

**Board of Selectmen's Meeting
March 7, 2011, 7:00 PM
Sanford Hall, Town Hall
155 Village Street**

Present: Chairman Dennis Crowley, Selectmen John Foresto, Selectman Andrew Espinosa, Selectman Richard Dunne and Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy. Selectman Glenn Trindade was absent.

At 7:04 PM Chairman Crowley called the meeting to order, and the Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: None

Presentation – Planning and Economic Development Articles – Street Acceptances – Portions of Hunter Lane and Ivy Lane

The Board reviewed the following: (1) Article #23 – Overview, (2) Article #24 – Overview, (3) Article #25 – Overview, (4) Email, dated March 2, 2011, from Town Counsel regarding Hunter Lane.

Susy Affleck-Childs stated there are four Planning articles on the Warrant for Town Meeting and briefly described each one. The articles involve changes to the Zoning Bylaw, adding a new area to the Adaptive Use Overlay District, modifying boundaries of parcels with respect to the Commercial Tree Zoning District, and modifications to the Signage Bylaw. The last one focuses on concerns with respect to electronic signs.

Responding to Chairman Crowley's questions on Article #23 involving the donation of land, Ms. Affleck-Childs stated the land would transfer to the Board of Selectmen, not to Conservation.

Regarding Article #24 involving the acceptance of streets, Ms. Affleck-Childs stated she is optimistic the necessary work can be completed in time for action by Town Meeting.

Regarding Article #25 which adds a new area to the Adaptive Use Overlay District, Ms. Affleck-Childs stated a public hearing is scheduled for March 24. This article would allow, by special permit, limited commercial business use in properties located in the Medway Village neighborhood.

Discussion with Legislative Delegation:

Present: Senator Karen Spilka, Representative Carolyn Dykema and Representative James Vallee

Senator Karen Spilka opened the discussion by thanking the Board for the invitation to meet. She stated the budget season is upon legislators as well as communities. Governor Patrick revealed his proposed budget, noting a slight increase in Chapter 70 funds, but cuts in other areas. She stated her personal position that she would prefer a slight *decrease* in the Chapter 70 funds as there is a deficit in the state budget and it would help that. Overall, Chapter 70 and local aid are top priorities, as well as

other ways to get funding to communities, such as PILOT and special education circuit breaker, etc. On a positive note, Senator Spilka added that unemployment is coming down while jobs are slowly on the increase.

Representative James Vallee expressed his appreciation for the invitation, as well as the opportunity to meet back in December. He stated that, with the economy a little better now, he is more optimistic about this year's budget. He noted that legislators do not always follow the governor's lead, but acknowledged it will be hard to avoid some cuts. Chapter 70 and local aid have become more sacred every year, as they fund services available to many people. Representative Vallee commended the Board for its fiscal fortitude remarking that it has wisely utilized its financial tools to manage the Town, digging out of a significant deficit. Regarding municipal relief, he stated pensions must be considered again, as well as health insurance.

Echoing many of her colleagues' remarks, Representative Carolyn Dykema stated it was very helpful to have the December meeting in order to discuss early projections of state revenues. She noted things have not changed much since that meeting, adding that while an early aid resolution is desired, it is difficult to promise when funds are limited. Local aid consists of many different things and there are many pieces to the puzzle. Health care reform is crucial to help get communities back on their feet. Representative Dykema expressed optimism that legislators will be able to deliver a "tool" to help communities.

At this time, Chairman Crowley entertained questions from the Board.

Selectman Dunne stated the Town's health care costs will rise by 32% over the next two years and asked for thoughts on supporting the MMA in taking health care out of union bargaining. Representative Vallee agreed that it could be separated out. Unions are in favor of it but want to share in the savings. Chairman Crowley stated the savings would have to be substantial if they were to be divided. Discussion followed.

Chairman Crowley stated an earlier recommendation was to be conservative in revenue estimates and asked if this was still the case. He stated that every 1% is roughly \$100,000, and noted the School Committee is confident the revenue figures will be close to what Governor Patrick expected. Senator Spilka advised sticking with the 5% cut, just to be safe, stating it is easier to restore cuts rather than execute the cut at a later date. Representative Vallee echoed her remarks.

