

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

Mr. McCormick convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the open and executive session meeting minutes of March 5, 2008 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the open and executive session meeting minutes of March 12, 2008, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Economic Development Committee

John Hadley, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, together with members Bob Matthews and David Eckhardt joined the Board to discuss the possibility of making West Boylston an Economic Target Area (ETA). Mr. Hadley explained that his committee has been meeting for about one year and they would like to make West Boylston an ETA as they feel it is another tool that can be used to attract businesses to come to West Boylston. He also met with Claire O'Neill of the Mass Office of Business Development.

Mr. Matthews explained that 200 of the 351 municipalities in Massachusetts are designated as ETAs. Hopkinton and Shrewsbury have the designation and Boylston has just applied. It allows a municipality to participate in the Economic Development Incentive Program which provides companies bringing in new jobs and facilities a percentage of forgiveness of their real estate taxes for a period of time and the state provides a 5% development credit. It would allow West Boylston to use the program on a project by project basis, should the town leaders choose. The next step would be the development of a TIF committee. Town meeting approval is required for all TIFs, and the Selectmen sign a binding agreement with the company.

Mr. Phillips asked about drawbacks of the program. Mr. Matthews does not see any drawbacks. Larger communities, such as Leominster, are the most aggressive participants. When the program was first created, there were census track criteria to become an ETA, however, the legislation has been expanded to allow any municipalities to join, should they choose to. Natick and Bedford just became an ETA. Of the 200 communities who have the designation, 140 have used the program. In order for West Boylston to become an ETA they need to abut another ETA. Mr. Matthews offered his services to have West Boylston attach onto Boylston's application. He thinks Boylston will probably defer to the state for guidance on this.

Mr. Rucho, who is also a member of the Economic Development Task Force, noted that the committee has discussed becoming an ETA for quite some time now and he does not see any down side. Mr. Hadley added that there are a lot of businesses that would not look to locate in West Boylston if we were not an ETA. Each TIF project has to be approved at town meeting. The Committee is requesting permission from the Selectmen to discuss this proposal with Boylston. Mr. Gaumond has spoken with Sue Olson, Town Administrator in Boylston who has indicated interest in our participation.

Motion Mr. Phillips for the town to make an application to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council for Economic Target Area status, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Board of Health, Pandemic and Budget Presentation

This item will be passed over this evening. It will be on the Board's agenda for April 2.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concurrence on the appointment of Elaine T. Nedder, 26 Applewood Road to the Shared Services Committee effective March 20, 2008 for a term to expire on April 30, 2010

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that he interviewed Ms. Nedder who is very excited to work on the committee as it is her first time serving on a town board. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

2. Expedited Local Permitting Law Chapter 43D

As Mr. DiPietro requested this item be on the agenda, it will be passed over until the Board's next meeting under Old Business. Mr. Gaumond will ask for comments from the Economic Development Committee.

3. Review and vote to accept Performance Review for Fire Chief Richard Pauley, Jr. and vote cost of living adjustment per employment agreement

Mr. Phillips recused himself. Per the employment agreement with Chief Pauley, Mr. Gaumond reviewed the Fire Chief on March 3. Mr. Gaumond reviewed his duties as well as his goals and rates the Chief as Meets the Expectations of the Town Administrator and recommends the approval of his cost of living adjustment per his employment contract. Mr. Gaumond noted that we have had quite a few emergencies in town over the last couple of months, and he feels the Fire Chief and his department did an admirable job. The Chief has also been active with our Property Conservation Program, and he is pleased to be able to work with him.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the cost of living adjustment per the employment agreement with the Fire Chief, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor. Mr. Phillips returned.

4. Town Administrator Leon A. Gaumond's performance review

Mr. McCormick distributed the composite review, which he prepared, for Mr. Gaumond. Members of the Board rated Mr. Gaumond on a 1-5 scale and based on those submissions, the Board rated Mr. Gaumond's performance Commendable. Mr. McCormick thanked Mr. Gaumond for a very good job performance this year. Mr. Gaumond thanked the Board for their continued support.

5. Review and vote to accept \$166.00 in donations to the Beaman Memorial Public Library

Motion Mr. Phillips to accept donations in the amount of \$166.00 to the Beaman Memorial Public Library, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Vote on the motion – Messrs. McCormick, Phillips and Rucho yes; Mr. Pruneau abstains.

6. Request from the Friends of the Library to install a road banner

Elizabeth Witkowitz, Chairperson for the Friends Book Sale joined the Board. She explained that the sale is a fundraiser for the Library and she is looking for permission to install the banner on Crescent Street. The Municipal Light Plant will be installing the banner, which will be up for two weeks and is being prepared by Connor Sign.

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

7. Review Calendar Year 2007 MWRA Operation & Maintenance Charges for Rutland-Holden Trunk and Trunk Relief Sewers

As the Board contested the invoice they received last year on principle and fact, Mr. Gaumond suggested the Board send a detailed letter on their objections to paying the invoice. Mr. McCormick noted that he regularly attends the Sewer Focus Task Force meetings and he feels we have a much

better working relationship than we had in the past. He prefers reviewing the letter sent last year prior to sending another letter.

8. Review correspondence from the West Boylston Historical Commission for a Demolition Delay Bylaw

Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that it is the intension of the Historical Commission to bring forth a Demolition Delay Bylaw at town meeting. As they have a public hearing scheduled for April 24th on the proposed bylaw, the Board requested Mr. Gaumond invite the Historical Commission in to meet with them at their April 2 meeting.

9. Execution of Lease of Property

The Board previously voted to authorize Mr. Gaumond to proceed with negotiations for the lease of 127 Hartwell Street. The document is the same as our initial temporary lease with updated rental costs. He requested the Board endorse the lease effective April 18, 2008 for a term to expire on April 17, 2010. Mr. Phillips inquired as to whether there was a penalty should the new bathrooms not be completed within 60 days. Mr. Gaumond assured the Board that the landlord is prepared to go forward. Mr. Rucho asked about the unbalanced heating issues. Mr. Gaumond noted that we still have some punch list items, which include, heating, parking and painting of the outside doors.

Motion Mr. Phillips to execute the lease, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. March 26, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – joint meeting Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee & School Committee
2. March 27, 2008, 9:30-3:00 – Statewide Hunger Summit at UMass Boston March 28, 2008 – March for Meals Campaign – Rep. Jim O'Day will be delivering Meals on Wheels in West Boylston, dining sites will have a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the program. Tickets are available at the Senior Center
3. March 31, 2008, 7:00 – Municipal Buildings Committee Meeting
4. April 7, 2008, 9-11:30 a.m. – Planning for the Economic Future – The Outlook for Local Communities Suburban Coalition Annual Breakfast – Great Hall, State House Beacon Hill
5. April 11, 2008, 8:30-10:00 Spring Legislative Breakfast at the Leominster Public Library. Mr. Gaumond invited Board members to participate and stressed the importance of this breakfast as our legislators will be in attendance.

SELECTMEN'S REQUESTS AND NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McCormick noted that this will be his last meeting as Chairman and pointed out the need to work on reforming the Selectmen's Requests agenda item. He suggested having members submit their request with an explanation of why it should be on an upcoming agenda. He feels this change would allow all members to be better prepared to speak on the issue. Mr. Phillips proposed rewording the title to Future Agenda Requests. Mr. Rucho noted that one thing the Board did was to stop voting on something under Selectmen's Requests.

Mr. Pruneau requested use of the DPW yard for parking for our upcoming Reenactment Event scheduled for June 6-8. Mr. Gaumond will speak with Mr. Westerling about rearranging the items on the lot.

Mr. Gaumond requested the Board designate a member to join him for a meeting with the Personnel Board to discuss the wage and classification process. The meeting is scheduled for Monday at 7:30. Mr. DiPietro, who is not available this evening, has indicated that he would like to be considered. Mr. Rucho would also like to be involved.

Motion Mr. Phillips to designate Mr. Rucho and Mr. DiPietro to meet with the Personnel Board on the wage and classification process, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond announced that the West Boylston Cheerleaders have qualified to go to the National Tournament in Virginia and are in the process of raising funds for their trip which is scheduled for March 28.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Pruneau at 7:55 to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: April 2, 2008

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman