

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

December 16, 2008

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:31 pm on Tuesday evening, December 16, 2008 at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts

Present: Joan Meschino, Chairman; Christopher Olivieri, Vice Chairman; Domenico Sestito, Clerk, John Reilly and Dennis Blackall, Members. Also present were: Philip Lemnios, Town Manager, and James Lampke, Town Counsel.

LICENSE

Unanimously approved the licenses renewal to Ric Ray, Inc. dba Schooners, Raymond Chase, Manager, 157 Nantasket Avenue (A) Common Victualer – (B) All Alcohol (annual) as a restaurant, (C) Entertainment (Juke Box), on three motions by Reilly, three seconds by Olivieri

8:00 pm – Budget Discussion

Meschino opened the discussion at approximately 8:00 pm, that had been discussed at several previous meetings in regard to the \$2.4M shortfall in the operating budget. The balanced Budget A, developed by Lemnios at the request of the Board, contains the elimination of some services such as the Library, Park & Recreation events, and maintenance of the War Memorial, some reduction of full time positions to part time, and some layoffs. He was also to develop a Budget B should an override or debt exclusion pass if the Board chooses to place it on the ballot and to Town meeting.

The meeting room was filed with supporters of the library who spoke in support of keeping the library open, describing it as a necessity.

Both Police Chief Richard Billings, and Fire Chief Robert Hollingshead spoke of their department needs for the safety of the townspeople. Hollingshead said that presently his department does not meet the national standards.

Blackall suggested the need to fund the library at a minimum of \$50,000. as even if it is closed it cannot be allowed to deteriorate.

Lemnios had stated previously that he is going to have the Hull Municipal Light Company as an enterprise fund, to make a payment to the town in lieu of taxes, and continue to seek funds through the HRA.

Moved – Reilly: to pursue the PILOT program through the HRA,
Second-Blackall
Motion tabled to January 6, 2009

Lemnios asked that the Board forge ahead with a debt exclusion/override and make a compelling case to the citizens.

Moved-Olivieri: To approve Budget A as presented
Second-Reilly

A discussion was held on the stabilization fund that was described as vital to the Town's well-being and that it is used for those unexpected but necessary expenses.

Substitute Motion

Moved-Reilly: To approve Budget A and to use \$50,000. from the stabilization fund for the library
Second – Sestito

Substitute Motion

Moved-Blackall: To use \$75,000. from the stabilization account to fund the Library \$50,000; Park & Recreation \$20,000; and the War Memorial \$5000.

Second-Reilly

Vote: 4, ayes; 1 nay (Olivieri)

Meschino stated that the Members had received in their packets nine letters in support of keeping the library open from Hull residents, from several other community libraries; and a petition with approximately four hundred signatures.

Meschino said the Board is planning to have at least two public forums as soon as the dates are set.

Moved-Olivieri: To go into executive session to discuss sale or disposition of real property, and strategy in litigation and not to return to open session.

Second-Blackall

Roll Call Vote: Aye, Blackall; aye, Olivieri; aye, Meschino; aye, Sestito; aye, Reilly

The Board moved into executive session at 10:41 pm and thereafter adjourned.

February 10, 2009
Approved