

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

TOWN HALL MAYFLOWER ROOM

The Selectmen held a meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cedarville Fire Station Community Room, 2209 State Road, Plymouth.

Present: William P. Hallisey, Jr., Chairman
John T. Mahoney, Jr., Vice Chairman
Sergio O. Harnais
Mathew J. Muratore
Belinda A. Brewster [arrived at 6:05 p.m.]

Mark Stankiewicz, Town Manager
Melissa Arrighi, Assistant Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hallisey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as an open meeting on the matter may have a detrimental effect on the Town's negotiating position. By roll call: Harnais – yes, Muratore – yes, Mahoney – yes, and Hallisey – yes.

Chairman Hallisey noted that the Board would return to open session following executive session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chairman Hallisey reconvened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge, Chairman Hallisey thanked Cedarville Steering Committee chairman Keven Joyce for welcoming the Selectmen to Cedarville with refreshments for the meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Tax Bills Due by November 1st – Town Manager Mark Stankiewicz reminded the public that tax bills are due on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, noting that the Town will issue tax

bills only twice per year (as opposed to quarterly). The vouchers for the first and second quarter bills, he said, were mailed in July, as part of the Town's efforts to save on printing and mailing expenses. Mr. Stankiewicz encouraged taxpayers to contact the Collectors Office and/or visit the Town's website for further information regarding property tax bills.

Public Forum on Affordable Housing – Mr. Stankiewicz reported that he and Selectman Brewster attended the Plymouth Area League of Women Voters' public forum on "Affordable Housing: Myth Versus Reality" held at the Library on October 5, 2011. The main intent of the forum, he explained, was to clarify the true definition of "affordable housing" and dispel long-standing myths that such housing is densely developed and poorly constructed. Mr. Stankiewicz noted that a family of four with an annual income of \$64,000 qualifies for affordable housing—meaning that many Plymouth residents are income-eligible for such housing.

Municipal Health Care Reform Act – Mr. Stankiewicz informed the Board that he and Human Resources Director Roberta Kety attended a recent meeting of the Plymouth Insurance Advisory Committee ("IAC"), during which the Town's insurance consultant, Pete Kenney of Cook & Company, provided an overview of the State's Municipal Health Care Reform Act and the authority given (by the Act) to Selectmen to make changes to the Town's healthcare plans. The Town, Mr. Stankiewicz noted, is not a candidate to join the State's Group Insurance Commission ("GIC"), because the savings achieved by switching from the Town's current plan to the Tufts Navigator plan (the most subscribed GIC plan) would be insufficient.

Federal Economic Development Grant Application – Mr. Stankiewicz was disappointed to report that the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration ("EDA") has notified the Town that its grant application for funding of the T-Wharf and Harbor Dredging project is no longer under consideration. It is anticipated, he said, that the Town (in partnership with the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce) will submit a revised application for the next round of EDA funding.

Cedarville Tank Rehabilitation – Mr. Stankiewicz announced that the Water Department has begun exterior and interior painting on the Cedarville water tank. While the tank is offline until Thanksgiving, he explained, the Cedarville Booster Station will be the primary supply of water pressure through the Manomet zone.

LICENSES

ONE DAY WINE & MALT LIQUOR LICENSE*

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Selectman Muratore, the Board voted to grant the following One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License, as detailed. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

- ❖ **St. Bonaventure Parish and Knights of Columbus / Ed Buccigross and Ken Overbeck** requested a One Day Wine & Malt Liquor License for an Oktoberfest event

to be held at the St. Bonaventure Parish Center (803 State Road) from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on October 22, 2011. Liquor liability insurance is in place.

*One day liquor licenses shall automatically cover the day before and the day after the event for the purpose of proper delivery, storage and disposal of alcoholic beverages purchased.

