

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: April 8, 2008
Date of Transcription: April 10, 2008
Transcribed by: Janet Wilson

1. **CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Eckstrom called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Selectmen present: Brenda Eckstrom, Chairman
Jim Potter, Clerk
John P. Cronan
M. Jane Donahue
Bruce D. Sauvageau

Also present: John F. McAuliffe, Town Administrator

3. **CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Present before the board: Susan Ricci

Ms. Ricci stated that people in Onset are inquiring and what measures can be taken at Town Meeting to have Seasonal Police Officers as a line item.

4. **DISCUSSION WITH TOWN MODERATOR RE TOWN MEETING**

Present before the board: John Donahue, Town Moderator

Mr. Donahue proposed some changes to Town Meeting in light of the fact that Town Meeting has failed to vote on all Articles printed in the warrant for several consecutive Town Meetings in recent years. Mr. Donahue stated that some changes he is seeking to implementing are as follows:

Considering entertaining a motion to limit debate to 5 minutes (previously 10 minutes) by the proponent of an article and 2 minutes (previously 5 minutes) to each subsequent speaker. Also, anyone who has spoken once on an article will effectively be placed at the "end of the line" if he/she wishes to speak again by keeping a list of those who have previously spoken or by placing (hard-wired) microphones in the aisles and have people queuing up behind and alternate. Another option would be to have one microphone

designated as “in favor of” or “in opposition to” and Mr. Donahue could alternate between speakers. Also portable microphones could be reserved for handicapped/disabled speakers, Town Counsel, Checkers or Tellers. After everyone has had at least one opportunity to speak, then the Moderator Can then exercise his discretion of allowing a motion to ‘Move the Question’

Selectman Eckstrom expressed that someone might just have a question on the article and may not be sure if they are in favor or against and not sure if they should have two lines as “in favor of” or “in opposition to”.

Reconsideration of an article ~ A motion for reconsideration will not be allowed immediately following the vote on any given article. Furthermore, A motion for reconsideration will not be allowed at any other time during the meeting unless the Moderator determines that the newly received information, In all likelihood, would have affected the outcome of the vote if such information was known at the time that the article had been acted upon.

Selectman Eckstrom agrees with the Moderator for reconsideration only if new information is brought to the floor.

Selectman Sauvageau stated that he couldn’t agree that reconsideration of an article should be restricted in a way that the Moderator is suggesting. Selectman Sauvageau feels that restricting the speaker will not help move along the meeting.

Presentation of Warrant Articles/Motions ~ Mr. Donahue will present in the order in which they were printed in the warrant. The articles/motions will be presented in the order in which they are printed in the warrant. Mr. Donahue would like an opportunity to review and comment upon proposed motions on the Warrant articles. Mr. Donahue would like to have the option of Power Point presentations on certain articles.

Debate regarding the budget ~ There will be a complete and thorough discussion/debate of the budget. Any attempt to disrupt an orderly discussion/debate regarding the budget will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately (up to and including removal of disruptive persons from Town Meeting).

Filming/Taping of Town Meeting of WCTV (or anyone else)

Mr. Donahue plans on meeting with WCTV for the purpose of entering in an agreement (memo of understanding) Town Meeting is not subject to the Open Meeting Law because Town Meeting is a legislative body, not a governmental body. No live broadcast of Town Meeting is permitted.

The Moderator requests expansion/upgrade of the Town of Wareham website to allow for a Moderator’s page, to include but not limited to, an explanation of the

Town Meeting process, and explanation of how to make a motion at Town Meeting (and in order of precedence to different motions), how to submit articles, or information to be include with the Warrant and the announcement of Town Meeting.

All materials, handouts, or other literature intended to be distributed at Town Meeting requires the approval of the Moderator and should be submitted for review at least 48 hours prior to commencement of Town Meeting. Failure to do so could result in removal of such materials from Town Meeting. Such information may be submitted in either hard copy or diskette to the Town Clerks office during regular business hours or may be submitted via email attachment to the Town Moderator at moderator@wareham.ma.us

Likewise, any Power Point formatted information intended for presentation at Town Meeting requires the approval of the Moderator at least 48 hours prior to commencement of Town Meeting. Failure to do so could result in the absence of such information from presentation to Town Meeting. Such information may be submitted in either hard copy or diskette to the Town Clerks office during regular business hours or may be submitted via email attachment to the Town Moderator at moderator@wareham.ma.us.

Non-registered persons are not allowed to enter Town Meeting without the express permission of the Town Moderator. This includes, but is not limited to, members of the media, non-resident town employees, and other non-residents invitees.

In light of the fact that Town Meeting is not subject to the Open Meeting Law, no recording of Town Meeting other than the official recording as performed by the Town Clerk, is permitted without the express permission of the Moderator. This includes any audio, video, electronic, manual, mechanical, or any other method of recordings, regardless of format. No audio recording equipment, video recording equipment, and/or photography equipment is allowed within the confines of Town Meeting without the express permission of the Moderator.

The Board of Selectman, Town clerk, Moderator, School Committee, Fin Com, Town Administrator, School Superintendent, and Town Counsel should review their collective calendars and then decide on which dates are available to all (or most) parties in the event that Town Meeting needs to be continued beyond the usual one or two sessions.

Controversial articles should be brought to the attention of the Moderator as soon as possible. The Moderator can be of assistance in such matters as preliminary rulings, or “scope” of an article question(s) that may arise. It is far easier to conduct an efficient meeting if the Moderator has a clear understanding of the issues involved and has an opportunity to meet with the parties’ involved.

Change of Venue ~ Return Town Meeting to the Town Hall Auditorium.

