

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

Mr. Phillips convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He thanked Fire Chief Richard Pauley for hosting the meeting this evening in the Police/Fire Public Safety Building.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the meeting minutes of September 25, 2008, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the meeting minutes of October 1, 2008 as written, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concurrence on the appointment of Robert Monk to the Parks Commission effective October 16, 2008 for a term to expire on April 30, 2010

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

2. Approve Elaine Novia as Alternate Signatory for Town Clerk's payroll and payables

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve Elaine Novia as Alternate Signatory for Town Clerk's payroll and payables, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

3. Consider request from Senator Harriette Chandler to pass a resolution expressing opposition to Question 1

The Board received correspondence from Senator Harriette Chandler requesting they pass a resolution expressing opposition to Question 1, which would abolish Massachusetts' income tax. She believes this would seriously jeopardize the fiscal stability and future of our state and local governments. The state income tax raises approximately \$12.5 billion or 40% of the revenues that fund the state's \$31.8 billion budget. If enacted this would make major cuts in services to cities and towns unavoidable and would require cutting significantly more than 40% from most spending initiatives. Capital spending on roads, bridges and infrastructure improvements would also be severely reduced. According to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation if you immediately terminate every state employee it would save \$5.3 billion, which is less than half of the \$12.5 billion spending cut necessary under Question 1. If passed, Question 1 would require massive cuts in every area of state government and every category of state spending. Senator Chandler requests the Board to join her in publically expressing opposition to Question 1.

Motion Mr. McCormick for the Board to pass a resolution expressing opposition to Question 1, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. In discussion, Mr. Phillips noted that should Question 1 pass it could take away the state aid the town receives. Mr. Gaumond commented that the impact to the town could be in the millions of dollars. Vote on the motion –all in favor.

Public Hearing, Re: Consider Amending the Office Hours for the Inspector of Buildings and Board of Assessors

Mr. Phillips 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, October 15, 2008 at 7:05 p.m. for the purpose of considering amending the office hours for the Office of the Inspector of Buildings and the Board of Assessors. The meeting will be held in the Municipal Office Building, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston. For additional information, or to review the proposed information, please contact the Office of the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator at 508.835.3490. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend. Allen R. Phillips, Chairman advertised on October 1, 8, 2008.

Mr. Gaumond explained that we have changed the way the Building Department operates and in conversation with the Building Inspector it seems that it would be more efficient to provide those services if we adjusted the hours of operation in the department. When having this conversation with the Building Inspector the Board of Assessors thought they should change their office hours so that they will all be opened at the same time. The proposed hours for the secretary are from 8:00 to 1:00 Monday through Friday, and the Building Inspector's hours are 7:30 to 11:00 Wednesday and Friday. Inspections will take place in the afternoon with the inspector being flexible. Monday will be used as a floating/clean-up day for both Sterling and West Boylston. The Assessors' office is proposing the same amount of hours. The only change is the office will open one hour earlier, 8:00 a.m. as opposed to the current 9:00 a.m. opening. The Board of Assessors agreed to the change to have a sharing of resources.

Mr. Rucho questioned how many hours the Building Inspector was on site before we entered into the agreement with the Town of Sterling to share his services. Mr. Gaumond explained that before it was five days and after the change it will be two and a half days with Monday as a floater. The Building Department will be open five days, however, the Building Inspector will not be there every day. He will take appointments on Monday and will float between West Boylston and Sterling depending on the need. Mr. Gaumond noted that previously there was one day a week when he would stay late, however, he didn't find a lot of usage to staying late. Mr. Rucho is concerned that we are going from 17 hours in the office to 7 hours in the office and wonders if everything can be accomplished. Mr. McCormick pointed out the fact that the inspector may be in the office from 7:30 to 5:00, however, from 7:30 to 11:00 he will definitely be in the office for people to stop in. Mr. Gaumond noted that he has also been working on the weekends and nights. There is no change of office hours for the secretary, and a reduction in the hours the inspector previously worked. Mr. Rucho would like to monitor the hours as previously he was at 40 hours and now he is only at 25. Mr. Gaumond agrees that this should be monitored. Mr. Pruneau thinks the proposed hours will work out fine. Mr. Phillips agrees with Mr. Rucho that we need to monitor this and if it is a problem we need to go back to the original hours. There is no one present to speak on this issue.