KENO

On a motion by Selectman Harnais, seconded by Vice Chairman Mahoney, the Board acknowledged the following request for a Keno License, as detailed. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

❖ **Corner Pocket Pub, 295 Court Street**

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission will approve a Keno License for the above establishment. If the Board of Selectmen objects, it must claim its right to a hearing before the MSLC within 21 days of receipt of notice.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Meeting Minutes / June 21, 2011 – On a motion by Vice Chairman Mahoney, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2011 Selectmen’s meeting. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Meeting Minutes / June 28, 2011 – On a motion by Vice Chairman Mahoney, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2011 Selectmen’s meeting. Voted 4-0-1, approved, with an abstention from Selectman Muratore, who did not attend the June 28th meeting.

Reliable Fish Lease / Consent of Landlord – The Board executed a *Consent and Agreement of Landlord* pertaining to a mortgage between Reliable Fish Co., Inc. (leaseholder of property on Town Wharf) and Mayflower Bank.

Wild Animal Permit – The Board granted a Wild Animal Permit pursuant to Chapter 23, Article IV of the Town of Plymouth Bylaws to Christine Burke of 35 Buzzards Bay Drive for her Pit Bull (male, 3 years old).

Exclusive Vending Rights – The Board granted exclusive vending rights to the organizers of the permitted Puppy Up! Walk event to be held at Nelson Park from 12 to 4 p.m. on November 6, 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Hallisey opened the meeting to public comment. No citizens came forth to address the Board.

DISCUSSION ON NRC TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Selectmen invited Plymouth resident Theodore Bosen to speak further on a letter he sent to the Selectmen in which he urged the Board to join with Congressional leaders to call on the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) to require the implementation of a number of safety measures at nuclear power facilities, in light of the March 2011 events at the Fukushima Power Station in Japan.

Mr. Bosen spoke about the NRC’s July 2011 report, “Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi Accident,” in which the Task Force outlined a number of recommendations for action, both short-term and long-term. The intent of the report, he said, was to identify those “lessons learned” from the Fukushima event and formulate a list of safety measures that will prevent such catastrophic incidents at U.S. nuclear power facilities. Mr. Bosen noted that, though he does not personally support the relicensing of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, he emphatically believes that the NRC should require the implementation of such safety measures at Pilgrim, prior to the issuance of any license renewal. Just last month, he noted, Massachusetts experienced a minor earthquake, as well as a down-graded hurricane event that caused a great number of power outages across the State. Considering the number of infrastructural similarities between the Pilgrim and Fukushima stations, Mr. Bosen said, the Town must absolutely advocate for the implementation of enhanced safety measures, if Pilgrim is to continue operations for another 20 years.

Mr. Bosen responded to questions and comments from the Board with regard to the Task Force’s recommendations. Selectman Brewster stated her disappointment that the report did not appear to adequately address concerns about the safety and security of spent fuel pools. Mr. Bosen referenced a segment of the Task Force report in which the Union of Concerned Scientists (“UCS”) issued a number of recommendations, including the requirement that U.S. nuclear power facilities provide for dry cask storage of spent fuel as soon as is reasonably feasible. It is imperative, Mr. Bosen said, that the Town communicate whatever concerns or comments it may have regarding Pilgrim Station and/or the Task Force’s recommendations to the NRC as quickly as possible.

Paul Smith of the Town’s Nuclear Matters Committee (“NMC”) noted that the committee reviewed the Task Force’s full report. Personally speaking, Mr. Smith stated that he does not oppose the relicensing of Pilgrim, but noted that he does support the implementation of the safety measures outlined in the Task Force’s report.

By evident consensus, the Board asked that the NMC issue a recommendation on the Task Force report for review and discussion during the next Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Stankiewicz noted that the Town’s special legal counsel should review any statements that the Board wishes to send to the NRC, prior to the issuance of such correspondence.

The remainder of the discussion focused on the idea of forming a coalition of nuclear host communities to advocate collectively for safety measures at the Federal level. Selectman Muratore noted that he and Selectman Brewster have begun work with Jeff Berger (NMC

chairman) to organize an initial coalition of New England host communities. Selectman Brewster reported that she is working on a website that will serve as a point of resource for host communities to voice their concerns to Washington.

At the close of discussion, Chairman Hallisey thanked Mr. Bosen for sharing his insights with the Board.