Town Meeting & Town Elections be held on a Saturday (requires a Charter change)

Eliminate 10:00 P.M. Curfew rule (requires a change of Town By-Laws). The general rules of order of Town Meeting can easily accommodate adjournment to another time upon completion of any article being debated by the legislative body according to the good judgment of the body.

Selectman Potter would like to see improved signs letting residents know when the Town Meeting is.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc.

MOTION: Selectman Potter moved the board to approve payment to Nuwater Inc., 96-A Pond Street, Seekonk for application 323-03 in the amount of \$85,723.25 for Pump Station Improvements Phase II. Selectman Cronan seconded.

UNANIMOUS (4-0-0)

6. **LICENSES & PERMITS**

(None)

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Meeting begins at 7:00 pm on April 28th in the Wareham High School Auditorium.

There will be a Household Hazardous Product Collection and Mercury Thermometer Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 3, 008 at the Wareham Municipal Maintenance Area, Charge Pond Road from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon They will be accepting pesticides, household chemicals, oil-based paint, anti-freeze, motor oil, spent gasoline, lead-acid batteries and products containing Mercury (thermostats, thermometers fluorescent bulbs, float switches, etc.) The will also accept EMPTY propane tanks. They WILL NOT ACCEPT latex-based paint, tires, PCB's radioactive materials and explosives. The Plymouth County Conservation District will be holding an Electronic Recycling

Day at the Wareham Municipal Maintenance Department, at 95 Charge Pond Road, Wareham from 9am to 12 noon on May 3rd. Your cost for the Electric Recycling Event - \$10- 15" Monitors, CPU's (towers and desktops) 15" and smaller TV's and handheld electronic devices. \$15 – 17" & 21" Monitors Microwaves, 17" – 30" TV's large Electronic devices, \$25 TV's over 30" and Consoles, \$30 – Washers, Dryers, and Dishwashers, \$40 – Refrigerators. All other items will be judged by weight!

Selectman Donahue wanted to remind everyone that CEDA will be having a Meeting on April 9th at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Auditorium for the Revitalization of Downtown Wareham's Main Street.

Selectman Donahue announced that the CPA and the Affordable Housing are holding a workshop sponsored by the Wareham Community Preservation Committee on Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Selectman Cronan mentioned that Ilo Howard passed away.

8. TOWN BUSINESS

(None)

9. SEWER BUSINESS

Selectman Cronan is not in favor of policy number 07-01 Sewer System Development Charge and would like to have a discussion with the board on this Policy. Selectman Eckstrom stated that they are going to have a workshop in the beginning of May and will discuss it then. Selectman Cronan also wanted someone to explain the Bourne estimated sewer usage billing in the Town Administrators report. Selectman Potter explained the rates are still within the 20-year agreement and the board will also be discussing this during a workshop.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. McAuliffe said the warrant booklet has gone to print. Discussion about changes in the budget.

Conducted Interviews for Full-Time GATRA Van Driver Position. As you are aware, the full-time positions (4) were eliminated due to a cut in GATRA's funding. The funds now allow for four positions—3 part-time and 1 full-time. One driver has chosen to retire and the other three were interviewed Thursday, April 3, 2008

Followed up with the Friends of the Elderly/Council on Aging issue relative to the Nutrition program, and am continuing that follow-up. I did speak with Old Colony Elderly Services and established a line of communication with them. Met with Earl Dalrymple, Chairman of Council on Aging.

A letter from the Office of the Governor relative to Chapter 90 Funds and the Transportation Bond Bill, which has not yet passed. The letter certified that upon the passage of the bond bill, Wareham's share of the Chapter 90 funds will be \$512,272 for Fiscal Year 2009.

Worked on several ongoing confidential personnel issues with Town Counsel.

Preparation work for Tremont Nail mandatory pre-bid walk-through April 9, 2008. Responses are due May 15, 2008.

Continued with scheduling pre-Town Meeting informational meetings. So far, the following have been confirmed:

April 17, 2008, Onset Protective League @ 7:00 P.M

April 23, 2008, Wareham High School Auditorium

Spoke with Representative Susan Williams Gifford and the Town has been informed that the House has passed the special legislation requesting the creation of the Community Events Committee funding. It is expected that the Senate will also pass this special act early next week.

FY2008 4th Quarter Bourne Estimated Sewer Usage Billing. The Board is asked to approve the 4th quarter estimated FY2008 sewer bill for the Town of Bourne in the amount of \$49,162.63 for the period April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008. This includes \$40,217.74 for Bourne's share of the treatment plant and \$8,944.89 for their share of the pumping stations

MOTION: Selectman Potter moved the Board to approve the 4th quarter estimated FY2008 sewer bill for the Town of Bourne in the amount of \$49,162.63 and to commit this amount to the Town Treasurer-Collector. Selectman Donahue Seconded.

VOTE: (4-0-1) Cronan abstained

11. **LIAISON REPORTS**

Selectman Donahue stated that CEDA is now accepting applications for the façade program for the Downtown Improvement Project. Applications are available on April 15th with a deadline of May 30th one of the criteria is

timeliness’.

Selectman Cronan announced that the Oak Grove Cultrual Council will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Conference Room B in the Town Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Selectman Sauvageau moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy to litigation. Selectman Cronan seconded.

Roll-call vote: Selectman Cronan – yes
 Selectman Sauvageau – yes
 Selectman Potter – yes
 Selectman Donahue – yes
 Selectman Eckstrom – yes

VOTE: Unanimous (5-0-0)

13. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Wilson
Department Assistant

The foregoing minutes were submitted to the Board of Selectmen/
Sewer Commissioners on: April 29, 2008

Attest: ***James L. Potter***, Clerk.

Date Signed: April 29, 2008

Date sent to the Town Clerk: April 30, 2008