

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

Date of Meeting: March 2, 2010  
Date of Transcription: March 5, 2010  
Transcribed by: Janet Wilson

### **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Selectmen Present: Bruce D. Sauvageau, Chairman  
John P. Cronan, absent  
Brenda Eckstrom  
M. Jane Donahue, Clerk pro-tem  
Walter B. Cruz, Sr.

Also present: Mark J. Andrews, Town Administrator

**MOTION:** Selectman Cruz moved to have Selectman Donahue serve as Clerk for the evening. Selectman Donahue seconded.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next Community & Arts Action fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. at the Middle School. For tickets call 508-273-7308 \$20 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children.

### **4. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION**

Present before the board: Micheal Besse

Mr. Besse was before the board speaking about the Onset decree of 1916. He was asking the board if there was anything that made allowances or what can be done in the Onset area. Mr. Besse stated that at one point the land had to be open and unobstructed and would like someone to look into what can be done in those areas. Selectman Sauvageau stated that they could have the document reviewed by counsel and asked for Mr. Besse to contact the office with his information. Selectman Donahue said Town Counsel might have already previewed the document.

### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc. (none)
- b. Approval of the board's regular session minutes of 1/12/10 & 2/9/10

**MOTION:** Selectman Donahue moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2010. Selectman Eckstrom seconded.

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 (Selectman Sauvageau abstained)

**MOTION:** Selectman Donahue moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2010. Selectman Donahue seconded.

**VOTE:** 3-0-1 (Selectman Sauvageau abstained)

6. **LICENSES & PERMITS**

(None)

7. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**PROPOSED NEW LIFEGUARD PROGRAM:** Mr. Andrews is working with Bruce Sauvageau, Chairman, and the entire Board to reestablish a lifeguard program for the Town. This program is designed to cover Onset Beach, Little Harbor, and Swifts Beach/Swifts Neck. The program is intended to run from June 19, 2010 through September 6, 2010 (Labor Day). We will hire approximately sixteen (16) lifeguards that are fully trained in CPR/life safety at minimal cost to the Town. Mr. Andrews's has placed this program under Chief Stanley and want to commend the entire Board for their assistance.

**F72011 BUDGET HEARINGS:** We have scheduled an all day Budget Session beginning at 10:30AM Wednesday, March 3, 2010, with the Finance Committee. All remaining departments will present their budgets using a Uniform Budget Template for both operating and capital requests. This was one of my goals and is an important financial step forward in establishing my departmental Leadership Team.

**WEEKLY UPDATE ON LEGISLATION**

- **SENATE BILL 2133:** An Act Relative to Authorize Eight (8) Additional Licenses. Mr. Andrews is working with our local Legislative Delegation and the Joint Legislative Consumer Protection and Licensing Committee.
- **SENATE BILL 2163:** An Act Relative to the Wareham Free Library. Pending signature by Governor Patrick (2/28/10).

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:** Mr. Andrews has secured an additional graduate intern for spring 2010 semester. Ms. JoAnne Vitale Bernier will join Mr. Derek Sullivan in the Town Administrator's office. Ms. Bernier has focused her internship on fiscal and financial affairs. Mr. Sullivan has begun service in the area of legal and fiscal affairs. He will keep the board posted on these unpaid internships that will expand in the future.

**MASS MARITIME/WAREHAM PARTNERSHIP:** Mr. Andrews is exploring various ways to partner with Massachusetts Maritime State College, including Environmental and Marine studies. On Thursday, February 18, 2010, Chairman Sauvageau and Mr. Andrews met with Mr. Michael Joyce, Vice President of Administration and Finance. Chairman Sauvageau has worked with me and other members to bring this new project to light.

**WAREHAM "MEANS BUSINESS" PROGRAM:** This new program is under design to focus upon buying local and providing local vendors with an opportunity to participate in our Town's procurement system. He will be holding a Vendor's Meeting

## SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 3-2-10 (CONT'D)

to encourage local businesses to publicly bid on the Town's goods and services. Selectman Cronan has assisted in moving this initiative forward. We hope that "Wareham Means Business" pays dividends for our businesses, especially small businesses in Town.

**BESSE PARK BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT PROJECT:** I participated in the Pre-Bid Conference held Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00AM at Wareham Town Hall. This was an opportunity to discuss with prospective bidders about existing proposed conditions, town demolition program, contractor responsibilities, and the overall project plan. Work in the water is required to take place between the months of October 1, 2010 and be completed by March 15, 2011. It is possible that the project could be completed by January 1, 2011. He will keep the Board posted on the progress of this capital program. A total of 15 prospective bidders participated in this event. The opening, originally scheduled for February 26, 2010, has been changed to March 10, 2010.

**CAREER CENTER SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM:** The Career Center is accepting applications for the Summer Youth Program. Last year, a total of ten (10) youths participated in this valuable program. For more information and applications, please contact the Wareham Career Center at (508) 291-7062.

**INSPECTIONAL SERVICES TASK FORCE:** As part of our ongoing effort to streamline permitting and code enforcement, Mr. Andrews has created an "Inspectional Services Task Force." It includes, IS; Compliance officers from the Police Department, Health Inspector from the Board of Health, and Fire District inspectors. The goal is to coordinate all inspections and achieve compliance with all departments and the regulations at the same time. We are trying to meet these goals, while ultimately assisting the property owners/managers in reaching recommended improvements.

**STANDARD PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES:** I have initiated standard operating procedures for the purchase of goods and services. This includes, office supplies, goods and services. This was outlined at my February 24, 2010 Leadership Team Meeting.

**E-GOVERNMENT AWARD:** Wareham is scheduled to receive a Common Cause Massachusetts 2010 e-Government Award with Distinction Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 11:00AM in Hearing Room A-1 at the State House in Boston. The ceremony is open to the public and will be attended by officials and media from throughout the state. We hope that a representative from Wareham will be able to attend. Press materials and photographs of the recipients will be distributed to local and state news outlets immediately following the event. A press advisory will be available on the State's website after March 8. Thanks to everyone that helped make local government in Massachusetts accessible. Mr. Andrews congratulated the IT Department and all involved in this splendid achievement. Enclosed is the criteria used in the process.

### **8. TOWN BUSINESS**

#### **a. Election Warrant**

Selectman Donahue read the election warrant for the Tuesday, April 6, 2010 election(as attached).

**MOTION:** Selectman Eckstrom moved to accept the warrant. Selectman Donahue seconded.

**VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

## SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 3-2-10 (CONT'D)

### b. Discussion re: Street acceptance – Bethal Way

Present before the board: George Barrett

Mr. Barrett stated that the planning board has notified Mr. Sullivan that Bethal Way does not meet the criteria for Street acceptance. If the street were accepted it would be a cost to the town.

### c. School Committee budget review

Selectman Eckstrom began her presentation stating that the Board of Selectmen recognizes the School Committee's authority over the School Department's budget. They also recognize financial obligations to executed contracts. Selectman Eckstrom wanted to clear up when parents are told the School Department's FY11 budget is being cut by \$750,000 by the Town, it needs to be addressed. Selectman Eckstrom stated that 3 of her 4 children attend Wareham Public Schools and she is not there to attack the schools. She is very happy with the overall performance of the schools, however she is very frustrated at the lack of supplies and resources we give our teachers. Selectman Eckstrom is frustrated that when choices need to be made, the children always come out short. Selectman Eckstrom went over the FY10 Budget and stated that the total operating budget when you take out revolving accounts and the sewer enterprise fund for the entire town is \$45 million and when you take out the fixed costs such as lights, retirement, health care you can take out \$10 million you are down to \$35 million and the school departments budget is \$25 million. That amounts to 56.4% of the entire towns operating budget. This does not include \$325,125 annual payment on the Middle School debit, which is included in the town's fixed costs. It also does not include any school department grant funds or revolving accounts – the total school budget, including those is \$37.3 million. Selectman Eckstrom stated that she was looking as to how the money was spent and in FY08 the Top 5 employees made a total of \$531,313 and in FY09 it went up to \$562,668 which is an increase of \$31,355 among the 5 positions in one year. The anticipated FY10 has gone up to \$583,139,44, which is an increase this year of \$20,000. Over the past three years the top 5 positions have received an increase of \$83,181.44. The school budget has gone up every year for the past three years. Out of the \$340,988 increase in the FY09 school budget, 9.2% of the increase went for raises for the 5 highest paid employees. Out of the \$262,770 increase in the FY10 school budget 7.8% of the increase went for raises for the 5 highest paid employees. Compared to the Bus Drivers, Custodians, and Cafeteria Workers who received 0%, 0%, and 1% in their most recent contracts. Teachers received a total of 3% over 3 years in the most recent contract. The Superintendent received 12.8% in FY09 and in FY10 8.6% the K-12 Coordinator received an increase of 3% in FY08, 3.4% in FY09 and 1.1% in FY10 not including tuition reimbursement. The Transportation Director has steadily increased from in FY06 \$54,896.08 and in FY09 \$70,983.37 which is a nearly a 9% increase per year. Selectman Eckstrom stated that she went on the Department of Education website to obtain the following information. Wareham has the lowest median income among the comparable communities (-\$15,000) Wareham spends \$11,364, which is in line with other communities (average \$11,379). Wareham spends the most per pupil, when compared to median income (28.11%). Selectman Eckstrom stated what some of the other towns leaders are doing. The superintendent in Ware offered to put an addendum into her contract so she could take a 20% pay cut for FY10, in order to starve off layoffs. Superintendent in Springfield has deferred his contractual pay raises in order to save

## SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 3-2-10 (CONT'D)

programs. For clarification the state minimum is determined by the Massachusetts Department of Education. She also stated that if the Chapter 70 funds are short from the state, it is the town side of the budget that has to make that up. Selectman Eckstrom stated that the school department is looking for \$1 million and they only receive \$250,000 then they would come up short \$750,000, which would have to come out of the town's side. This would equal Selectmen's, Town Administrators, Town Accountant's and the Assessors office or Treasurer/Collector's Town Clerk's and Planning offices as well as costs for elections and Town Meeting or Data Processing (all computers) Council on Aging, Library, and Animal Control or 18.5% of the Police or 90% of the Municipal Maintenance Department. Selectman Eckstrom said she had some questions that she would like the school department to answer such as Did the employee who allegedly took the "gate receipts" and promised restitution pay? How much did he pay? When did he pay? Where is the money – We needed to use budget money to pay for supplies for those programs. Where is the money left by the Minot teacher who passed away? Selectman Eckstrom stated that if anyone is asking what he or she can do? Any teacher would appreciate donations of Kleenex, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and blocks of copy paper.

d. Any town business

Selectman Eckstrom stated that there is a group called Achieve that meets at the multi-service center that received a grant from the YMCA to help promote the 3 main things to maintain a healthy lifestyle. They are looking for a member of the board to be a representative. They currently have two public officials that are the state rep of Dartmouth and the City Planner from New Bedford. Selectman Eckstrom stated that she would like to represent the board.

Selectman Eckstrom announced that they will be holding an Economic Summit called "Wareham Works" on March 27<sup>th</sup> to help promote new businesses in town and to expand current businesses in town as well.

### **9. SEWER BUSINESS**

- a. Sewer Abatement Request – Account 792339, 3 Carleton St., Unit 3. The 1<sup>st</sup> half FY2010 omitted Sewer User Fees in the total amount of \$194.64 for 1 EDU.

Present before the board: David Simmons  
Mr. Simmons explained as to why abatement was requested.

**MOTION:** Selectman Donahue moved to abate Account 792339, 3 Carleton St., Unit 3. The 1<sup>st</sup> half FY2010 omitted Sewer User Fees in the total amount of \$194.64 for 1 EDU. Selectman Eckstrom seconded.

**VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

- b. Sewer Abatement Request – Account 792340, 4 Carleton St., Unit 4. The 1<sup>st</sup> half FY2010 omitted Sewer User Fees in the total amount of \$194.64 for 1 EDU.

**MOTION:** Selectman Donahue moved to abate Account 792340, 4 Carleton St., Unit 4. The 1<sup>st</sup> half FY2010 omitted Sewer User Fees in the total amount of \$194.64 for 1 EDU. Selectman Donahue seconded.

SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING – 3-2-10 (CONT'D)

**VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

Selectman Sauvageau asked Mr. Simmons if he would come back before the board at a later date and explain the EDU Rate and the budget.

Mr. Simmons asked the board for abatement on Acct # 735204 Map 1, lot 8A owned by Theresa O'Neil for 58 West Central Avenue.

**MOTION:** Selectman Donahue moved to reverse the portion of the abatement granted on December 15, 2009 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half sewer usage of \$292.00 and grant abatement for the sewer lien for FY10 for 58 W. Central Avenue, Map 1, Lot 8A owned by Theresa O'Neill. Selectman Cruz seconded.

**VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

c. Any other sewer business

Selectman Eckstrom stated that non-profits meet at the multi service center once a month and have been doing so for about one year. Selectman Eckstrom has been corresponding with Kerry Mello from South Coast Hospitals. They are looking to see if someone on the board would like to be a representative. The different groups received a grant from the YMCA and they are looking to promote a healthy lifestyle.

**10. LIAISON REPORTS**

Selectman Donahue stated that she attended the Finance Committee meeting last week and said they were happy that the trust fund was straightened out and approved the transfer of funds to update the chart of accounts. Selectman Donahue did commend the Finance committee for their marathon scheduled for tomorrow.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Selectman Eckstrom moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Donahue seconded.

**VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)**

**12. 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 13, 2010.

Attest: *M. Jane Donahue*, Clerk, Pro-tem

Date Signed: 4-13-10

Date sent to the Town Clerk: 4-14-10