BOARD LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

2011 Diversity Day Event – Selectman Muratore reported that he represented the Board of Selectmen at the annual Diversity Day event held on October 9, 2011 at Pilgrim Memorial State Park. The No Place for Hate-sponsored event, he said, drew a number of residents and visitors who were enjoying Sunday's great weather on the waterfront

Energy Committee / Stretch Code – Selectman Muratore noted that he and Selectman Brewster met with some of the members of the Town's Energy Committee to discuss the State's "Stretch Code," which is an optional layer of building code that cities and towns can employ to officially become an energy-efficient "Green Community." The Special Assistant to the Town Manager, he said, will come before the Board with a more detailed presentation on the Stretch Code in the coming weeks.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Plymouth Long Beach / Seawall Repair – Selectman Brewster inquired about the status of the repair of the Long Beach seawall, because she has received several inquiries as to why the Town is expending funds to purchase property on the beach (Fall Town Meeting Article 11) when the wall has not yet been repaired. Mr. Stankiewicz responded that he will ask the Director of Public Works to provide the Board with a status report on the repair of the seawall.

Selectman Brewster proposed that the Board discuss the idea of leaving the Long Beach crossover open beyond Labor Day. The Town's Environmental Manager, Selectman Brewster said, has tabulated the cost of staffing the crossover on weekends through Columbus Day, and though there is an expense related to the extension of the season, it may be achievable with the addition of another Natural Resources Officer in next year's budget. Vice Chairman Mahoney noted his opinion that, as the warm weather lingers into September and the shorebirds have left the beach, it might be worthwhile to consider extending the crossover season.

Town Meeting Caucuses and Presentation Schedule – Selectman Muratore initiated a discussion on the number of presentations that Town staff members are required to provide regarding warrant articles prior to Town Meeting. It was his understanding, he said, that the intent behind the creation of the Committee of Precinct Chairs ("COPC") was to streamline the sharing of information between Town Meeting Members.

Ken Buechs, chairman of the COPC, was in the audience at the meeting, and he sought to respond to Selectmen Muratore's inquiry about the number of Town Meeting precinct caucuses. The caucuses, Mr. Buechs said, exist to prevent any informational stumbling blocks that may be encountered during Town Meeting. It is unclear, he said, as to how—or if—the process could be made any easier by further streamlining the Town's precinct caucuses, because the citizens who attend the caucuses want to receive presentations directly from those staff members or citizens who are bringing forth the warrant articles—not third-person via the COPC. Mr. Buechs noted his observation, however, that a number of Town Meeting precincts are moving towards the super caucus trend.

Keven Joyce, Precinct 5 Town Meeting Member, stated his belief that the COPC has done a good job of disseminating article information amongst the various precincts. In addition, he noted, a number of precincts are now combining their caucuses into one "super caucus," where four or five precincts can hear warrant article presentations, all at once. While he is not a fan of the "super caucus," Mr. Joyce acknowledged that the combined caucuses do alleviate the number of meetings at which staff members and petitioners must make presentations.

Selectman Harnais noted that his concern is not only for the number of night meetings which staff must attend to present warrant articles but also for businesses who may need some action from Town Meeting. The super caucuses, he said, certainly help to reduce the number of evenings for which businesses (and their paid attorneys and engineers) must make presentations. Selectman Harnais noted his appreciation for the work that the COPC has done to make Town meeting run more efficiently, and he encouraged the COPC to promote the use of super caucuses for the dissemination of Town Meeting information.

Kevin Doyle, member of the COPC as chairman of Precinct 6, noted that it is not the COPC's place to present—or make a case for—Town Meeting articles to its membership. Mr. Doyle also stated his belief that super caucuses do not allow each precinct enough time to adequately discuss each article.

Selectman Muratore recommended that the super caucuses serve as the forum for presentations, while each precinct can then hold its own caucus to discuss the articles. Chairman Hallisey offered his observation that the increased use of super caucuses is consistent with the Board's interest in reducing the number of meetings at which staff and petitioners must present their articles for Town Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Selectman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Harnais, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the October 11, 2011 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.