

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

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 6:30 p.m. to entering into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23b, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and contract negotiations, and the Board will be returning to open session seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Roll call vote: Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. McCormick yes; Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Motion Mr. Rucho at 6:55 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Roll call vote: Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Read and acceptance of Minutes From Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2008 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the meeting minutes of February 4, 2008, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concurrence on the appointment of Glenn Bloom, 38 Townsend Drive to the Parks Commission effective February 22, 2008 for a term to expire on April 30, 2011

Motion Mr. Phillips to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

2. Review and approve Request for Finance Committee Reserve Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 for Mixter Purchase Services

Mr. Gaumond is hoping this will be the last transfer he will need.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

3. Vote to accept donations in the amount of \$926.00 for the Beaman Memorial Public Library

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Vote on the motion Messrs. McCormick, Phillips, Rucho and DiPietro. Mr. Pruneau abstains.

4. Announce that the Mount Vernon Cemetery will be considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places

Mr. Gaumond reported that the town has been notified that our efforts to nominate the Mount Vernon Cemetery for the National Register of Historic Places has been successful. There is a copy of the nomination at the Beaman Memorial Library.

5. Announce that the Board of Library Commissioners granted a waiver of the FY2008 Municipal Appropriations Requirement

Mr. Gaumond announced that the Board of Library Commissioners was successful in receiving a waiver from the state on our FY2008 municipal appropriations requirement. He credited the efforts of the Board of Library Trustees and Library Director Louise Howland.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Consider vote to endorse Plan of Parks Facility Committee and Parks Commission

When the Parks Facility Committee and Parks Commission met with the Board they requested the Board's endorsement of their proposed plan. Mr. McCormick questioned whether the Board's endorsement would trigger them to begin to spend money. Mr. Rucho pointed out that one of the items in the plan is seeking funding. Mr. Phillips agrees with the concept of the plan, and he feels the Selectmen would be agreeing to the plan and not the funding of the plan. Mr. Gaumond noted that the Parks Commission asked for the Board's support of the DPW budget for an additional seasonal parks employee and two articles at town meeting, one which would move \$12,000 from the summer recreation revolving to the field revolving account and to raise the spending cap to \$50,000 on the field revolving account. They are also asking for a statement of planned activities from the Bicentennial Committee, which has already been done. The final request is to have the Building Committee demolishing the pool with the demolition of the Mixer building and to coordinate with the Parks Commission and the Parks Facility Committee on parks facilities for Mixer and Tivnan Drive.

Mr. DiPietro was made aware of the fact that Pride Park is funded from a private donations account. Mr. McCormick stated it is in spirit that we endorse, not that we necessarily have the money as that is contingent upon town meeting funding.

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the Parks Commission Plan without endorsing funding until we have completed the budget process, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept the Parks Facility Committee plan without endorsing funding until we have completed the budget process, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Heart Safe Community Designation

Diane Barletta, Assistant Director of the Central Mass Emergency Medical Systems Corporation joined the Board for the purpose of designating the Town of West Boylston as a Heart Safe Community. She explained that it was clear by the application which was submitted that the town understands the importance of community involvement. She presented the Board with a certificate and two road signs designating the Town of West Boylston as a Heart Safe Community.

Irene Congdon, Central Mass Municipal Assistance Coordinator For The Department Of Environmental Protection – Discussion On Grant For Pay As You Throw Options

John Westerling explained that the town applied for a sustainability grant from the DEP and we received an award for rain barrels, educational materials and a grant to look at pay as you throw to determine if this would be a good opportunity for the town. Irene Congdon, Central Mass Municipal Assistance Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection explained that pay as you throw is a waste reduction program. Residents purchase bags and the cost pays for disposal. Options available include getting one bag for free and paying for additional bags or giving out 52 coupons which could be redeemed at the grocery store. There are 124 communities in Massachusetts who use the pay as you throw program. Small bags are fourteen cents and large bags are twenty-five cents. Part of the grant application is for Ms. Congdon to look at the town's disposal information, options and potential savings.

Mr. Phillips pointed out the fact that the only override passed by the town was for trash collection and if we are going to do something different, he feels we need to do an under ride and give something back to the people. Ms. Congdon stated that this will move people to recycle and compost more. Mr. DiPietro suggested telling people should they not put out a recycle bin with their trash they will not get their trash picked up. Ms. Congdon advised that a lot of communities are going with mandatory recycling. West Boylston is at a 23% recycling rate. Ms. Congdon is working with

Mr. Gaumond, Mr. Westerling and the Solid Waste Advisory Task Force and is prepared to go forward with whatever program the Board would like.

