

# **PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011**

TOWN HALL MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall in the Mayflower Room.

Present: William P. Hallisey, Jr., Chairman  
John T. Mahoney, Jr., Vice Chairman  
Richard J. Quintal, Jr.  
Sergio O. Harnais  
Mathew J. Muratore

Mark Stankiewicz, Town Manager  
Melissa Arrighi, Assistant Town Manager

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hallisey called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **TOWN MEETING REVIEW**

Assistant Town Manager Melissa Arrighi noted that the Board wished to hold a brief discussion on a handful of matters following the Annual Town Meeting held on April 2, 2011.

Ms. Arrighi issued an apology on behalf of the Town Manager's Office and Police Chief for offering to provide Town Meeting with a demonstration of the taser equipment requested by the Police Department. It was not anticipated, she said, that Town Meeting members would have such an adverse reaction to the proposed demonstration.

Ms. Arrighi also noted that the Town Moderator was not made aware of differing recommendations between the Selectmen and Advisory & Finance Committee on a number of Town meeting articles. Staff, she said, will ensure that this information is clearly provided to the Moderator in the future.

Selectman Muratore expressed his belief that the Selectmen did not do enough to ensure that Article 41 ("Amend Zoning Bylaw, Sec. 205-55, 'Mixed Commerce,' off Commerce Way") was given proper consideration at Town Meeting. The Board did not speak to its support of the article during Town Meeting, he said, nor did it make certain that the appropriate Town staff members were available to answer questions pertaining to the article. Based on some of the feedback he has received since Town Meeting, Selectman Muratore surmised that Town Meeting members did not have enough information on Article 41—which may have been the reason leading to its ultimate defeat. As such, Selectman Muratore proposed that the Selectmen call a Special Town Meeting to reconsider Article 41.

Discussion ensued with regard to Selectman Muratore's proposal. Vice Chairman Mahoney stated his belief that it would be better for the article's petitioner to bring the matter back before Fall Town Meeting, as opposed to the Selectmen calling a Special Town Meeting. Both Chairman Hallisey and Selectman Harnais echoed Selectman Muratore's sentiments that Article 41 was not given due consideration, each noting their estimation that the proposed zoning change could have created several jobs and generated tax revenue with little bearing on Town services. Selectman Quintal expressed concern that the Board could set the wrong precedent by calling a Special Town Meeting for the reconsideration of a defeated article on the perception that Town Meeting Members may have not had enough information.

Town Manager Mark Stankiewicz noted that it costs approximately \$2,000 to hold a Town Meeting. The Town, he said, cannot ask the proponent of Article 41 to pay for a Special Town Meeting, but it can accept a donation.

Chairman Hallisey opened the discussion to public comment.

Paul Hapgood, Precinct 9 Town Meeting Member, offered his opinion that the Selectmen will likely aggravate the membership of Town Meeting that voted against Article 41, if it calls a Special Town Meeting to reconsider the article.

Randy Parker of Precinct 7 stated that, as a Town Meeting Member, he would not mind if the Board called a Special Town Meeting. Mr. Parker did agree, however, with Mr. Hapgood's notion that the Board may annoy the majority of Town Meeting membership if it calls for a Special Town Meeting for the reconsideration of one article. Mr. Parker then took an opportunity to comment on the procedures of Town Meeting, noting his belief that petitioned articles should be heard, first. It would be best, he said, to schedule the people/community-related articles early in the meeting, so that staff and citizens will be energetic and ready to engage in the Town Meeting process—and so that proponents will not have to pay their attorneys and engineers to wait until the end of Town Meeting for their article to be heard.

The Board considered the comments made by Mr. Hapgood and Mr. Parker and debated whether to proceed with plans to hold a Special Town Meeting in reconsideration of Article 41. With regard to Mr. Parker's comments about the order in which Town Meeting articles are heard, Mr. Stankiewicz recommended that the Board discuss such ideas with the Town Moderator. Selectman Muratore acknowledged the sentiments offered by Mr. Hapgood and Mr. Parker that Town Meeting members may be adverse to a Special Town Meeting, and, thus, he speculated whether the proponent of Article 41 would be satisfied with waiting until Fall Town Meeting for another attempt to change the zoning off Commerce Way. Selectman Quintal argued that petitioners and Town Meeting members, alike, should always be fully prepared and informed to discuss, present, and debate each issue, regardless of the order of articles on the warrant.

At the close of the discussion, the Board appeared to agree that it would be best to revisit Article 41 at the Fall Town Meeting, should the petitioner wish to do so.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION / ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

On a motion by Selectman Quintal, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Selectmen voted to hold an Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. By roll call: Harnais – yes, Quintal – yes, Mahoney – yes, Muratore – yes, and Hallisey – yes.

Chairman Hallisey noted that the Board would not reconvene in open session following the conclusion of executive session.

*Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen*

*A copy of the April 7, 2011 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.*