Motion Mr. Rucho to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. McCormick, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the change in office hours for both offices, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Meeting With Transportation Committee on the Sidewalk Master Plan

Mr. Gaumond recognized and thanked Transportation Committee members Larry Salate, John DiPietro, Charlie Greenough and Michelle Harris for their hard work over the past two years in developing a Sidewalk Master Plan. The Plan is a spin-off of the Master Plan and the residents expressed a desire for a pedestrian-friendly town. The Board of Selectmen made improving our sidewalk infrastructure a goal of the town. Mr. Gaumond does not know of another place in Massachusetts that has a Sidewalk Plan. It has been a citizen-lead process. They came forward and established criteria on good and poor sidewalks, reviewed every sidewalk in town, and said what was good and bad. He stated that they deserve to be commended on this. The committee also received a

grant award from the Mass Association of Public Health which funded a lot of the project and they have money available to start working on the actual site.

The Plan will assist West Boylston's master plan efforts. The Transportation Committee can review and refine sections of the Plan that are relevant to individual areas of town. The Plan will assist the Planning and Zoning Boards as they look at new proposed developments and how sidewalks in those developments would fit into the larger picture. It will also be helpful to commercial and residential developers to understand that the sidewalks they build will not remain isolated unused fragments but that their investments will contribute to a planned connected network of sidewalks that will be an asset to the town. The Plan will be a guide for town boards in determining where sidewalks are needed, not only on state highways but also on appropriate town roads. It can also be used as a guide when contemplating highway reconstruction projects in town and helps prepare the way for grants for the construction of sidewalk.

The Committee identified areas with safety concern and in need of immediate repair. They also identified sidewalks which lead to nowhere and began to prioritize the needs. Criteria was developed to come up with recommendations. The two principles the committee wanted to follow were to construct new sidewalks to connect to existing infrastructure and to fix old sidewalks that were in terrible shape. The suggestions on new sidewalks include Crescent to Townsend, Goodale to Newton, Goodale from Newton to Century Farm Road, the trail from Goodale to the pool/concession stand, between the two driveways at Major Edwards, Woodland from Pheasant Hill to Route 12, Franklin from Worcester to Route 12, Prescott from Winthrop to Route 12 and Maple from Temple to Orchard Knoll. The suggestions on existing sidewalks are High Street, North Main Street, Goodale from Crescent to Prospect, Prospect from Central to Goodale and the Causeway.

The Six-Year Plan is as follows:

Year 1 (2008): Improvement to High Street. Cited as an immediate safety concern with considerable broken sidewalk adjacent to a church.

Year 2 (2009): Seek new sidewalk on Franklin from Worcester to Rte. 12. Seek new sidewalk between driveways at Major Edwards Improve sidewalk on Goodale from Crescent to Prospect.

Year 3 (2010): Seek new sidewalk on Crescent from High School to Townsend. Seek new sidewalk from Goodale to swimming pool/concession stand.

Year 4 (2011): Improve sidewalk on the causeway. Improve sidewalk on North Main Street. Seek new sidewalk on Goodale from Goodale Park to Newton,

Year 5 (2012): Seek new sidewalk on Maple from Temple to Orchard Knoll. Improve sidewalk on Prospect from Central to Goodale, and

Year 6 (2013): Seek new sidewalk on Prescott from Winthrop to Rte. 12.

Mr. Gaumond displayed a map, with streets colored coded by year of sidewalk improvement. He noted that the committee was cognoscente of the \$40,000 per year Chapter 90 fund budget they have to work with. Part of the Franklin Street improvements in Year 2 will be included in the Franklin Street development project. In Year 3 they will use CPA funds to help construct the sidewalk to the pool and concession stand. The causeway was identified for Year 4 due to safety issues

Three other projects they want to address are Goodale from Newton to Century Farm Rd. and Woodland from Pheasant Hill to Route 12 and a small piece from Woodland at CVS to Shrine Ave. These projects will be done with grant funds.

Mr. Gaumond reminded the Board that we have gone decades without major infrastructure repairs. If the Board or citizens come forward and say that we should be doing more than this the Transportation Committee is willing to come before the Board with a modified plan. He feels we can accomplish the scope of work outlined and see meaningful improvement to the infrastructure. Sources of funds include federal funds, CMAQ funds, Community Development Block Grants or we could also

put an article on the warrant for the sidewalk repair program. The next step is to have the Selectmen authorize the expenditure of Chapter 90 funds for sidewalk repairs if no other funding sources are found. Once the plan is adopted by the Board it will remain in place for the next six years and will be revisited at that time.

