

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

Mr. Pruneau convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the meeting minutes of December 17, 2008, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the open session meeting minutes of February 4, 2009, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the executive meeting minutes of February 4, 2009, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2009, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Update On Ice Storm Debris

Mr. Gaumond hoped to have more news to report this evening. He attended a meeting with DCR who is offering to manage the contracts for chipping, debris removal and leaner/hanger removal for the towns of Holden, Boylston, Shrewsbury and West Boylston although we are a bit away from that happening. The benefit for DCR and the USDA is that it will ensure coordination and cooperation of one vendor working with the Commonwealth. He hopes to receive a draft MOU in the near future and will not agree to go forward until he has an opportunity to review the document.

Mr. Gaumond encouraged everyone to 'hang tight', and continue to pile brush on the side of the road off the pavement and sidewalks. Mr. Pruneau questioned whether DCR's contract would cover town-owned property in addition to residential. According to Mr. Gaumond, the contract will cover the entire town, not just the Restricted Zone impacted by the Asian Long-horned Beetle. Mr. Gaumond submitted a request for the parks and recreation lands of the town to be included in the brush removal. Under the current conditions the DCR was not in favor of that as the Pine Grove was heavily impacted and although it is still in discussion phase, he intends to advocate for it to be included. Mr. Pruneau noted that the Pine Grove area is pretty well devastated.

Iqbal Ali, Trustee Afra Terrace

Mr. Ali explained that he is required to pull building permits for 28 units by March 1. He is requesting an extension on paying the sewer fees he is obligated to pay upon receiving the building permits. He reported that sales are not going quickly and would like the opportunity to pay the fee at the point when he is able to commence building, which he plans on doing as soon as the weather breaks. Once that happens he plans to build six units in two months. All the affordable units have been sold and the others depend on how the market goes.

Mr. DiPietro does not have a problem granting the request, but voiced concern with the Board setting a precedent. Mr. McCormick recalled the Board taking similar action with Ernie's Car Wash, and he does not have a problem with the request as they may not hook into the sewer system for one year and the fees go into the capital line item. He suggested an agreement similar to the one the Board signed with Ernie's Car Wash. Mr. Gaumond believes the Ernie's Car Wash Agreement was prepared by their counsel and then forwarded to the town's counsel for review. Mr. Pruneau does not have a problem with the request. Mr. DiPietro does not have a problem with Mr. Ali paying the fee once he

begins building the units, but going forward the Board would have to grant others making the same request.

Motion Mr. McCormick for Mr. Ali to forward to the town a draft agreement for town counsel's review and the Board's signature, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor. Mr. Ali will draft a letter outlining the details and bring it to the Selectmen's office tomorrow morning.

Mr. Gaumond asked where we standing with the affordable units. Mr. Ali has built three units, all are sold, however, initially the buyers were not there. The regulations have changed and if the buyer has a 10% deposit the PMI is ready to give insurance, however, if they could only put down 5% they could not get a mortgage. He has three more buyers lined up.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Consider request from Town of Kingston to support legislation to amend the Community Preservation Act to allow funds to be utilized for Green Energy Initiatives – See clarification from Kingston & Recommendation of CPC

The Board asked for clarification on the amendment language. Kingston is not looking for another 10% requirement and this amendment will just be another allowable use of the funds. The Community Preservation Committee voted not to support the amendment because they feel that the addition of green energy initiatives to the Act would take away from the original intended purpose and the citizens of West Boylston voted to approve the Act based on what it currently allowed. They also feel that to make a dramatic change of this nature without the citizens approval is not consistent with what we voted for.

Mr. McCormick does not think it is a bad idea and views it as a nice option that might not help the town, but would not hurt us either. Mr. DiPietro agrees, but is also concerned with the last sentence in the email from the Community Preservation Committee pertaining to making a dramatic change of this nature without the citizens approval is not consistent with what we voted for. He would be willing to put an article on the warrant for the town election. Mr. McCormick noted the fact that the all projects using CPC funds are approved at town meeting.

Motion Mr. McCormick to endorse the language amendment, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

2.Consider request from Municipal Coalition for Affordable Housing to support legislation to provide communities alternatives to Chapter 40B

The Board agreed to table action on this agenda item until their next meeting as they need additional time to review the materials.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Concurrence on the following appointments to the Sustainability Committee effective February 23, 2009 for a term to expire on April 30, 2011 - Rainy M. Stanford, 11 Glenwood Ave., Roger W. Hall, 232 Fairbanks Street and Craig Gonyea, 257 Maple Street

As one of the goals given to the Town Administrator was to get new citizens involved on our boards, Mr. DiPietro recommends bringing two of the three names forward at this time while we continue to work on our goal. Mr. Pruneau noted that this is nothing personal, and the Board it looking for new people and new ideas.

