

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

January 10, 2012

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, January 10, 2012 at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: John D. Reilly, Jr., Chairman, Domenico Sestito, Vice-Chair, Kevin Richardson, Clerk, Dr. Christopher Olivieri, and John C. Brannan, Members. Also present were: Philip E. Lemnios, Town Manager, James Lampke, Town Counsel and Karen Morgan, Recording Secretary.

The Board held a moment of silence in memory of Joseph Quirk, who was the health inspector for the Town of Hull in the late 1970's and Phyllis Stone, one of the owners of Paragon Park.

Motion: Richardson makes a Motion for the approval of Executive Session Minutes.

Second: Sestito

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

APPOINTMENT

7:30 p.m. – Health Insurance Discussion – re: MGL ch. 32B, Sections 21-23

Mr. Reilly addressed the audience that this appointment is about a discussion for the above-referenced subject in which it allows communities to adopt the possibility of the GIC Insurance. He reiterates that it is just a discussion and is not by any means that the town adopting this insurance. The legislature gave the Town an opportunity to avail themselves with this tool, it may never come out or be used, only under extreme circumstances *e.g.*, massive layoffs and the upcoming budget cycles, it is something that can be used to save off some of those difficulties.

Mr. Lemnios proceeded to address the audience at this point about the details of this matter. This is a topic that has a lot of people's attention and the impact of people's lives. He wanted to make sure if any changes were to occur, that they will be done according to the law and the employees will have a voice in it. The Legislature provided the opportunity for cities and towns to effect plan design (to change co-pays, deductibles, insurers), but in order to do that, each city and town has to adopt this chapter (no one has requested that the Town to go with the GIC insurance). You enter into a negotiation phase and if the two parties can't agree, then the whole process is decided by a third party who will look at the proposal and make a determination if the town can migrate to what it is proposing. It has to be cost-efficient and with GIC benchmark plans. You have to offer a mitigation plan to the employees; you have to put in place to mitigate the impacts to that change. The legislature will recommended that people have a health savings account. Most important, you have to inform the employees of the change. The

Town is not proposing going with the GIC, in any near term or mid-term. He does not feel that it is a strong provider network, as doctors and hospitals might not accept this plan. The Mayflower group will be coming out with two types of plans in the fiscal year. The first will be the same plan everyone is accustomed to. The second type of plan would be super rate savers, plans that have a much higher co-pay/deductible, and lower premium. Cities and towns will have to decide which set of plans they want to offer. We are confronted with a series of problems and allow anyone who has questions or concerns to come to the meeting on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. (January 14th) at the high school to get a better idea of the process. Nobody is proposing to change current health insurance we have now.

Mr. Reilly then asked the Board if there are any questions. Mr. Brannan had a comment to Mr. Lemnios, in which we are not moving with the GIC at this particular time. We are not going to recommend that we go with the GIC, there have not been enough discussions about it or to a plan that resembles it. Mr. Lemnios agrees with Mr. Brannan's comment. They are going to be offering two-tier plans (GIC alternatives from the current providers). Mr. Brannan addressed the audience as to see a show of hands as to: who is an active member of the town, retired employees of the town, in the school system as teacher, from any other town departments, if anyone spoke to anyone in the medical field about the pros and cons of the GIC program, how many talked to patients enrolled in the GIC and how many are residents are in the town of Hull.

Mr. Lemnios goes on to say if you were to go to the GIC or the Alternative, everybody would be put back to the same percentage share. Mayflower has gone to the current providers and asked them their rates and a plan to get to the GIC benchmark. He hopes the board will vote to initiate a conversation for change which is much defined under the law (here is what we are proposing, etc.)

Mr. Reilly addressed to Mr. Brannan's question about what he feels about the GIC Program as a medical care provider and he proceeds express his disinterest as it is an awful plan. The audience at that point applauded to his words.

Mr. Lemnios proceeded to say that we should adopt the law so they can do this if necessary, recognize it is a partnership between the Town and the employees to make a change, and we all have to recognize that we are not yet out of the woods. We need the flexibility if necessary.

Mr. Reilly asked if there are any questions or comments to the audience. Ms. O'Connell, a middle school teacher, addressed the Board about the issue at question. She felt if the Town went to the GIC, she would literally feel like she has no insurance. Her money is budgeted and if she sees a co-pay being so high, it would be a ¼ of her income. She does not want to have to worry about her children being in the hospital overnight (e.g., CAT Scans, PET Scans, etc.). As a parent, she would use health care less (her kids do not have cell phones or do not drive because of the high cost of auto insurance), but to worry about health insurance that she really does not have access to, she would not send them to the doctor if this high bill comes in, you have to weigh as to how sick they are and if they should go to the doctor). She does not want to worry about bankruptcy if her kids wind up in the hospital and she can't cover the costs.