Mr. Phillips complimented the committee for a job well done and going out to look for alternate sources of funds. Mr. Gaumond acknowledged the hard work of Meredyddth Evans, who served as the Chairman of the Transportation Committee. Mr. Phillips asked whether the Police and Fire Chief have reviewed the plan. Mr. Gaumond explained that part of the process was testimony and they encouraged involvement by the Police and DPW. The Police Department also testified at the public hearing. Mr. Salate noted that the Police Department asked for input from the students at the high school.

Mr. DiPietro stated that this is quite a project we are about to undertake and in order for it to be successful we need to cooperation of the Light Plant and the DPW because we cannot afford to put it all out to bid. There are many parts which can be done by the DPW and there are light poles that will need to be moved. Under Chapter 90 we can purchase or lease a piece of equipment to make the job of the DPW easier. He feels we will do what we can with the DPW prior to bidding anything. He encouraged residents who would like to have a sidewalk in front of their homes to come forward.

Motion Mr. McCormick to authorize the expenditure of Chapter 90 funds not to exceed \$40,000 if needed in 2009 for the sidewalk project, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Mr. Gaumond will be bringing forward individual requests under the scope of action. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Veteran's Memorial

This was an item was previously passed over by Mr. DiPietro in order for him to get feedback. Mr. DiPietro reported that he did not get any feedback from anyone. Mr. Phillips feels this should go to the Naming Committee. Mr. Rucho does not believe it falls within the scope of that committee. It was agreed to pass over this item until somebody comes forward with a plan as no one has indicated an interested to go forward.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Assignment of Motions

Motions were assigned as follows. Mr. DiPietro will read the motions for Articles 1, 6, 10, 14 and 18; Mr. Pruneau will read the motions for Articles 2,7,12, and 15; r. Phillips will read the motions for Articles 3,8,11 and 16; Mr. Rucho will read the motions for Articles 5, 9, 13 and 17. Article 4 will be presented by Pat Crowley and Articles 19, 20 and 21 are by the petitioners.

2. Review transfers under Article 2 of the Semi-Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Gaumond provided the Board with a list of transfers which will be done under Article 2. There is a possibility we will modify this slightly and if so it will be discussed with the Board at their meeting prior to town meeting in the cafeteria at the school. They are pondering modification to the sewer budget.

3. Review Performance Review for the Chief of Police, and in accordance with his employment contract vote salary adjustment

Mr. Gaumond stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Police Chief, and he finds the department works in both a smooth and efficient manner. The Chief interacts well with the schools and civic organizations. Mr. Gaumond feels that the performance review process is a good tool for evaluating department heads and noted that a similar process is used for the Town Administrator.

Motion Mr. McCormick to grant the salary adjustment to the Chief of Police, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

4. 2008 Performance Review Package for Leon A. Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator

Mr. Phillips instructed his fellow Board members to complete their review and have everything back to him by November 5. He will compile the reviews and present the final document on November 19.

5. Consider request to remain allow extended hours of operation throughout the World Series (KM)

Mr. McCormick recused himself as a Selectman and joined the Board to speak as an individual. He explained that he made the same request in 2004 and it was granted for all establishments who hold liquor licenses. If they sent in a letter requesting the extended hours, they were allowed to remain open until 2:00 a.m. There could be no alcohol served and everything off the bar at 1:00 a.m. This will allow those patrons who are watching the game to see the end of the game. Mr. McCormick spoke with the Police Chief and he had no problem as long as it covered all establishments who held liquor licenses.

Motion Mr. Rucho to allow the liquor license establishments to stay open until 2:00 a.m. for the World Series Games, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

6. Authorization to enter into a contract with Pride Environmental

Mr. Gaumond reported that we went out to bid, received four bids, and the low bidder was Pride Environmental in the amount of \$26,389 for the installation of the biofilter at the Woodland Street pump station. Stantec has endorsed their work and checked their references. Mr. Westerling recommends the Board vote to enter into a contract with Pride Environmental. It was explained that the total cost for the engineering and the installation was estimated to be \$180,000, and the expectation is that we will come in under the \$180,000. Mr. Gaumond noted that we did try to get state funding for this as it was included in the Environmental Bond Bill, however, it never made it beyond the Governor's desk. We will continue to fight for funds with the assistance of our legislators. Stantec is in charge of overseeing the installation and will sign off on the installation.