Selectman Espinosa asked the delegation if the proposed bill to give towns more leverage with unions on healthcare would be passed this year. Senator Spilka and Carolyn Dykema answered yes; the Senate will do its version, the House will do its version, and the committee will hash it out. Asked if they could expect any federal funding this year, all replied no. Rep. Vallee stated that the ways money has been funneled to cities and towns has caused some confusion as to what is recurring and what is not.

Selectman Dunne wondered how communities can fill the holes in their budgets left by lack of funds that were there last year. Representative Vallee agreed there is no good way to deal with this, only that

no one wants to hire people with non-recurring funding only to lay them off later. It raises expectations, and then dashes them.

Selectman Espinosa asked if any attention would be given to road projects, water issues, etc., stating it is hard to funnel money away from hiring teachers for infrastructure issues. Representative Dykema replied there has been some talk of a transportation bond bill, and that she hopes that the primary intent of the bill is for money to come back to towns via Chapter 90 monies. Senator Spilka stated additional funding may be a possibility because it is a bond, adding that she is on the Transportation Committee and going to a meeting this week. The Board was encouraged to contact the legislators if there are other priority projects.

Selectman Espinosa stated there is \$400,000 that is earmarked for the Route 109 Redesign Project, and added that the federal government indicated it has been released to the state. He asked the legislators where it could be; they responded they would look into it.

Selectman Foresto expressed concern for the federally mandated storm water collection regulations that are anticipated. At an estimated \$15-20 million cost, it is a significant amount of money for communities to come up with during a bad economic time. Senator Spilka suggested the EPA did not realize how costly it would be for towns and are backing off somewhat. Representative Dykema stated she would be meeting with the 495 Partnership on March 8 and would find out more information, adding that she too believes the costs are much higher than anticipated. Selectman Foresto asked if compliance could be put off for a year to buy a little time. Discussion followed. Selectman Dunne commended the Director and Assistant Director of Medway's Department of Public Service for being on top of this issue.

Ms. Kennedy asked if the Chapter 90 bond bill would be enacted before April 1 or somewhere in the long term. Senator Spilka replied she doubted it could be done by April 1, hopefully before July. Regarding a joint resolution on the budget this year, she replied that it could happen by the end of March or shortly thereafter.

Chairman Crowley stated the Town needs to make a decision on whether to move Town Meeting from its scheduled date in order to have clearer information on revenues from the state. Representative Vallee responded that it would be wise to hold off making that decision, if possible.

Chairman Crowley opened the discussion to the audience. Ms. Kathy Campbell asked for the legislators' positions on a March 3 article on the JOBS funding for education. Representative Vallee stated sometimes the federal government makes statements about funding that it has difficulty ultimately providing. Senator Spilka added that sometimes funding is required to be used in specific years. Representative Dykema stated she recalled the funding Ms. Campbell mentioned from about a year ago. Ms. Kennedy stated those funds could be rolled over until 2012. Senator Spilka stated they would look into it and get back to her via email.

Chairman Crowley thanked the legislators for meeting with the Board, and for their help in getting projects done. The Board appreciates their accessibility and looks forward to continuing a cohesive relationship.

Representative Dykema asked for a letter from the Town providing the estimated costs of storm water compliance. Chairman Crowley stated he would ask the Director of the Department of Public Services to submit a copy of the storm water study to include with the letter.

Chairman Crowley reminded the Board to forward any transportation concerns to Senator Spilka.

Approval – Emergency Transfer – Veterans Services:

The Board was in receipt of the following: (1) Emergency Transfer Request, dated January 27, 2011, in the amount of \$11,000.

Mr. Anthony J. Mastroianni, Veterans Agent, stated he previously requested emergency funds in 2009.

Chairman Crowley asked Mr. Mastroianni to give the Board an informal breakdown of where the money is spent, caseloads, and reasons why extra is needed at this particular time. Mr. Mastroianni briefly stated that financial assistance is extended to seven cases where health insurance coverage is insufficient, or income sources (Social Security and unemployment) are below eligibility levels. He stated he is requesting an additional \$3,000 from his request dated January 27 as an additional case has come to his attention. The total request is for \$14,000.

