



Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2013 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 12/18/2012 & 1/9/2013.

COA APPOINTMENT

COA member Pam Frederick was present to introduce Suzanne Roberts for appointment. Roberts took some time to explain her interest and qualifications. On a Sobalvarro/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Suzanne Roberts to the COA with a term expiring in June 2013.

CAUCUS WARRANT

On a Ricci/Johnson motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the caucus warrant.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Tim Bragan announced the receipt of an Entertainment License request from the Unitarian Universalist Church to accommodate the Schools Trust Annual Gala to be held on March 16th. The board was given a letter from Police Chief Ed Denmark regarding the event last year. He offered some suggestions on how to address issues with parking. The BOS decided a public hearing was not necessary but asked the Town Administrator and Police Chief to meet with a representative from the church to discuss the event further and accommodate any concerns. Issuance of the license will be handled at the February 5th meeting.

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – SOLAR NET METERING CREDITS

Committee member Jim Elkind introduced volunteers Malcolm Carley, Steve Matson and Andrew Thomas as the members of the working group established to follow up on a recommendation from the Energy Advisory Committee to solicit bids for solar net metering purchase agreements and eventually draft an RFP. Elkind explained state law requires utilities to keep track of their energy production from solar arrays and credits accumulate. He said provisions have been set up to allow those who own credits to transfer them. He further explained Harvard could purchase solar photovoltaic net metering credits allowing us to lock in electricity cost savings for twenty years. The Selectmen asked some questions but were all in favor of the group investigating this further and drafting an RFP for their review and consideration. On a Clark/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to recommend the Energy Advisory Committee to prepare an RFP for solar net metering credits.

PUBLIC SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

Ambulance Director Steve Beckman along with Police Chief Ed Denmark and Fire Chief Rick Sicard were present. Beckman requested time on the agenda to inform the Selectmen about the upcoming collaborative effort for Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) preparation and response. They plan to hold the symposium on March 23rd in the Cronin Auditorium. He explained their initial focus was on a large-scale drill but now the focus is on preparation. Beckman was happy to report they have been able to secure some very impressive speakers who have agreed to pay their expenses up front with assurance for timely reimbursement. He reviewed their estimated expenses, finance plan and how they plan to get registrants. Police Chief Ed Denmark feels quite confident based on the caliber of speakers scheduled there will be a great deal of interest. He said the value gained in hearing first hand from those we have been in situations like this is invaluable. The Police Chief and Fire Chief were both fully supportive of the event and thanked those on the Ambulance Squad who worked very hard to make this happen.

ELDERLY & DISABLED TAXATION AID COMMITTEE REQUEST

Committee member Rick Maiore explained a transfer of \$4,000 to cover an appeal from last year was being requested. He said the recipient was under the impression the funding rolled over each year and was not aware he needed to apply again. On a Ricci/Johnson motion, the board voted unanimously to transfer \$4000 from the Rantoul Elderly Trust Fund to the Elderly & Disabled Taxation Aid fund.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Bill Salter, 3 Elm Street, requested the Selectmen hold an advertised public hearing notifying all abutters of the Entertainment License request from the Unitarian Universalist Church. He has serious concerns over the parking situation on Elm Street and the lack of communication the church has had with the neighbors.

Selectmen Chair Lucy Wallace informed Salter the issued was discussed earlier in the meeting and an official public hearing has not been called. She also informed him the Town Administrator and the Police Chief will meet with a representative from the church to discuss the event and address any concerns.

Police Chief Ed Denmark said attaining cooperation without legislative behavior is best. He suggested all conditions be sorted out prior to issuance of the license. He added if the applicant can not live up to the conditions then no license would be issued.

Paul Morris, 14 Lovers Lane, echoed Salter's concerns and would appreciate the opportunity for public comment on the issue.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT *continued*

Town Hall ZBA Hearing

Tim Bragan reported the building variance and special permit hearing for the Town Hall will be held on February 13th at 8:00pm in Volunteer's Hall. He explained Town Counsel can not represent both the town and the ZBA so special counsel for the ABA needs to be approved. On a Clark/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to approve special counsel Barbara Saint Andre for ZBA hearing for the town hall variance.

Town Hall Relocation

Bragan said he would compile the cost estimates for the Appleworks location and the old library so the BOS can make a decision at an upcoming meeting.

Fees

Bragan said he would be working with town inspectors on revising the current inspectional services fee schedules and expects to hold a hearing on this at the second meeting in February.

DPW projects – Pond Road parking vs. Ayer Road reconstruction

Tim Bragan provided a letter from DPW Director Rich Nota regarding the cost tradeoffs and scheduling of the two projects proposed for 2013. Bragan explained the Capital Planning & Investment Committee (CPIC) is seeking guidance from the Selectmen as to how they would like to see the two projects prioritized because the DPW does not have the bandwidth to do both. Marie Sobalvarro said the CPIC had rated the Pond Road parking area very high. Johnson, Sobalvarro, Ricci and Wallace were inclined to have Nota continue with his five year plan and have CPIC figure out how to handle the Pond Road parking funding. On a Johnson/Ricci motion, the board voted to direct DPW Director to prioritize doing the Ayer Road project in this next fiscal year and to assist where he can with the Pond Road parking but do not delay the Ayer Road project. (Clark – Nay)

TOWN PLANNER

Tim Clark asked if the BOS members should respond to the Planning Board separately with their feedback related to hiring a Town Planner. Sobalvarro and Johnson said they had and Wallace agreed that made sense.

JBOS

Lucy Wallace said she would attend the January 24th meeting.

**** On a Sobalvarro motion, the Board voted unanimously by a roll call vote (Sobalvarro – Aye, Johnson – Aye, Wallace –AYE, Ricci – Aye, Clark - Aye) to enter into executive session at 9:27pm, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21.3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, at a meeting for which 48-hours notice has been given, to discuss ongoing litigation. Following the executive session, the Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn. ****

Documents referenced:

COA APPOINTMENT – Suzanne Roberts volunteer form dated 11.27.2012

CAUCUS WARRANT – dated 1.22.2013

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE –SOLAR NET METERING CREDITS

Presentation dated 1.8.2013 and sample RFP dated 1.23.2012

PUBLIC SAFETY SYMPOSIUM – presentation dated 1.2013

DPW projects – Pond Road parking vs. Ayer Road reconstruction

Letter from DPW Director dated 1.22.2013

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50PM.