Motion Mr. McCormick to enter into a contract with Pride Environmental in the amount of \$26,389 for the installation of the biofilter at the Woodland Street pump station, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

7. Trash at the rail trail

Mr. Gaumond was contacted by Mr. Rucho about the trash barrels not being emptied on the rail trail and late this afternoon Mr. Gaumond did get the following response from Mr. Westerling. The concern was the trash was overflowing at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning the first day of a three-day weekend. The Parks Division empties trash on Mondays after the weekend's use because the barrels fill up over the weekend when use is greatest at the trail. The Lead Parks employee was out sick for the days leading up to the weekend and unfortunately the other individual who makes up the Parks Division took personal days for a funeral. The foreman and the individual who typically fills in the foreman were also out. None of the remaining three men had to worry about trash in the past so it was

not on their list of things to be done. Mr. Gaumond apologized on behalf of the DPW and will continue to work with the Director in the future.

Mr. Phillips voiced concern over the fact that people dispose of their dog feces in the trash barrels. Mr. Rucho explained that the feces is put in bags and then left in the trash. Mr. Phillips also questioned whether disposing dog feces in the trash is a violation or an environmental issue. Mr. Gaumond does not think so. Mr. Rucho noted that parks typically have doggy bags for people to use. Mr. Phillips is concerned because it was mentioned by Mr. Westerling. Mr. Gaumond feels Mr. Westerling mentioned it because the trash becomes heavy and they have discussed ways to manage the situation. Mr. Rucho suggested developing a calendar for the DPW or putting out more barrels on a long weekend. Mr. Gaumond noted that a component of the Municipal Calendar contains the DPW duties. He will continue to work with Mr. Westerling to ensure the situation does not happen again. Mr. Rucho feels this is the same type of situation as the lights at the basketball court – it should just be done. Mr. DiPietro suggested having small aluminum barrels with a handle available for people to dispose of their bags of dog feces. Mr. Rucho feels the residents are doing the correct thing in picking it up and putting it in the barrel and the issue was over-flowing trash on Saturday morning and the dog feces took over the conversation.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announce that the town has received a \$5,000 grant from MIIA for roof inspections for the Library, DPW, Public Safety and Cemetery Building

One of the things the Board asked for this year was to do more in the area of grants. This will allow us to get our roofs inspected at no cost to the town. He thanked our insurance providers for their assistance with this.

2. Office of Transportation Planning Workshops – Worcester on October 14th, Malden on October 15th or Chicopee on October 20th

3. October 18, 2008 – MMA Fall Conference for Selectmen at the Sturbridge Host Hotel

4. October 20, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. – Selectmen's Meeting prior to Annual Town Meeting in cafeteria of Middle/High School

5. October 23, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – Meeting with Selectmen/School and Finance Committees at Middle/High School

6. October 29, 2008 – 7:00 p.m. – Meeting of the Municipal Buildings Committee

7. October 29, 2008 – 7:30 p.m. Executive Session Meeting with the School Committee to discuss contract negotiation strategy

8. November 7, 2008 – 8:30-12:00 noon – MMA Statewide Workshop on the Massachusetts Green Communities Act at Old Sturbridge Village

9. January 23 & 24, 2009 – MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show

10. Mr. Gaumond informed the viewing audience that when you wake up in the morning the center lines will be painted around town.

11. Chief Pauley announced that the Fire Department will have its annual open house for Fire Prevention Week at the Fire Station on Sunday from 10-1

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Rucho asked about the company that reviews phone coverage to save us money. Mr. Gaumond informed him that we saved significant funds working with a phone service advisor.

Mr. McCormick would like to send a letter of thanks to Mass Highway, Department of Conservation & Recreation and Bob the Hot Dog Man for cleaning up the triangle area. The letter will be signed by all members of the Board.

Mr. Pruneau asked to be taken off the Selectmen negotiation team for the DPW contract. Mr. Rucho offered to fill in.

Motion Mr. McCormick to appoint Mr. Rucho to the Selectmen negotiation team for the DPW contract, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Mr. Phillips announced that the Council on Aging will hold an open house tomorrow from 1:15 to 3:00 at 127 Hartwell Street

Motion Mr. McCormick at 8:25 p.m. to go into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 23b, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to contract negotiations, and the Board will not be going back into open session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Roll call vote: Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Motion Mr. McCormick at 9:15 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. DiPietro yes, Mr. Pruneau yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. McCormick at 9:15 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: November 5, 2008

Allen R. Phillips, Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Vice Chairman

John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

Kevin M. McCormick, Selectman