM we will not be able to utilize the Monty Tech students as they are committed to other projects through the fall of 2014. They are able to fit this project into their schedule for January 2013 through March 2013. Lucy Wallace was also a bit skeptical to use the Rantoul account and wondered if there are other municipal projects that are more in need. Ron Ricci thanked everyone involved for their hard work on this. He said it is now time to make a decision.

Tim Clark made a motion seconded by Marie Sobalvarro to amend the original motion to: Make the funds from Rantoul to be in the form of a reimbursement to the Cable Committee subject to and following a positive town meeting vote for the site/access improvement funds.

Construction could begin ahead of ATM but the School Committee and Cable Committee would bear the risk if the funds for site modification failed.

The motion failed:

(Clark- Aye, Wallace – Aye, Sobalvarro – Nay, Ricci – Nay, Johnson – Nay)

The original motion passed:

(Johnson – Aye, Ricci – Aye, Wallace – Aye, Sobalvarro – Nay, Clark – Nay)

Sobalvarro voted against the motion as she believed that Rantoul should not be the source of the funds and that the Town Meeting should decide funding for the whole project.

### **LIQUOR LICENSE ANNUAL RENEWALS**

On a Sobalvarro/Clark motion, the board voted unanimously to approve all three liquor license renewals as presented.

### **ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS**

On a Johnson/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve annual licenses as presented on the license renewal checklist for 2013.

### **RESIGNATION**

Lucy Wallace recognized the resignation of Michelle Catalina from the Planning Board and announced the vacancy.

## **SEWER PROJECT UPDATE**

Tim Bragan said electronic approval from DEP allowing connections has been received but the official letter has not yet been sent. He explained the Sewer Commission is working on a final packet of information to be sent out to all residents in the district.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Bragan said the Fire Chief has been notified he will be receiving grant funds from the Commonwealth Security Trust Fund in the amount of \$25,000 for new extraction equipment.

## **SOLAR FEE DISSCUSION – Commercial projects**

Building Inspector Gabriel Vellante said he did some research by gathering information from surrounding communities. He explained many communities handle solar permits in a similar fashion by charging a specific dollar amount per thousand for the cost of the project. He said commercial projects are a bit different because they require Construction Control. He explained the difference between Construction Supervisors License and Construction Control. Vellante said in addition to inspections solar permits require documentation that needs detailed review. Tim Clark said in response to feedback offered from the last BOS meeting when this was discussed why not subtract the cost for the inverter and panels. Ron Ricci again expressed his reluctance in amending fees for specific requests considering those in town that have paid similar fees in the past. He also does not believe our fees for commercial solar projects are that much out of line with other communities. Lucy Wallace asked if any of the members were inclined to make changes to the existing fee schedule related to commercial solar projects. Marie Sobalvarro is happy to revisit amending all existing fees not just fees specific to solar. Ricci and Johnson were in agreement with Sobalvarro.

On a Clark/Wallace motion, the board voted to accept alternative 1 for photovoltaic permit fees dated 12.17.2012.

(Nay – Sobalvarro, Nay - Ricci, Nay – Johnson, Aye – Wallace, Clark – Aye)

The motion did not pass.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

Documents referenced:

### **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC) APPOINTMENT**

Volunteer forms – Beth Williams dated 12.13.2012 – Willie Wickman dated 11/19/2012

### **CABLE COMMITTEE UPDATE - RELOCATION TO BROMFIELD SCHOOL**

Handout dated 1.3.2012

### **LIQUOR LICENSE ANNUAL RENEWALS – dated November 2012**

**ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS – 2013 annual license checklist**

**RESIGNATION – letter from Michelle Catalina dated 12.06.2012**

**SOLAR FEE DISSCUSION - handout from Building Inspector dated 12.17.2012**