Selectman Foresto clarified for residents that 75% of this money is reimbursed from the state, noting that it takes a while for the reimbursement to come.

Selectman Dunne thanked Mr. Mastroianni for his service to the community as he heard Mr. Mastroianni is retiring. He asked if the Town should budget more funds to avoid emergency transfers. Mr. Mastroianni stated that level funding from year to year does not include emergency transfers, and added that he anticipated drastic increases in use of services. He noted that the Department of Veterans Services was the only state department whose budget did not increase. He suggested using actual figures to track from year to year. Ms. Kennedy stated \$35,000 has been budgeted for 2012, an increased appropriation. He recommended budgeting \$44,000.

Mr. Mastroianni stated there are currently 83 Medway veterans on the rolls, and noted last year benefits of \$945,000 were paid on behalf of those individuals.

Chairman Crowley thanked him for the explanation on fund disbursement. He stated the Board felt it was necessary as it is their job as financial overseers for the Town.

Mr. Mastroianni stated he has been the Veterans Agent for 58 years. He stated he has enjoyed close relationships with town administrators, though more recently he did not feel there was one. He

expressed disappointment at having to speak to assistants rather than the Town Administrator, and had difficulty getting an appointment when he wanted one.

Ms. Kennedy stated the Veterans Agent serves several communities, and efforts are being made to create a “district” comprised of those communities, in order to have one agent for them collectively. Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws states that upon the retirement of the current agent, each community will have to have a full time agent. A “district” approach would replicate the representation Medway presently has. Discussion followed. Chairman Crowley asked Ms. Kennedy to include as an Action Item a call to Mr. Mastroianni regarding the transition from one agent to another.

Mr. Mastroianni thanked the Board and taxpayers in Medway for untiring financial support. He stated he never had a veteran say there was adverse support.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve Veterans’ Services emergency transfer request in the amount of \$14,000 in order to meet the estimated financial requirements related to services for the remainder of FY11; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

School Committee Report from School Committee Liaison:

Ms. Carol Bernstein, School Committee member, stated the tentative date for a joint meeting between the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen is March 15. She stated Ms. Deb Trindade was attempting to get confirmation of attendees in order to confirm the date.

Ms. Bernstein stated the School Committee presented its budget at a public hearing last week. Selectman Espinosa stated the Board had not received a budget from the School Committee that meets the Board’s budget policy. He cited specifically the line item labeled “undefined”, representing over \$500,000. He reiterated that it is the Board’s responsibility for allocating the Town’s revenues and they need proper information from all areas in order to do that prudently.

Chairman Crowley stated that, at today’s meeting, he made a point of asking the Superintendent of Schools and the Chairman of the School Committee if there would be any further reports coming to the Board. No was the response he received, along with a caveat that if any further information was desired, the Board should request it via email. Other than a report on grant funds, no additional information was forthcoming, and the School Committee feels the budget book already submitted is ample. Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy stated the Selectmen want to see expenses allocated to appropriate funding sources. Ms. Bernstein responded that last week’s presentation contained that information, and that the information has been entered into the MUNIS system. Chairman Crowley stated the overall budget was entered, but the lump sum of \$588,000 still has not been deducted from appropriate line items within the School Department’s budget.

Selectman Dunne asked why the Board has to fight to get information every year. He listed different budget figures, noting that none of them match, in different incarnations of the budgets submitted.

Instead of the requested budget, the School Committee submitted a notebook which did not meet the Board's budget policy.

Chairman Crowley pointed out that, by going back to the 2010 Town Meeting articles, the warrant article specific to the school budget stated \$23,555,000. Yet, the beginning budget outlined in the submitted budget book received showed the FY11 number to be \$24,273,362. He asked Ms. Bernstein to identify the discrepancy. She responded that was the reason the two groups needed to meet.

Chairman Crowley continued by stating that additional funds of \$624,000 came in after Town Meeting, and wanted to know where it is now. He stated the Board is unable to track where the money came from and how the School Committee arrived at the numbers presented in the budget. Ms. Bernstein responded that it was her understanding the funds were in the circuit breaker account, and repeated her assertion that the two groups need to meet as they each look at numbers differently. She added that the budget has been on the school website for weeks.

Selectman Espinosa stated the Board is faced with a budget that is not even close to what schools are requesting, emphasizing it cannot sustain the level of recurring costs, as was predicted in 2009. He cautioned that the Board may not be able to close the gap, and looking ahead to next year, knows it cannot based on the information submitted thus far. Ms. Bernstein insisted the details are in the budget, and that the two groups need to trust each other.

Selectman Dunne reminded Ms. Bernstein it is the Board's responsibility to put forth a number at Town Meeting, representing three schools, including Norfolk County Regional and the Agricultural School. He stated the Board feels like it is getting no help from the School Committee. Ms. Bernstein disagreed, repeating the information is in the budget. She stated she would get the presentation and send it to the Board, reiterating the need to get together.

Ms. Kennedy stated the School Committee presentation to which Ms. Bernstein repeatedly references does not reconcile with the budget book submitted. She stated that she may have misspoken regarding the "undefined" category funds, acknowledging that funds may be set aside for future years. Ms. Kennedy supported the Board's request, noting that it needs a document showing allocation to different funding sources. Selectman Dunne stated the realigned budget was helpful, but still not the one requested by the Board.

Chairman Crowley, speaking as a resident, stated his concern that a level service budget used to be what the Town received from the School Department. Now it receives a needs budget. He asked why a level service budget is not longer what is submitted. He predicted that the preparation of a level service budget would reveal that no cuts are necessary and advised that, in tough economic times, a level service budget is more fiscally prudent.

Selectman Dunne repeated that it is the role of the School Committee to set a budget for the schools, but that the role of the Board of Selectmen is to set a budget for the entire Town, which includes the schools. When incomplete information is submitted, this is a very difficult, if not impossible, task.

Chairman Crowley stated he would like an opportunity to sit down to develop a level service budget, and asked Ms. Bernstein to contact Ms. Kennedy with a confirmed meeting date of March 15 for the joint meeting.

Request to Add Location to Class 2 License:

The Board was in receipt of the following information: (1) Memo, dated March 4, 2011, from Allison Potter, regarding the request; (2) Class II Motor Vehicle Application from Barry Roth, dated February 17, 2011; and (3) copy of Class II Used Car Dealer License, issued to MWAG Auto, Inc., expiration date of January 2012.

Present: Robert Potheau, property owner; Barry Roth, Owner, Medway Imports.

Mr. Robert Potheau stated he is the owner of the property at 2 Main Street, and lives in the house next door. He stated the previous tenant at 2 Main Street went out of business and Mr. Roth is interested in moving his business to that location.

Responding to a question from Chairman Crowley, Mr. Roth stated he intends to move his business completely from 16 Main Street to 2 Main Street, maintaining the license at 16 Main until he leases that location. Mr. Potheau clarified that both locations will be in operation for a very short period of time. Once the business and license are completely at 2 Main Street, the location (and license location) at 16 Main Street will be surrendered. Discussion followed.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board approve the addition of 2 Main Street to Barry Roth's Class 2 license and that the condition on the former license for the 2 Main Street location remain the same for Mr. Roth's Class 2 business at this site; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

Action Items from Previous Meeting:

Due to the fullness of the agenda, the Board opted not to discuss Action Items.

DPS Update – Water Department Issues:

Present: Tom Holder, Director, Department of Public Services; David D'Amico, Assistant Director, Department of Public Services; Sarah Pawluczonek, Executive Assistant, Department of Public Services.

Also Present: Water & Sewer Commission: Peter Gluckler, Chan Rogers, and Robert Wilson.

Selectman Foresto asked about the water meter update and issues encountered. He stated he has received complaints about excessively high water bills.

