

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2009

Date of Transcription: February 25, 2009

Transcribed by: Janet Wilson

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN

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

2. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: James L. Potter, Chairman
Bruce D. Sauvageau, Clerk
Brenda Eckstrom
John Cronan
Jane Donahue

Also Present: John J. Sanguinet, Interim Town Administrator.

Selectmen Potter asked for a moment of silence for the passing of John Wylde

3. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Present before the board: Jim Newman

Mr. Newman asked why the flags are at half-staff? Mr. Sanguinet stated that the Governor has ordered all state buildings to lower flags to half-staff on the day any Massachusetts soldier killed in a war zone is laid to rest.

Present before the board: Craig Bamberry

Mr. Bamberry has a problem with the streetlights on Cranberry Highway and was told by Mass Highway District 5 that the lighting comes under the town for state highways and no longer the state.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT

Selectmen Cronan announced that the Little League will be holding their parade soon.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc. (none)

B Appointment to the Old Colony Planning Council

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved the board to approve the appointment of Marcia Griswold as a delegate to the Old Colony Planning Council to a term to expire no later than August 30, 2010. Selectmen Eckstrom seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved the board to approve the appointment of Lawrence Gaines as an alternate to the Old Colony Planning Council to a term to expire no later than August 30, 2010. Selectmen Donahue seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Approval of regular session meeting minutes: February 5, 2009

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 5, 2009. Selectmen Eckstrom seconded.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SELECTMEN BUSINESS

1. **SENIOR WORK-OFF PROGRAM:** As I have mentioned several times, the Senior Work-off Program was a great success last year. The only problem was that the number of participants was limited and we started so late. I would ask that the Board approve the policy enclosed and increase the number of participants to seventy-five (75). The amount that this number would cost the town is \$56,250 additional in the Town Overlay Account.
Selectmen Potter suggested asking the Department Heads how many participants they would need in their department. Selectmen Cronan spoke about a letter received from Mr. Dixon about the volunteers at the recycling center be included in this program.
2. **TREE REMOVAL REQUEST:** At last week's meeting, I had asked the Board to provide guidance on the removal of a tree at 723 Main Street. The cost to remove the tree is \$650.00 plus the cost of a police detail.

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved to approve the removal of the tree located at 723 Main Street. Selectmen Donahue seconded. Selectmen Eckstrom wanted noted that the request is coming from the homeowner. Selectmen Potter was concerned that other residents may request to have trees removed in front of their home.

VOTE: 3-2-0 (Selectmen Potter & Cronan opposed)

2. **ACCOUNTING SERVICES:** The Accounting Consultant has begun the process of bringing the books up to speed since the Accountant has been on Administrative Leave.
3. **TOWN PLANNER POSITION:** The Planner posting closed Friday, February 20. As of noon on that date we had received responses from ten (10) applicants and they all appear to have the qualifications to fill the slot. I hope to schedule interviews and appoint quickly.
4. **LETTER FROM STATE SENATOR MARC PACHECO:** We received a letter from Senator Pacheco regarding legislation approved during the last legislative session. The only legislation approved was the establishment of the Community Events Fund.

The letter discusses that the Town needs to re-vote the other three pieces of requested legislation before they will be re-filed. A call to Senator Pacheco's office resulted in their informing us that they are 99.1% positive that it is a Town Meeting vote that is required, not the Board's. This will be confirmed by tonight's meeting.

Selectmen Donahue asked if Mr. Sanguinet could forward the town's request for the stimulus package to Senator Pacheco's office. Selectmen Donahue stated in following through on some requests and concerns about which projects were on the list she was informed by Senator Pacheco's office that they had some data input problems getting some added to the website and they would like to be aware of what was on the list and to ensure that all projects were listed properly on the website.

5. **POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING:** Chief Joyce has indicated that there are no Officers enrolled in the academy at this time. On occasion, Officers are sent for special training and, starting next week, some will be attending annual refresher training. A memo from Chief Joyce is enclosed.

Selectmen Sauvageau asked for a list of all active officers including rank, file and superior officers along with the dates of the last five hires and a request made to the Chief as to why those officers were never vetted to either the Board of Selectmen or the Town Administrator under the provisions of the Charter. Selectmen Sauvageau had consensus of the board to request this information.

6. **REGIONAL MEETING WITH UPPER CAPE COD REGIONAL TECH.** The Town received an invitation to an informational meeting with UCCRT to hear their budget and for local officials to better understand their process. The meeting is on Monday, March 2, 2009 at 5:30PM in the Canal side Dining Room.