Julianne deRivera and Janet Vignaly, two of the five members of the Solid Waste Advisory Task Force explained that they will have arts and crafts at the library with recycled items. They also asked the Board's support of A Resolution in Support of the Mass Recycles Paper campaign, which will be presented to the Board at their next meeting.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the presentation this evening was to give the policy makers information before we go into the budget season. This will help bring more information to the community. He commended the diligent Solid Waste Advisory Task Force for their efforts thus far and thanked them for the work they have done on behalf of the Town of West Boylston. They have also authored monthly articles in The Banner in addition to working very closely with Mr. Westerling.

Thomas Ashe, Worcester County Sheriff's Department – Memorandum Of Agreement, Worcester Regional Alerting System

Thomas Ashe, Community Relations Director for the Worcester County Sheriff's Department joined the Board. He reported that Sheriff Glodis and his staff are very excited about the opportunity of offering the town the option of choosing to participate in the Reverse 911 System, which has the ability to administer both geo-cast and the NXT portions of the program. There is no charge to participate until 2010 and the Sheriff's Department will administer the program. The Sheriff's staff is also available to train the town's staff to use the system.

Mr. Phillips left the meeting to respond to a fire at West Boylston Square.

Mr. Ashe explained that the system has to be voice activated to work. The Geo Cast message will be an emergency notification system message. Should the town have a message they need to get out, we call the Sheriff's Department, they will verify and let us hear the message prior to it going out. There is no opting out penalty. Thus far less than twelve towns have signed on, and to date no one has said no.

Motion Mr. Rucho to sign on to the program and thank the Sherriff for offering it, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor. Mr. Ashe also offered the emergency preparedness vehicle to the town for use during the Bicentennial.

OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

2. Review information relative to Wachusett Earthday

Mr. Gaumond explained that at this point in the process, we are the last community to act, and all others have acted favorably. Mr. Rucho feels that there are still a number of questions which need to be answered. Mr. Gaumond previously emailed additional questions and answers to the Board. Mr. DiPietro's preference is to renew on a yearly basis rather than for five years. He also has a problem with having to provide a one year notice to withdraw under Phase III: Operation. On Phase I Development Costs he has a problem with the \$255,000 figure for roadway and site construction in addition to the cost of the buildings at \$50,000. He feels they could get forty-foot containers for \$2,000 each.

Mr. Rucho has an issue with how we are going to prevent people from using the facility who are not involved, who will respond if there is a spill in our community, and who will deal with traffic issues.

With regard to the Phase I development costs, Mr. McCormick pointed out the fact that we have been dealing with a municipal building committee for two years and trying to get costs to build something and this group came in without any estimates. He does not think anything is solidified in the whole program and it is in our town, and he is concerned there were no estimates. Mr. Rucho asked if

this would go forward without West Boylston participating. He voiced concern that this could be built in our town and five other towns could go there. It was noted that the town does have some oversight through permitting with our Building Inspector and Board of Health as an assignment process would be required. Mr. Rucho stated that in the past the state could bypass local boards and go to the state.

Mr. Pruneau voiced concern that we recently rezoned a large portion of land in that area for future development and this will not enhance that. He has lots of questions including traffic wise, who will be the responsible body, if there is a spill, who will it fall upon and he doesn't think we should rush into this. Mr. DiPietro does not see traffic being a problem as the road is 75 to 80-feet wide, can accommodate traffic and has newly constructed lagoons. He does understand the concern over the newly rezoned industrial site. He questions how long would the hazardous materials be stored and in what amounts. Mr. McCormick's main concern is who would be responsible in the event we had a spill, and if it is DCR as it is their land, he has another issue as he does not believe they will take responsibility for anything in this town. He would rather not sign on, and should there be a spill, we are not a party to it.

Motion Mr. Rucho not to sign onto the agreement until we receive further information, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Public Hearing: Ambulance Rate Hearing

Mr. McCormick opened the public hearing and read the following notice. Public notice is hereby given, in conformity with the requirements of the General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston, ARTICLE XXIII - PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE, that the Board of Selectmen will meet on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of considering an increase in ambulance rates. The meeting will be held in Conference Room #1 of town hall, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston. For additional information, or to review the proposed changes, please contact Fire Chief Richard Pauley, Jr., at (508) 835-3233. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend. Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman, advertised on February 6, 13, 2008.