Mr. Holder provided a general overview of the program, noting it is 63 – 67% complete with final completion expected by late spring or summer. He noted logistics, operations and billing issues always come up in a meter changeout. Two districts have been read with the new meters, and so far there have been 113 adjustments made by the department and 19 Board approved abatements. Mr. Holder stated some discrepancies occur when the outside auto reader does not keep pace with the accuracy with the inside meter, which is the final word in billing. Thus, when replacements show new readings this can be a surprise to the user. Corrections can be handled through payment plans as well as pro-rating rates to prior years' actuals. Payment programs of 6, 12 or 24-months have been set up.

Mr. Holder stated there were a lot of idiosyncrasies in ways bills were previously prepared, and now the department is modifying its procedures. He invited homeowners to come in to discuss concerns.

Responding to a question from Selectman Dunne, Mr. Holder stated that, if pipes are too old and installation of the new meter will damage plumbing, they hold off on the meter. The contractor can replace the pipes, at the homeowner's expense, and a 12-month payment plan can be set up to spread out the costs. He noted that this occurs in mostly older homes where the pipes are almost 60 years old.

Selectman Espinosa asked who is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the data collection, i.e., the connection between the inside and outside meters. Mr. Rogers stated the outside meter was originally installed as a convenience to homeowners so they would not have to let someone into the house to read the basement meter. The new meters are read electronically. Mr. Holder stated it is technically the Town's (Department of Public Services) responsibility. Regarding grandfathering, Mr. Wilson stated the commission talked about it. Their conclusion was that the water was used, and should be paid for in some way. Payments can be stretched out, and hardship cases are considered.

Discussion followed on the water rate study analysis, water usage levels, water tower on Highland Street, contract for services study and building accounts to soften impact of Charles River project coming online in 2016.

Authorization of Chairman to Execute Contract with Mark D. Abrahams d/b/a The Abrahams Group for Water and Sewer Cost of Services Study:

The Board reviewed a Contract, dated February 24, 2011, relative to the Water and Sewer Cost of Services Study.

Present: Tom Holder, Director, Department of Public Services; David D'Amico, Assistant Director, Department of Public Services; Sarah Pawluczonek, Executive Assistant, Department of Public Services.

Chairman Crowley asked how this study would be funded. Mr. Holder replied the cost was split 50/50 between the department's budget and enterprise funds.

Regarding the contract, Chairman Crowley asked that “and sewer” be added to first line of contract. He asked if Crystal Reports are included in the fee or would be extra. Mr. Holder stated the consultant will not need to create a report.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with the Abrahams Group for an amount not to exceed \$11,900 to perform a water and sewer cost of services study conditioned upon receipt of the insurance contract endorsement for additional insureds and provision of 30 days cancellation notice, and that the contract be amended to add the words “and sewer” per the Chairman’s comments; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

Chairman Crowley complimented Executive Assistant Sarah Pawluczzonek on her pleasant and professional demeanor. He stated he has received numerous comments from residents saying it is a pleasure to speak with her in the office.

Authorization of Chairman to Execute Contract with Dankris Builders for Re-Screening of Populatic Street Well:

The Board was in receipt of the following information: (1) Letter, dated January 24, 2011, from Haley and Ward, Inc., regarding bids for the re-screening project; (2) Bid document; and (3) draft contract.

Present: Tom Holder, Director, Department of Public Services; David D’Amico, Assistant Director, Department of Public Services.

Chairman Crowley stated the document submitted was not complete. Mr. D’Amico responded it was submitted so that the Board could see what was involved. Chairman Crowley asked that the completed document be submitted for the Selectmen’s meeting on March 21.

Authorization of Chairman to Execute Contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., for Engineering Services for Route 109 Design:

The Board was in receipt of the following information: (1) Contract for Professional Engineering Services; (2) Critical Path Timeline prepared by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

Present: Tom Holder, Director, Department of Public Services; David D’Amico, Assistant Director, Department of Public Services

Mr. Holder stated the department has received a state grant of \$300,000. He explained that Phase 1 is to secure engineering services to get the Town to the state required 25% design point. After that, a public hearing is held, input collected, then submit to the Department of Transportation for their TIP list. Getting approved for the list allows potential access to additional funds for the project. Mr. Holder stated they would like to get to the 25% design point quickly in order to get the project going.

Selectman Dunne asked why the full amount was requested. Mr. Holder replied the contract is two-part, and is task-based. At this time, authorization for only Phase 1 is requested.

Selectman Espinosa stated he too had concerns about the way the contract was written, and Town Counsel was consulted earlier. Town Counsel advised that any motion put forth to the Board condition the action on approval by Town Counsel and availability of funds.

Selectman Espinosa moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., for a sum not to exceed \$689,354.52 to perform engineering services for the Route 109 redesign (\$274,924 for preliminary design and \$414,430.52 for final design) contingent upon approval by Town Counsel and subject to the availability of funds. Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy stated her conversation with Town Counsel allayed concerns that the contract was unclear. All ayes, 4-0.

Review and Approval of Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Selectman Dunne asked if this matter would be postponed until the March 21 meeting. As the Warrant is lengthy, this would allow adequate time for review. The Board agreed. Chairman Crowley asked that each selectman be familiar with each article to expedite that discussion.

Authorization of Chairman to Execute Contract with George E. Sansoucy, P.E., LLC for Appraisal Services:

The Board received the following information: (1) Memo, dated March 7, 2011, from Will Naser, Principal Assessor, regarding appraisal services; and (2) Contract, dated December 10, 2010, from George E. Sansoucy, relative to appraisal services.

Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy stated Mr. Sansoucy has an international reputation, and would be available if the Town is asked to go to the appellate court to defend appraisals for the power plant. Mr. Will Naser, Principal Assessor, confirmed this.

Chairman Crowley stated a previous consultant stated the Town was grossly underestimating the value of the property. Mr. Naser responded different valuations are being used now. Ms. Kennedy stated this power plant is available for peak times, not all the time, and the assessment could be changed. She stated that consultant is also available if the Town needs him in court. Discussion followed.

Selectman Espinosa asked what the cost would be if an appraiser without Mr. Sansoucy's credentials were to do the appraisal. Mr. Naser estimated \$7,500 to \$12,000.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to execute a contract with George E. Sansoucy for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to provide appraisal services; Selectman Dunne seconded. Mr. Naser stated he did not think it would go to court. Town Counsel has reviewed the contract and suggests the contract be modified to reflect a new completion date (presently says March 1, 2011). Motion amended to include friendly amendment. All ayes, 4-0.

Presentation -- Thayer Development Committee:

Mr. Dan Hooper, Chairman, Thayer Development Committee, reported the group has had an exciting month. They have been meeting regularly and recently publicized an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) on the project. He stated that thirty-five architectural firms responded. Of those, seventeen toured the project on January 20. Eleven firms submitted formal conceptualizations. After evaluation and ranking, the committee invited the top four in for interviews, which concluded March 3. The committee considered each firm’s work experience, their “Thayer approach,” the collective experience of that team (landscape, estimators, historians, architectural, etc.), dedication of that team, experience of the lead individual, and presentation skills. Mr. Hooper reported that Davis Square Associates of Somerville is the committee’s choice by unanimous vote. He said the firm has experienced managers, a complete team of professionals, and a comprehensive vision for the project, which included the entire area, center of town, park, etc. Mr. Hooper remarked that this team paid close attention to information presented by the committee, and in a short period of time, they “got it.” He added that he made the presentation to the Community Preservation Committee this evening, which voted unanimously to support the effort.

Discussion followed on contract preparation, timeline, cost estimates, possible 3D representation of the end project, and a presentation with an expanded approach of the committee’s perspective and vision. Mr. Hooper stated he would be happy to meet with the Board again with that information. Ms. Kennedy advised Mr. Hooper to deliver the contract to the Board as soon as possible, utilizing Town Counsel services to review all contract documents.