Motion Mr. McCormick to concur with the appointment of Rainy Stanford and Craig Gonyea to the Sustainability Committee, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

2. Concurrence on the following appointments to the Agricultural Commission effective February 23, 2009 for a term to expire on April 30, 2012 - Eric Palumbo, 184 Malden Street, Patricia Pepi, 181 Fairbanks Street and Robert Tashjian, 29 Prospect Street

In accordance with their goal, the Board agreed to go forward with two of the three appointments. Motion Mr. McCormick to concur with the appointment of Eric Palumbo and Patricia Pepi to the Agricultural Commission, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor. Mr. Gaumond thanked Mr. DiPietro for his work in helping to find new citizens to serve on boards.

3. Vote to accept gifts on behalf of the Beaman Memorial Public Library in the amount of \$231.10

This item will be tabled until the Board's next meeting.

4. Vote to accept donations and gifts on behalf of the Mount Vernon Cemetery in the amount of \$500.00

This item will be tabled until the Board's next meeting.

5. Review and Approve Town Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule is as follows:

1. March 4, 2009 - FY2010 Budget Presentation to Board of Selectmen:

The Town Administrator will present his FY2010 Budget Recommendation to the Board of Selectmen as part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

2. March 25, 2009 - Special Work Session – Tentative:

The Board of Selectmen will hold a special meeting to conduct a FY2010 Budget Preparation Work Session on March 25 with the participation of the Finance Committee and School Committee.

3. April 1, 2009 - FY2010 Budget Recommendations to the Finance Cmte:

The Town Administrator will submit final FY2010 Budget Recommendations to the Finance Committee on or before April 1, 2009.

4. March 30 – April 18, 2009 - Finance Committee Budget Review Sessions:

The Finance Committee will conduct FY2010 Budget Review Sessions and meet with appropriate officials on the FY2010 Budget from March 30 through April 18, 2009.

5. April 8, 2009 – Deadline for Warrant Article Submission for May 18, 2009 Annual Town Meeting

The Board of Selectmen will accept Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles from municipal departments, boards and committees, as well as the public, until April 8, 2009.

6. April 15, 2009 – Warrant Articles to be given to the Board of Selectmen at it's regular meeting.

The Board of Selectmen will acknowledge list of warrant article received as part of their agenda package.

7. April 22, 2009 – Board of Selectmen's Public Work Session to Close and Approve Draft Warrant for the May 18, 2009 Annual Town Meeting – Tentative

The Board of Selectmen will conduct a public work session meeting in conjunction with the Finance Committee to review the proposed FY2010 Budget Recommendations on April 22, 2009. They will also close and approve the draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant at this meeting.

8. May 6, 2009 – Board of Selectmen Sign and Order Posting and Printing of the Warrant

The Board of Selectmen will sign the warrant for the May 18, 2009 Annual Town Meeting and order the posting and printing of the warrant on May 6, 2009.

9. May 18, 2009 – Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting to be held at the West Boylston Middle/High School Auditorium on May 18, 2009.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the scheduled as submitted, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

6. Review and approve Side Letter #1 to Professional Services Agreement by and between the Town of West Boylston and Richard J. Pauley, Jr.

Mr. Gaumond explained in accordance with the employment contract with the Fire Chief, the town has until February 20th to notify the Chief if they decide not to reappoint him for another term. As Mr. Gaumond just completed his evaluation and will get it to the Selectmen within the next couple of days. Because of that he has asked the Fire Chief if he would be willing to waive the time requirement so that we would have sufficient time to review the evaluation and think about goals and objectives. The agreement would extend the deadline out for another month, should the Board agree.

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve Side Letter #1 to Professional Services Agreement by and between the Town of West Boylston and Richard J. Pauley, Jr., seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

7. Town Administrator Budget & Revenue Update

Mr. Gaumond reported that based upon his conversation with Finance Director Michael Daley, the New Growth number we will be using for the budget is \$70,000 and our Snow and Ice Deficit is at \$160,000. Everything else remains the same and it brings our total revenues to \$19,025.46. Based upon his conversation with the Board of Selectmen he gave the schools a budget figure and at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen he expects the Board will review the number more thoroughly. Mr. Gaumond has cut the budgets as low as he can in all the line items and proceeded to review those cuts.

Moderator – will be cut in other expenses.

Board of Selectmen line item will be cut to eliminate attendance at MMA conference.

Town Administrator has been cut in other expenses.

Finance Committee funding will be eliminated.

Reserve Fund, will be lowered to \$45,000.

Town Accountant – the Finance Director will not take the increase allowed for in his contract and we will probably have to renegotiate that contract.

Town Audit – this line item has an increase to cover our audit.

Assessors' – decrease in this line item to Other Expenses.

Treasurer/Tax Collector – decrease this line item, which will result in the loss of their part-time clerk position.

Town Counsel – this line item is being reduced from \$85,000 to \$80,000.

Personnel Board – this line item will be eliminated.

Computer Services – this line item will be decreased by reducing all requested upgrades and purchases. Many computers will be out of warranty.

Town Clerk – this will be decreased in the other expenses line item.

Elections – this line item will be decreased in other expenses.

Planning Board – will be reduced and they will need to rely on their revolving fund.

Public Safety Building – this item has reduced in the other expenses line item.

Town Hall – this line item will be reduced in the other expenses line item.

Town Report - line item will decreased by \$461 dollars.

Total General Government is at \$1,062,868 down 3.40%. Mr. Gaumond noted that he cannot make a 10% cut as a lot of line items are just the people in the offices.

Police Department and Fire Department – Mr. Gaumond noted that at this time we cannot take a 10% cut without losing anyone. The budget being proposed by the Fire Department will have an impact on the call department.

Public Safety Communications – this item will be slightly decreased.

Building Department – this line item will decreased by 13% due to our efforts with the Town of Sterling. Should this not continue, it will be difficult to bring in this budget.

Sealer of Weights – this line item is being decreased slightly, and what we take in for fees goes out for payment to the state for these services.

Emergency Management – this line item will be cut.

Animal Control – will be decreased in the other expense line item.

Total public safety is down 9% and in at \$1,963,666.

Education – we gave the School Department their number, which is a cut of 5.7%.

Public Works – we will be losing one member of the department, which will impact our ability to deal with field maintenance and how we will manage maintenance without the manpower. Fees may need to be used for maintenance

Snow and Ice Removal – this line item has to be level funded.

Street Lights – we do not yet have the final number, and will go with a level funded number.

Trash and disposal is being fully funded and we have a contract for next year.

Cemetery is being reduced from last year to the best of our ability.

Public Works is cut by 3.7%.

Board of Health – this will have a small cut and they will have to rely on their revolving funds. They also may have to reduce hours for the department.

Council on Aging – this is being funded at the basic minimum we need to spent to keep the program operating. We will fund salary, telephone and the newsletter. Any further reduction would eliminate the Director and require a staff of volunteers. Mr. DiPietro questioned whether there would be sufficient funding the run the van. Mr. Gaumond indicated that the WRTA funds the van, and the Director of the COA continues to rely on volunteers.

Veteran's services is level funded. This year we didn't spent all that we budgeted for FY09.

Total human services is -6.6%

Library – the requested budget is \$313,000

Celebrations – this line item will be eliminated.

Arts Council – will be eliminated

Debt Principal and Debt Interest and Interest on Temporary Loans are decreasing by 4.70%.

Intergovernmental includes our Central Mass Regional Planning Commission assessment of \$1,509 and our membership in MORE, who are waiving fees for FY10.

County Retirement –is a fixed cost.

Workers' Compensation it is a fixed cost and will be decreased

With regard to Unemployment Insurance, is a fixed cost and will be increased.

Group Health Insurance will be decreased due to our MIIA Rewards Program.

Life Insurance is a fixed cost.

Medicare Insurance is a fixed cost.

Total Employee Benefits is up 4.1%

Mr. Gaumond explained that his goal was to try to get the library funding in at a 10% cut or at \$285,000. Right now he only has \$70,000 to put towards that budget leaving us with a \$210,000 deficit. If we make changes in trash or in other areas some of those savings could go to the library. We have a \$18.95 million dollar budget with \$19,025,000 available to spend. Mr. Gaumond noted that he tried to meet the Board's request to continue to fund public safety at the same staffing levels.

Mr. Gaumond noted that some departments will have a real tough time and need to be very creative in their approaches. He asked the Board to review the numbers and provide him comments.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announce that a Compliance Review was conducted for the Rural Development Community Facilities Loan for the Beaman Memorial Public Library and they were found to be civil rights compliant.

It was recommended that we do more to enhance the participation of minorities, females and individual with disabilities to apply to serve as Library Trustees and on all town boards. Mr. Gaumond believes that this announcement at a public meeting will comply with what they are asking us to do.

2. Review MMA Spring Legislative Breakfast Meeting Schedule

Mr. Gaumond plans to attend the February 27th session in Hopkinton.

3. February 28, 9-3:00 p.m. – SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise in the High School Cafeteria

We still have openings for people to participate in this exercise, and Mr. Gaumond encouraged anyone wishes to do so to contact his office.

4. March 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Board to Review Pay-as-You-Throw Options

Mr. Gaumond noted that we are getting to decision time and he will need to have clear indication as to what the Board would like to see in the FY10 budget.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. DiPietro would like to invite a high ranking official from Charter Communications in to talk to the Board as he read in the newspaper that they were going to file for bankruptcy, received a bail out from different conglomerates and he hopes that maybe they would be willing to wire our town offices at no cost to the town.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. McCormick at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. DiPietro, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: March 4, 2009

Valmore H. Pruneau, Vice Chairman

John B. DiPietro, Sr., Selectman

Kevin M. McCormick, Selectman