Motion Mr. Rucho to continue the hearing until February 25th at 7:05 p.m. as the Fire Chief needed to leave the meeting to attend the fire at West Boylston Square, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

It was agreed to continue the Safer Grant Application Status agenda item until that date as well.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

5. Review and consider adopting Property Conservation Program

Now that we are with MIIA for our general liability and property insurances they recommend we create a Property Conservation Program. We will train officials on the town side and develop a schedule of inspections for all our properties. There are four parts to the program, the first of which includes facilities self-inspections which will be performed four times a year. The responsible person for the building would go around with the check list to ensure that all the things are being done. The Town Administrator would be responsible for reviewing them as they come in. The next part is roof inspections. MIIA recommends this be done twice a year. If we agree we will train the Building Inspector and the lead school person to inspect in November or December and again in January or February. The next inspection is freeze up prevention which will be done twice in year in November or December and January or February. If the Board agrees, we will train the Building Inspector and the lead person at the school on a Freeze Up Prevention Program. Mr. Gaumond explained that reason why MIIA is involved in this is they have taken some of the areas with losses and developed programs for them. The program also includes Indoor Air Quality which will be done

on a quarterly basis and after any incidents of complaint. Mr. Gaumond recommends the Board adopt the program and commit the resources to complete it as we will receive credits on our insurance.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to accept the Property Conservation Program, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

6. Rescind and Revote the debt exclusion vote
 7. Review and sign Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 10, 2008 meeting
 8. Review and approve Informational Mailer for March 10, 2008 town meeting
- Items 6, 7, and 8 will be tabled this evening.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. February 22, 9:00 a.m. John Augustus Hall, Focus group discussion Rutland-Holden Trunk Sewer Management
2. The Municipal Buildings Committee meeting at Fire Department scheduled for February 25 has been postponed. There will be a Municipal Buildings Committee meeting at the municipal office building.
3. February 26 – 5:30-7:00 Town Administrator’s Budget Meeting, 127 Hartwell Street. Mr. Gaumond is in the process of crafting the municipal budget and this is an opportunity to receive public comment prior to town meeting.
4. March 6, Municipal Buildings Committee meeting at a location yet to be determined.
5. March 8th – Grand Ball at the Wachusett Country Club. Tickets available at West Boylston Insurance Agency or Pruneau’s Barber Shop.
6. March 9th, - Brunch at the Manor sponsored by the West Boylston Bicentennial Committee; two seatings 10 and 11:30; children ages 4-12 \$10.00; under age four free; adults \$16.00. Tickets available at West Boylston Insurance Agency or Pruneau’s Barber Shop and participants need to call The Manor to schedule their seating.
7. March 13 – Town Administrator’s Budget Meeting at the Beaman Library. The budget presentation at this meeting will be the same as the February 26th meeting.
8. March 26, 5:00 p.m. – Wachusett Chamber of Commerce 93rd Annual Meeting & Business Awards Ceremony at The Manor. This information was also forwarded to the Economic Development Task Force.

SELECTMEN’S REQUEST AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCormick has nothing this evening.

As Chairman of the Bicentennial Parade Committee, Mr. Rucho requested permission from the Board to work with Mr. Gaumond in preparing a letter to neighboring communities inviting them to get involved in the celebration.

Mr. Rucho noted that at the last meeting the Board voted to allow John Westerling to over-expend Snow and Ice by \$40,000 before he needs to come back to the Board, and questioned why he didn’t report back to the Board until he had over-expended the line item at \$78,000. Mr. Gaumond explained that the vote to overexpend, by law, does not need to have a number, however, the Board did place a figure on its vote. It is our responsibility to remove snow and treat the roads and emails from Mr. Westerling on the expenditures were shared with the Board. Mr. DiPietro feels the problem occurred when Mr. Westerling didn’t get his salt load and then he received three salt loads and the over-expending increased. Mr. DiPietro complimented the DPW on their performance this winter.

Mr. Pruneau has nothing this evening.

Mr. DiPietro noted that the town is not registered with Dig Safe. He spoke with Mr. Westerling who cannot spare the men to do the markings, and he would like to speak to the Superintendent at the Water District to see if they could mark the areas for us. It was agreed to include this on the next agenda for a vote.

Mr. DiPietro asked if he could get a list of people and businesses that are in arrears in their taxes for one year or more as he wants to ensure we are exercising all means to collect money. Mr. Gaumond noted that we are well in excess of 95% on our collection rate. He offered to present a detailed report on the town's steps on collections at the next meeting. He added that we recently had some good tax title collections.