In addition, Kevin Farr, Upper Cape's Superintendent, will be at the Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday February 25, 2009 to discuss the FY2010 Budget with them.

7. **LICENSES & PERMITS**
(none)

8. **TOWN BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion with the Council on Aging Board of Directors and the COA Director re: activities in the last year.

Present before the board: Marcia Griswold and COA Board of Directors
Ms. Griswold spoke about the poverty areas in town for the Senior Citizens along with the percentage of seniors that are at or below the poverty level of \$10,400. The average Social Security check is \$700 per month. There is a 2-year wait list for public housing and Cromesett housing has a 7-year wait list. Ms. Griswold stated that this town does not have enough housing for the seniors. The COA provides 823 meals on wheels and also brings approximately 1500 seniors to their doctor appointments in the course of the month.

Mr. Gaines gave some highlights on what the Board of Directors have accomplished in the past few months and started with the hiring of the Director. They formed a building committee that went through every room and mapped the building out to make it more efficient. Mr. Eubanks has been working with the Clergy in town to assist the homeless to find someplace to keep warm during the winter nights. Mr. Smith is working on advertising for the activities and services at the senior center. Ms. Mackey is working on getting assistance from the Clergy youth groups to assist seniors with shoveling snow. Ms. Mackey is also looking at Knox boxes for seniors where they put their house key inside the box and only the fire department would have access to the box. Ms. Mackey along with Ms. Griswold will be meeting with Mr. Cannon from R.F. Morse who would like to open his greenhouse up for seniors to come in and work. Ms. Barros stated that they will be having a GATRA meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and is open to the public.

- B. Discussion with the Bike Path Committee

Present before the board: Michael Langford & Lois Fountain
Mr. Langford has been told by SRPEDD that they did meet all the guidelines on the transportation enhancement application. They are waiting to hear back on the feasibility study. Mr. Langford would like to appear before CPC to have them earmark funds just in case it's needed. The CPC funds would be used for engineering costs

SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 2/24/09 (CONT'D)

MOTION: Selectmen Donahue moved the board to approve the request from the Bike Path Committee to apply for funding from the CPC in the amount of \$50,000 to be held in an account to draw other grants provided the feasibility study comes back favorable. Selectmen Eckstrom seconded for discussion stating that she would like to include that the feasibility study does come back affordable and favorable. Selectmen Donahue amended her motion to include the wording.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

C. Temporary increased resident population of the Town

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved approval of the following Temporary increased resident population of the town. Selectmen Eckstrom seconded.

Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
239 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

To the members of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission:

Acting under the authority contained in MGL c.138 §17 as amended, the undersigned local licensing authority at a meeting held on February 24, 2009, estimated that the temporary increased resident population of the Town of Wareham as of July 10, 2009 would be **44,000**.

This estimate was made and voted upon by the undersigned at a meeting called for the purpose, after due notice to each of the members of the time, place, and purpose of said meeting, and after investigation and ascertainment by us of all the facts and after cooperative discussion and deliberation. The estimate is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

The Local Licensing Authority makes the above statements under the penalties of perjury:

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

D. Any other town business

Selectmen Eckstrom said that it was recommended by the State and Town Counsel that the town has a by-law for the recently voted non-criminal disposition of marijuana. The Town Clerk has provided the information from the State to draft a by-law.

Selectmen Eckstrom spoke about making a changes to the by-laws to be consistent with the state such as in one of the Town by-laws it states It shall be unlawful for any person who has not attained the age of twenty years to consume or have in his or her possession alcoholic beverages. The age should be changed to match state laws.

SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 2/24/09 (CONT'D)

Selectmen Donahue suggested the town should consider the 1% additional revenue on the meals tax.

Selectmen Sauvageau stated that he read with interest a request from the Police Union President asking for the Board to apologize. Selectmen Sauvageau stated that the board has the right and the responsibilities to address the issues and does not feel the need to apologize for doing their jobs.

9. **LIAISON REPORTS**

Selectmen Eckstrom stated that the Conservation Commission has won two appeals in court where the Superior Court has upheld the denials by the Conservation Commission above the superseding order of the DEP.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Selectmen Sauvageau moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of litigation and for the sale & lease of real property. Selectmen Cronan seconded.

Roll Vote:	Selectmen Eckstrom	yes
	Selectmen Donahue	yes
	Selectmen Potter	yes
	Selectmen Sauvageau	yes
	Selectmen Cronan	yes

11. **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: 3-10-09

Attest : ***Bruce D. Sauvageau, clerk***

Date Signed: 3-17-09

Date sent to the Town Clerk: 3-18-09