Vote to Extend Selectmen Meeting Past 10:00 PM:

At 9:52 PM Selectmen Espinosa moved that the Board continue its meeting past 10PM; Chairman Crowley seconded. This action is required by Town Bylaws. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0

Approval of Warrants:

Selectman Foresto read aloud Warrant #11-36, dated 3/10/11, submitted for approval:

11-36	Town Bills	\$781,825.22
11-36S	School Bills	\$74,188.22
	TOTAL	\$856,013.44

Selectman Espinosa moved the Board approve Warrant #11-36, dated 3/10/2011, in the amount of \$856,013.44; Selectman Dunne seconded. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

Town Administrator's Report:

Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy reminded the Board of the workshop on March 10 which would focus on storm water matters, adding that she would also send an email reminder.

Ms. Kennedy stated there will be a meeting of the CWRA, also on storm water issues, to be held on March 24 in Franklin.

Ms. Kennedy stated the vacancy has been posted for the position of Veterans Agent, noting this individual serves the communities of Holliston, Hopkinton, Norfolk, Hopedale and Medway. The vacancy is posted on each community's website. She stated she met with colleagues from those communities with the idea of forming a district comprised of their communities. They believe that if they form a district, they will not have to increase the position to full time. Once hired, the new agent will be introduced to each community, meet with the public, etc. Ms. Kennedy stated she spoke with Millis officials about joining with the group. Responding to a question from Selectman Foresto, she stated the individual is on the Town payroll, but as more of a consultant, with no benefits. Responding to a question from Selectman Espinosa, Ms. Kennedy stated Medway can withdraw from the district if the quality of service is diminished. She will send out an email clearly defining the processes involved in veterans administration.

Selectmen's Reports:

Selectman Foresto distributed a small flyer publicizing Medway's 300th anniversary which was inserted with tax bills sent out to residents.

Selectman Espinosa asked the Board what could be done to get a budget from the school. Chairman Crowley stated that, at the December meeting with the School Committee, it was made clear that the Town was asking for three levels of budgets, with a fourth to come later. Similar budget documents from the Town of Ashland were submitted to the School Committee as a guideline, yet the School Committee walked away with a completely different idea of what transpired. Ms. Kennedy stated she wrote to Town Counsel about the situation, and is awaiting that legal opinion. Selectman Espinosa stated his frustration that the School Department has deducted the \$588,000 needed to fund its FY12 budget somewhere within the budget. Selectman Dunne echoed those sentiments, asking that the \$588,000 be defined. Selectman Espinosa suggested the Board vote to demand an explanation of the undefined \$588,000 figure. Discussion followed.

Selectman Foresto predicted that residents will want to know where the deductions will come from, teacher cuts, larger class sizes, supplies, or whatever.

Chairman Crowley moved that the Board retransmit an updated version of the previous letter submitted to the School Committee requesting a breakdown of the undefined amount into the

individual line items in their budget, stipulating that if they will not do it, that they respond in writing that they are declining to provide this information. Their response is requested by March 15. Selectman Dunne seconded. No further discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

Discussion followed on MUNIS funding, budget documents from the Town of Ashland levels 1,2,3, and alleged ambiguity in instructions.

Ms. Kennedy stated the report requested by Chairman Crowley had been written by a consultant. Regarding reports compiled by the Town Accountant, Chairman Crowley asked for those to be distributed to the Board and asked Board members to look at it closely.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board reviewed draft minutes of public session meetings held on January 3, 2011 and January 19, 2011.

Regarding the minutes of January 3, 2011, Chairman Crowley asked the reference to Town Election on page 1 be amended to read "Town vote relative to Middle School debt exclusion". There were no other corrections.

Selectman Foresto moved that the Board accept the public session minutes of January 3, 2011, as amended; Selectman Espinosa seconded. No discussion. Split vote – 3-0-1: aye, Foresto, Espinosa, Crowley; abstain, Dunne (was absent from the January 3 meeting).

Regarding the public session minutes of January 19, 2011, Chairman Crowley asked that the DVD of the meeting be reviewed to clarify lines 27-34 on page 5. The minutes will be resubmitted for approval.

At 10:33 PM, Selectman Foresto moved to adjourn; Selectman Dunne seconded. No discussion. All ayes, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Galliardt
Board Secretary