Richard Pauley, Fire Chief

Chief Pauley returned to the meeting after attending to a two-alarm fire at West Boylston Square. He reported that there was substantial damage to Henry's Hobby Shop AJ's Pizza and Happy Cleaners. The fire started on the roof and five towns responded.

Chief Pauley explained that last August when he met with the Board he asked their endorsement to apply for a Safer Grant, which is a highly competitive grant that provides funding for a four-year period for full-time personnel. Two weeks ago Chief Pauley received notification from a Grant Specialist that our grant has been looked at from a favorable status, and that is a good indication we are on our way. In 2003 the town spent \$25,000 to study the Fire Department and its staffing levels. One of the recommendations was that staffing needs to be addressed. Chief Pauley feels we have made some progress in this area. The study recommended a minimum of seven and we presently have a staff of five. The day time coverage continues to be a chronic problem, and we can only staff one ambulance at a time. In 2007 we had to use mutual aid 52 times, which is a loss of \$40,000 in revenue to the town. EMS has increased 65% over the last year with two nursing homes and three 55 and over communities the department is busier than ever.

Chief Pauley feels we have a wonderful opportunity. Three communities in Massachusetts are awarded this grant per year. In the first year the town will get 90% of the actual cost of the firefighter position or \$37,950, whichever is less, year two it is 80% or \$33,730, whichever is less, year three 50% or \$21,080, whichever is less, year four it is 30% or \$12,665, whichever is less and in year five the community takes on the funding obligation. Based upon historical data, by year five, should we accept the grant, it will be a wash if not a money maker through ambulance receipts and EMS revenues. If we increase ambulance rates 5% a year by year five we will make an additional \$92,552.00 to the town. An average collection on an EMS call is \$815.00, and by year five the actual increase in revenues is \$123,000 to \$132,000. Another area Chief Pauley is willing to look at is non-emergency transfer work to and from hospitals and nursing homes as our population is manageable and we are so close to hospitals. The towns of Athol, Charlton, Orange, Ware, Southbridge and Milford, New Hampshire are doing this type of service. Chief Pauley requested the Board's endorsement of the grant.

Mr. DiPietro questioned shift hours for the new positions. The Chief plans to have two forty-eight hours positions 6-6 Monday through Thursday and 6-6 Tuesday through Friday. Mr. DiPietro asked if the additional funds will pay for the new ambulance, the debt and the two men. Mr. Gaumond explained that one of our regular reoccurring sources of revenue is the Wachusett Fund and ambulance receipts. We use them to offset operations.

Mr. Rucho voiced concern over Board discussions about how to fund what we have right now. Chief Pauley stressed that the two positions are badly needed, and we will not see this opportunity again if we turn it down. This will give us the ability not to have to call a mutual aid ambulance and he asked the Board to consider the non-emergency transfer work, which he foresees generating an additional \$50,000. The clothing and training for the two new positions will be taken out of a grant,

and he would make EMT certified a requirement of the job. If we are able to move forward, the Chief feels he has some excellent young call firefighter candidates.

Mr. McCormick stated that he views this as a savings to the town. Mr. Gaumond commended the Chief for his work on the grant. He has asked the Chief to present a warrant article for the balance. Mr. Gaumond asked the Board not to say no, but to give the Chief an opportunity to go forward. Mr. Pruneau sees this as a plus as we now have 800-900 students at the Salter College each day. Chief Pauley advised that his department goes there two to three times per month. We also have three education facilities at 100 Hartwell Street that required a lot of attention last year. Chief Pauley feels this would solve his staffing problem for a number of years.

Mr. Pruneau questioned what kind of impact this would have on his space needs. Chief Pauley replied that he will have to make do with the space. Mr. DiPietro asked what year the Chief anticipates his next major capital purchase. Chief Pauley feels Engine 5 in four to six years; however, we do not have the space. Mr. DiPietro asked if the Chief had any old engines he could auction off. Chief Pauley explained that one of his goals is to do a thorough analysis of his fleet, and he does not see adding anything additional. Chief Pauley noted that the non-emergency transfer work would be limited to residents in town and they would set up a radius they would transport to.

Motion Mr. Pruneau to support continuing the process for the grant, seconded by Mr. DiPietro. Chief Pauley explained that assuming we get the grant they understand that we would need to go to town meeting to appropriate the funding. Mr. Rucho requested the funding be a separate article on the warrant rather than in the budget. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Pruneau at 10:00 to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: March 5, 2008

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman