

Members present:     Kevin M. McCormick           Christopher A. Rucho  
                             Allen R. Phillips                   John B. DiPietro, Sr.  
                             Valmore H. Pruneau

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Chairman Ray Bricault and members Mychelle Phillips, Patricia Altomare, Ellen Dunlap, Christopher J. Berglund, Paul Bohson and Patrick Crowley joined the Board.

### **Final Review Of October 15, 2007 Semi-Annual Town Meeting Warrant And Signature**

Mr. Gaumond has rearranged the order of the articles for the warrant.

With regard to the Stormwater Bylaw, Town Counsel has recommended we move forward with its passage, however, she has some recommendations, which we will not be bringing forward at town meeting. If we think they are required after the first six months we will propose them at a later date. We are still waiting for the figure for the parks' safety issues.

The Community Preservation Committee will be meeting next Tuesday and he is expecting to have a conversation with them with regard to their needs, which will come from the CPA funds.

With regard to the petitioned article, which authorizes the Board to study regionalizing our schools, we will have a friendly amendment from the floor. Ellen Dolan noted that this has been studied twice in the past. She also asked when the list will be prepared for transfers within the current budget line items. Mr. Gaumond reported that the new growth number fell short of what was forecasted leaving us about \$125,000 short. He and working with the Finance Director to complete that list. He is also working on certifying Free Cash. Although he does not anticipate great changes in the expense budgets, he is closely monitoring unemployment.

Motions will be assigned at the October 3 meeting of the Board.

#### **1. Review and approve Town Meeting Mailer**

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the mailer, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

With regard to the article for the replacement of the ambulance, Mr. Bricault is aware of the \$75,000 previously reserved for this purchase and questioned whether the Board had any ideas on how to fund the balance. Mr. Gaumond feels this could be done through Capital Investment Fund, Stabilization, Free Cash or current ambulance receipts. Mr. Bricault pointed out the fact that the Capital Fund has been under funded for the last two years and suggested using the current ambulance receipts for this expenditure. Mr. McCormick explained that should we do that, next year we will not have those funds available for the budget and we will be digging a bigger deficit. Mr. Gaumond feels the Capital Investment Board needs to do its review of the warrant, and if they prefer not to fund this maybe the Fire Chief would like to provide his comments to the Board. Mr. Gaumond explained that previous Fire Chief Jack Chandler planned in advance for this purchase to avoid going back to the taxpayers.

Mr. Bricault questioned the presentation of the Tivnan Drive project. Mr. Gaumond invited the Finance Committee to attend the public meeting scheduled for October 1. The meeting will be televised and recorded. He encouraged the members of the Finance Committee to attend and ask questions. He is developing his presentation, which will include a brief history of the project, detail the benefits to the town, discuss the liabilities, and then open the floor up to questions. Ellen Dunlap asked if any of the boards would have a role. Mr. Gaumond explained that the Selectmen and the proposed developer have met with the Planning Board and the Board of Health.

With regard to the citizens' petition article, Mr. Bricault asked the Board if they believe they could execute this. Mr. McCormick stated that the Board has reviewed the information, and he does not feel they could complete a study by next May. Mr. Gaumond has had a conversation with the petitioner and questioned why he assigned the task to the Board of Selectmen. Upon reflection he suggested this should be the School Committee should look at and his hope is that he will amend this on town meeting floor. Mr. Berglund noted that one of the things that came out of the budget discussions this year was not only looking at regionalizing our schools, but also other services as well. Mr. Phillips stated that we will look at regionalizing dispatch again as we work with these communities on a multitude of other things. Mr. Rucho feels the proposed zoning change will also benefit the town and Mr. Phillips mentioned that we are still pursuing mitigation funds for the jail.

Mr. Bricault questioned the progress of the Municipal Buildings Committee. Mr. McCormick reported that once the entire plan is completed they will present it, however, it is not quite ready yet. He anticipates being ready some time this winter at which time they will do some education and public relations. Mr. Bricault asked if the committee planned to give a report under Article 1. Mr. Phillips feels it would be better to wait and present once they have all the information. Ellen Dunlap questioned when we would hear about the parks' grants. Patrick Crowley noted that the decision would be made the beginning of October.

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the 26 articles and sign the warrant, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

**Consider The Following Votes:**

1. Sending letter to the Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security for support of S1376

The Board reviewed a copy of the draft letter of support for Senate Bill S1376, which would provide mitigation funds to the Town of West Boylston.

Motion Mr. Phillips to send the letter, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

2. Is the Town interested in participating in a regional agreement to take over operation and maintenance of the Holden-Rutland Sewer Trunk Line?

Mr. McCormick has attended the meetings with the towns of Holden and Rutland. During the meetings there was discussion about the take over of the operation and maintenance of the Holden-Rutland sewer truck line, one portion of which was built in the 1930's and the other in the 1950's. None of the three towns had any interested in taking over the trunk line.

Motion Mr. Phillips for the Board not to enter into a regional agreement to take over operation and maintenance of the Holden-Rutland Sewer Trunk Line, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

3. Is the Town interested in pursuing an assessment of the current condition?

Mr. McCormick reported that the group also discussed having an assessment of the condition of our current system should we end up having to take it over.

Motion Mr. Phillips for the Board to go on record as not being interested in pursuing an assessment of the current condition since DCR cannot tell us the cost or who will pay for the assessment, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 7:45 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provision of

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23B, parts 3 and 6 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations and to consider the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property and the Board will not be going back into open session, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 8:30 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Roll call vote: Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Pruneau yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: October 17, 2007

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Nancy E. Lucier

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Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

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Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

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Valmore H. Pruneau, Clerk

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Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

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John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman