

**Town of Medway  
Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
April 24, 2013 –7:30 PM  
Holliston Town Hall  
703 Washington Street  
Selectmen's Meeting Room, #105**

***Joint Meeting with Holliston and Hopkinton Boards of Selectmen***

**Present: Chair Andrew Espinosa, Selectman Dennis Crowley, Selectman John Foresto, and Suzanne Kennedy, Town Administrator. Vice-Chair Glenn Trindade and Selectman Richard D'Innocenzo was absent.**

Also Present: Hopkinton: Benjamin Palleiko, Board of Selectmen Chair; John Mosher, Board of Selectmen Vice-Chair, Selectman Brian Kerr; Selectman Todd Cestari (8:25 PM); Town Administrator Norman Khumalo; Operations Assistant Jamie Hellen; Holliston: Joseph Marsden, Chair; John Leary, Vice-Chair; Kevin Conley; Paul LeBeau; Ashland: Selectman Joseph Magnani, Jr.; Town Administrator Anthony Schiavi.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM.

**Discussion – Proposed Milford Casino and Inter-municipal Agreement**

Mr. Palleiko opened the discussion with a statement about the healthy micro-economies in the region and the anticipated deleterious impacts of casino development in Milford. He stated that Hopkinton has reached out to the developer twice with no response.

Mr. Magnani commented that small businesses will be greatly impacted. There would also be increased traffic and crime. He urged getting their legislative delegation involved.

It was generally agreed that the regional planning agencies did not seem inclined to lead the effort to determine impacts, rather they would look at studies to judge whether they seemed reasonable. Nor would they necessarily have the expertise the towns were seeking.

Time was mentioned to be a significant problem if the towns were to prepare to respond to the casino impacts.

Mr. Crowley asked what the cost to towns would be to form an alliance and what route it would take to address this issue. He questioned whether Milford had a good chance of being the site of the casino given its political weakness compared to Boston coupled with the fact there is no water or sewer infrastructure to handle the development.

Holliston and Hopkinton both expressed a will and an obligation to fight the proposal. Mr. Palleiko stated that the regional approach is the strongest.

Medway felt the tactic could not be an obvious "fight the battle" approach.

Mr. Khumalo stated the Gaming Commission supported town collaboration.

Mr. Espinosa asked if every town that agreed to participate would have an equal vote. Mr. Palleiko said they would. Mr. Leary stated each town must put up seed money to get started. Mr. Marsden said that they are not inventing the wheel and could look at options based on what other communities have done in the past to fight casino development.

Mr. Palleiko stated that he had spoken with Dave Nunes, who is not a party to the negotiations.

Mr. Palleiko though each town should contribute \$50,000 to the MetroWest Anti-Casino Coalition, as it is currently termed.

Mr. Leary stated that the developer's presentation was lackluster, but that something more detailed is expected within the next six weeks.

An audience member suggested the towns make the fight political, like Foxboro did. Mr. Leary stated that they have involved the local legislative delegation. Mr. Kerr suggested pursuing the argument that the applicant be disqualified based on the organizational structure change.

There was discussion about how much each town was raising to address this issue. Holliston and Hopkinton were each asking Town Meeting for \$100,000.

It was decided that they would need to find someone to represent the towns in this matter. They also would need to determine how the money would be controlled. There would be a representative from each town on the governing group, and the group would be formalized by an inter-municipal agreement.

The next step is to have each Board of Selectmen individually approve of the collaboration, form the group that will develop the agreement, and move on from there.

Mr. Schiavi asked if they would be leaving flexibility in the agreement to allow other communities to join. Mr. Palleiko replied that they could tier the membership to have associated towns.

Mr. Crowley thought that \$100,000 would be sufficient seed money. Mr. Leary said that it was important to think long-term as well.

The deadline for Board of Selectmen approval to join would be in two weeks. The town administrators could handle the coordination. Mr. Palleiko summarized the approach they would take. Phase 1 was to oppose the casino and assert the reasons why it is a bad idea. Phase 2 would entail undertaking studies and determining appropriate mitigations.

A representative from Milford informed the boards that Milford was not spending any of its own money to oppose the casino. Any activities related to this matter would be funded by monies received from the applicant.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.**