

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

November 16, 2010

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectman was called to order at 7:30pm on Tuesday evening, November 16, 2010, at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts.

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

Old Business

FY12 2-1/2 Vote: In addressing concerns of members of the Board, Lemnios agreed to present two budgets, one reflecting the 2 1/2% statutorily permitted increase and the second reflecting the budget without the increase. This will allow the Board members to get a better idea of what areas will be impacted without the increase as well as what allowing an increase will mean to the Town fiscally. It will also allow members of the public to see exactly where funds are going and what could possibly be decreased or lost if a 2 1/2% increase isn't passed. A brief discussion took place looking at state aid and Town increases over the past ten years. Roughly estimating that the statutory increase of 2 1/2% represents \$23,861,000, the cuts in state aid over this time period was estimated to be in the range of 7.5-8M. If you look at the costs over the past ten years, expenses far exceed what has raised through the statutory increase. Brannan would like to see a group of people be able to look at the budget and think outside the box, maybe coming up with a better way to work the budget. Lemnios reinforced that in finding better ways to do things you will still come up against some fundamental issues. The state constitution requires that you give every child an education, also that you have a police department and fire department, although it does not specify how large that department has to be. Reilly reminded the other board members that the increase does not have to be 2 1/2%, it could be 1.5%, maybe use the stabilization fund instead of doing an increase. Blackall would like to see everyone create a list of what they would like to discuss so the Board can figure out how to move forward before the next meeting. The consensus was unanimously to continue discussion at the next meeting.

Liquor hours adjustment policy: In discussing the procedure of allowing establishments to vary their operating hours between December 1st and April 1st, Lampke suggested the board to keep in mind the administrative burden it will put on the Police Department. Reilly suggests that the Police be the first to be notified, then the Town Clerk, in terms of any changes made by Licensees.

Moved - Blackall	To approve the liquor hours adjustment with the stipulation that establishments to notify the Police Department and then the Town Clerk of any changes, from December 1 through April 1
Second - Olivieri	Voted - Passed unanimously.

Minutes

Moved - Reilly To approve the minutes of March 23, 2010 as presented.
Second - Blackall Voted: Unanimous in favor
Abstained: Brannan, as he was not on the Board at that time.

Appointments

Tax Classification Hearing: The Board of Assessors and Assistant Assessor Elsa Miller met with the Board. The purpose of this hearing was to decide whether the Board wants to split the tax rate and have a residential rate and a commercial rate. The Board of Assessors does not recommend a split rate, and it is not advised for towns that have less than 10% commercial. Hull, typically has a 3% commercial base. In decreasing the residential rate, a greater burden is created for the commercial properties. A brief presentation given by Miller explained that a lot of the commercial property is typically owner occupied, and splitting it is discouraging for drawing in the smaller business owner. Lemnios also explained that this is part of the FY11 budget process and it does not change the total amount that will be raised it just changes that classification. Typically in smaller communities there is not a split tax rate; in the larger towns and cities it is more common. Hull's tradition is to have a single rate

Moved - Reilly The Board determine the Residential factor to be 1.00 which will in effect maintain a single tax rate.
Second - Blackall Voted - Passed unanimous

Public Hearing

Community Development Block Grant - CDF FY2011 Grant Application presented by Bob Fultz. Fultz explained that the Senior Center is being funded through the CDBG Rehab Program, resulting in the Town having 24 projects this year as opposed to the 25 last year. This is a 10 year item and the Town can present a new project each year, so this is a second project. The Town got the Senior Center project because it appealed the initial decision and there were funds left from another project. Addressing concerns of approving a project where funding is not guaranteed, Fultz explained that in going forward the Town will need to have engineering plans for any projects up to the point of the bidding process and an engineer signing off on the budget. This is so that the Town is in a position with projects ready to go in case the town would be able to receive funds that are slippage from other projects, similar to how the appeal worked out for the Senior Center. Fultz further explained that at this point he does not believe the Town would be able to get everything needed to be competitive, but can continue with the process. The other issue that Mr. Fultz is uncomfortable with is if we'll get the grant due to regionalism. He is looking at other communities like Hull that do apply for grants. One is Rockland. Although they wouldn't partner with Hull this year, next year is a possibility, keeping in mind that with a partner the funds what Hull would otherwise receive goes down. He further explained that there are still many social service projects that are worked on as well but the funding for the regional projects really take up the funding Reilly asked if social service projects that would come in front

of the Board years ago have fallen off the radar or if they are still around, and if they should be included now. At this time two motions were made:

Moved - Olivieri	Authorization to apply for CH90 funds not to exceed \$30,000 for Bay Avenue East engineering services and to approve the Community Development Block Grant as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board.
Second - Blackall	Voted - Passed unanimous

Sestito closed the public hearing at this time.

A motion was made by Blackall and passed to extend the meeting until 10:20 pm.

Executive Session was rescheduled for November 30th.

New Business

Olivieri put out a reminder of the DRC meeting Wed. November 14 at 7pm at Town Hall. They will be organizing the committee, discussing a mission for the committee and the RFP that was drafted by Lemnios and Fultz. The Committee will also be deciding on frequency of meetings.

Brannan wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to have a safe holiday.

Blackall wanted to let Lemnios know that the asphalt truck did some work near his home and is very appreciative of what they do. Putting out a reminder of the Hull vs Cohasset game at 10am in Cohasset and wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Reilly wanted to remind everyone about the Thanksgiving Day bonfire at the HRA property. He would like to see the town have a discussion about potential sale for the VFW property and he would like to engage with the Housing Authority to get that property to do senior housing or something along those lines. Also he made reminders for the Police Senior Luncheon November 19 from 2-5pm, The Lion Club Senior Lunch from 12-5pm and the Hull Merchants Showcase at the High School November 20 from 9-3pm.

Sestito spoke with two Hull veterans, about having an AMVET flag on the town's website. It is in fact up on the website now and will be maintained.

Moved - Reilly	Allow town employees to have a half day on Wednesday November 24, 2010 with Town Hall closing at noon time.
Second - Blackall	Voted - Passed unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:18pm

April 3, 2012
Approved