Mr. Lemnios stated to Ms. O'Connell that when you joined the GIC, you are locked in for 3 years, with Mayflower, you have one year to withdraw. Do you want to lose control or not have as much control? This is a point that had to be addressed.

Greg Moran has been a resident for over 27 years. He finds it really sad that we are here tonight. He gave an example of a firefighter that has a child that has a catastrophic illness and is \$70,000 in co-pays with no relief. He wanted the Board to not enter this and to get rid of the insurance completely. At this point the audience applauds.

Mr. Colten then addressed the Board if the board is planning to vote on this insurance tonight. Mr. Reilly said that the Town Manager presented it to the Board. Mr. Lemnios said that there is no proposal to move to the GIC or change; it simply puts in place a tool that may or may not be used.

Mr. Brannan stated that they are looking at all these different plans because all their revenue is going away. If we say that we don't entertain this, he thinks it puts us all in a lesser position.

Another audience member spoke (did not provide name) was concerned about high co-pays and deductibles. If this Town adopts any one of these plans, the Town will have more revenue and it will affect the elderly, the people with sick kids, retired people. It is one thing to have premiums that go up and down equally, but this will only apply to people who are actually using the healthcare.

Ms. Heather Hughes addressed the Board about the insurance. She had years of service in the town of Hull as a teacher as well as many who are in the audience. She does not think the Town should be labeled as "abstract" and everyone puts in their efforts day in and day out as teachers educating the students.

Barbara Smith then addressed the Board stating how she has been a teacher in Hull for years and was a teacher to many of the board members. She bought a town house in 2008 and now she is living check to check to pay for it. She has not been to a dentist in 3 years because she could not afford a bridge. She is freighted with the new insurance and the co-pays. She is getting very worried with all of this and it is affecting someone you really know and people in the same boat.

Another audience member in the back addressed the Board about her and her husband raising a disabled child with neurological and physical issues. He requires 24-hour care. She is living on only one salary. She and her husband have never asked for help. They did reach a point that they needed help and applied for social security for her son that helps them be able to manage with his needs. It took their life savings to buy a vehicle to transport her son to and from places. She and her husband are trying to get equipment for her son Ben that is used and is worried if it breaks for him. She worried that her and her husband as caretakers would not have adequate coverage or the financial means for themselves as Mass Health and Social Security will help with her son.

Motion: Brannan makes a Motion that the Town of Hull elects to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits under MGL ch. 32B, Sections 21-23 and to the extent necessary to accept MGL ch. 32B, Sections 21-23.

Second: Olivieri

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Concluded: 9:11 p.m.

At this point, there was a 5 minute recess.

The BOS meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Sestito addressed the audience by discussing the MBTA proposal to eliminate ferry and commuter boat service to the town of Hull. Mr. Sestito has been working on this with Town Manager. There will be a meeting scheduled at the Hull High School on January 11, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. in the cafeteria. It is a meeting to get volunteers to go through a long list of task (e.g., writing, emails, updates on Facebook pages). The meeting should be about 45 minutes long.

At this point, Mr. Sestito exited the BOS meeting to attend to family matters.

Ms. Kanet then spoke about upcoming events that will be taken place. There is a pancake breakfast on St. Nicholas Church on MLK day at 9:30 a.m. There will be songs about civil rights and people are asked to write Haikus. In the evening, there will be an all you can eat pasta dinner at 5:30 at the Temple, it will be a family event and the movie that will be shown will be *South Pacific*.

9:20 p.m. – Steamboat Wharf Marina – re: Status Update - The Board will be discussing this in Executive Session and any public discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Parking Committee – Status Update

Robert DeCoste addressed the Board with a brief overview of last season's session. Ticket (parking permits) sales and the projections would be targeted at 80% and they came close with 79.4%, so they are very pleased with the ticket sales. The additional police officers assigned to the restricted areas did an outstanding job. They are also continuing to look for new sign location that will allow fewer signs in restricted areas and to have larger signs.

The Parking Committee is looking at parking areas outside the restricted area. Sagamore Hill is being pursued for further review. The Committee plans to hold a meeting with the residents in the area on Monday, Feb. 13th at the Town Hall. This is to see if there is a problem with the parking area and what problems need to be resolved. Another is a test program that will have more parking bay stations with a few areas of concern. The Committee is continuing to work with the residents with town signage in the restricted areas. He wants to give the Board an overview from last year and if they want to make any comments.

Mr. Brannan brings up the 80% of the budget. The Committee went through the math, made basic assumptions and they would get 80% of the redemption of the \$14 fee and with those funds to increase enforcement in the restricted areas. The Committee had 79.6 % of the numbers issued in which the goal was achieved. The Committee is trying to get rid of the sign pollution to make it easier to read, etc. He

was very pleased to work with everyone last year. This meeting in February that will take place will be for residents of Sagamore Hill, also for anyone who is interested in learning more may also join in to hear.

Mr. DeCoste wanted the sticker structure to remain the same. The way it works the first year that we should continue along the same path. The Committee will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month till April for meetings and everyone who has any questions or comments is urged to contact us.

Mr. Brannan is going to try, weather permitting, to put out signs in the neighborhood, to see if anyone is interested in coming to the meetings for that particular area. If last night's meeting is an example, it was a reminder that all the meetings last year were contentious and no one holds back. The Committee investigates everything as possible. Everyone's opinions are heard and discussed. He also mentions about good logical options within our community.

Mr. DeCoste mentioned approximately 5,252 stickers were sold total that includes 1096 restricted passes compared to 1545 the year before. Two One Hundred and Three visitor passes compared to 3,060 before. The budget came in fairly consistent with what was estimated.

Concluded: 9:45 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Read aloud by Richardson correspondence regarding Marshfield Police Department – re: Operation Happy Holidays

In a letter dated December 14, 2011 from Captain Phillip Tavares, Director Old Colony Police Anti-Crime Task Force he wrote about the Old Colony Police Anti-Crime TaskForce, this 1- town partnership has been in operation for over 2 years and has being very successful in numerous narcotics investigations. These investigations have lead to hundreds of arrests. On December 13, 2011, Operation Happy Holidays targeted an organized criminal entity that operated on the South Shore. Chief Billings played an important role as he was personally present to coordinate the multi-law enforcement agencies operation. Hull was the main staging area of the operation.

Motion: Richardson makes a Motion for the Board to place a letter of commendation in the chief's file and for the Hull Police Department in the participation of this operation.

Second: Brannan

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Read aloud by Richardson correspondence regarding Chief Hollingshead re: Surplus property

In a memo from Chief Robert Hollingshead to Mr. Lemnios on December 31, 2011 re: Surplus property, he wrote, 'Please have the Board of Selectmen declare for surplus the following Fire Department

Vehicle: 1) one 1995 Ford F350 Pick-Up truck with 9 foot snow plow, mileage 158,500. VIN # 2FDHF38F1SCA19739.

Motion: Brannan makes a Motion to declare the 1995 Ford F350 Pick-Up truck VIN # 2FDHF38F1SCA19739 as surplus with the stipulation that it should be offered to other Town departments.

Second: Richardson

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

LICENSE RENEWALS

1. 5L, LLC, Paul Leeber, Managing Member, 177 Atlantic Avenue – Class II Wholesale – RENEWAL
2. Pizza Box, Inc. dba West Corner Auto, Peter Booras, Manager, 52 Nantasket Avenue – Class II Wholesale – RENEWAL
3. Carmen Arroyo, 71 Kenberma Street – Livery Badge – RENEWAL
4. Carmen Arroyo dba Nantasket Charter Car Service, 71 Kenberma Street – (A) Livery Vehicle – RENEWAL (B) Livery Vehicle – RENEWAL
5. Debbie Rock, 71 Kenberma Street – Livery Badge – RENEWAL

Motion: Richardson makes a Motion to approve the License renewals.

Second: Brannan

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

LICENSE

6. Knight of Columbus, 440 Nantasket Avenue – One day All Alcohol for January 12, 2012 from 4-9 p.m.

Motion: Olivieri makes a Motion to approve License.

Second: Richardson

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Reilly announced that a meeting will be held for the Steamboat Wharf Marina status update in open session and there will be items to discuss in Executive Session.

Richardson announced that on January 11, 2012 the Hull Varsity Basketball team will be hosting a fundraiser at the Hull High School at 5:45 p.m. The fundraiser will be filmed by Nick News to showcase student athletes and their fundraising efforts.

Lemnios announced that the State of the Town Presentation will be on Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. the 2nd floor of the high school media room for anyone interested. Further information is on the website. The Budget Presentation will be on January 31, 2012.

Reilly announced that the next Selectmen meeting will be held on January 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. The next State of the Town meeting will be held on January 14, 2012.

Lemnios announced that the Wise Guys Pizza was requested by the BOS to submit a floor plan.

Motion: Olivieri makes a Motion to approve the submitted plan as presented.

Second: Brannan

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this point the Board makes a Motion to go into Executive Session

Motion: Richardson makes a Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, to comply with or act on the authority of Attorney-Client Privilege, to consult with legal counsel or obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client Privilege and not be reconvening into open session.

Second: Olivieri

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Reilly as Chair stated that the open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation and negotiation position of Town. The following subjects will be discussed during Executive Session:

1. The lawsuit of Cope Allen vs. Town of Hull, et al.
2. The complaints that were received by the State regarding beach maintenance.
3. A labor dispute
4. Steamboat Wharf.

Aye, Brannan, Aye, Olivieri, Aye, Richardson, Aye, Reilly

Recorded by Karen Morgan

Approved by
