

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher Rucho
Valmore H. Pruneau Allen R. Phillips
Members absent: Steven Quist

Mr. McCormick reminded everyone that town meeting has been rescheduled for November 9th due to lack of a quorum and encouraged everyone to attend so that we can do town business.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the meeting minutes for the October 19, 2009 regular session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the meeting minutes for the October 21, 2009 executive session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the meeting minutes for the October 21, 2009 regular session, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

School Superintendent Tom Kane – Discussion On Moving Vocational School Expenses To Its Own Line Item In The Budget

School Superintendent Tom Kane joined the Board with School Committee member Peter Desy. At the May town meeting Superintendent Kane raised the question whether or not vocational education expenses should have its own line item in the budget. In anticipation of moving forward we are having this discussion.

Mr. Kane explained that West Boylston does not belong to a regional vocational technical district. We have explored this and for one reason or another we have not joined. If a student wishes to apply for the opportunity to attend a vocational school the town has an obligation to pay if they are accepted. Previously it was Worcester Vocational School and it is now shifted to Assabet. In the past 30-35 students left West Boylston for Assabet. The cost as always included in the School Department budget. In the past seven years the tuition rate has continued to increase. In FY04 we had 35 students at a cost of \$10,400 per each student, at a cost of a little under \$400,000. In the last few years what has happened is the number of students interested in going to vocational education schools has grown dramatically. This past year we budgeted for 62 students and the tuition for those students is up to \$878,000. The cost for vocational education has grown dramatically and the amount of money has become a major part of the School Department budget. The increase has a direct impact on what we have for the education budget.

Mr. Kane further noted that last year they were cut about \$500,000 and the cost for Assabet went up \$215,000. Moving it out of the School Department budget does not do anything to control that line item. We do not have an option and we have to pay because of the way the law reads. It is a cost we have really no control over and the rational to put it as a separate line item is it will show this is the cost to educate the students who attend another school district. Mr. Kane does not think the community understands how much the cost is and the cuts needed to balance the budget. Finance Director Michael Daley put together a report and outlined that there are plusses and minuses to having this in the School Department. We could budget for 62 and only 60 leave. If it were in its own line item the money would go back to the town. For Mr. Kane it is making the community understand those funds are vocational education and it shows education inside and outside of the community.

Mr. Desy explained that the cost of vocational education also includes transportation and the states have attempted to reimburse. We may have to use additional money budget for students in town to transport the regional student to vocational education. We have budgeted about \$30,000 for busing and Boylston contracts for the bus. The state passed a law for non-member towns to pay for

transpiration and we have been reimbursed at a 15% rate. Five years ago these costs were 4% of the school's budget this year it is about 10%. Mr. Rucho questioned how Charter Schools are handled. Mr. Kane explained that Charter Schools are not in our budget and that is a deduction from our Chapter 70 funds. According to Mr. Kane the cost between bussing and tuition is \$895,750. We could put it into a separate line item. It is not a money saver for the school. Mr. Phillips questioned who would control the line item. Mr. Kane stated the School Department would be in charge. He feels we need to educate the voters on this. Mr. Phillips asked other than showing the cost what would be the benefit? Mr. Kane replied nothing that is it will just show where the money is going. Maybe it would be in the town's best interest if we were a member of a vocational district. It is a cost to the community. This has a great impact on funding education and it is not a negative commentary on Assabet or a vocational school.

Mr. Phillips asked if we were a member is it a yearly assessment. Mr. Kane advised that it is a yearly assessment. Mr. Desy noted that it would be a separate line item, separate school committee and hopefully the Regional School Task Force is also looking into this. Mr. Rucho questioned whether the School Committee has looked into it whether it would be better to be a member? Mr. Desy advised that the School Committee has not, although the Regional School Task Force has been set up and that is one of the things that they could be looking at.

Steven Paige, member of the Regional School Task Force, reported that this is one of the things the committee is looking at, whether it would be more advantageous to the town to join or to just tuition kids in because there is a cost associated with it. Mr. Rucho noted that the funds are being used for education. Mr. Kane noted that the town has a responsibility to educate the students and the law requires that. His point is the School Department and the School Committee are charged with quality education in the school district. We have to let the students go. Mr. McCormick feels this is a fixed cost and we cannot cut it out, we just have to pay it and if it were on a different line item people would see it. Mr. Kane added there are certain things in the School Department's budget that you have a legal obligation to provide. This is a cost that is not fixed it can change and it has dramatically. Mr. Kane has been working with Assabet to make sure they follow time lines so we know the numbers we are trying to work with. Mr. Phillips noted that according to what Mr. Daley says if there is money left over then the town owns the money. What happens if it is not enough.

Mr. Kane advised that as of April 1 Assabet puts out the list of the number of students they intend to take and after that date they cannot take anymore. A student can't decide in the middle of the year that they wish to attend Assabet. Mr. Phillips questioned how you would handle a case of a student moving into West Boylston from another community who was attending Assabet. Mr. Kane noted that if they were already in a vocational program we own the cost. Mr. Desy explained that if a student desires to go to an agricultural vocational school there is only one school and it is located in Norfolk. There are districts that send vans daily.

Motion Mr. Phillips to take this under advisement for now and to have the Board provide Mr. Gaumond with any additional questions, seconded by Mr. Pruneau. Mr. Kane stated that he is not expecting the Board to make any decision tonight. He just wanted to provide this information to them as we go into the budget season.

Mr. Gaumond would agree with what the School Committee wants to do, however, he would not want to lose a tool in the tool box. If town meeting voted a lower number than what was requested the question really needs to be we have a reporting issue as opposed to a budgeting issue on town meeting floor. He is willing to look at this funding and there has to be a happy medium so the town knows what are true cost of education is. He suggested education through town meeting on what goes into that cost.

Mr. Gaumond is willing to work with Mr. Kane and the School Committee on how to accomplish this. He would not have an objection and neither would Finance Director Michael Daley.

Mr. Kane noted that they have looked at the pros and cons; however, there is the issue of the fact that dollars spent for the school district are being diminished in ways not visible to the town. Mr. Gaumond thinks it is proper education of the town's people. If there is a middle ground he would be willing to go down that road. Mr. Rucho asked about the reimbursement process. Mr. Kane explained that the town pays for the education and the reimbursement we get through Chapter 70 includes vocational education.

Mr. Rucho suggested a breakdown in line items saying West Boylston education and Assabet student education. Mr. Kane is willing to work with Mr. Gaumond on getting the information to the voters. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

The Board thanked Mr. Kane and Mr. Desy for attending the meeting.

John Scannell, Quarterly Update On Construction Of Wachusett Earthday Project

Mr. Gaumond received an email a couple of weeks ago from Mr. Scannell reminded him that our agreement with DCR calls for quarterly updates. Mr. Scannell stated that he had a very nice meeting with Mr. Gaumond and the Fire and Police Chiefs and information was also sent to the Building Inspector. The agenda package contains the Health and Safety Plan portion of the Operational Plan. They are most of the way through site construction and they found some unsuitable materials which they hauled off the site. The contractor did not feel that the materials should be left in place. The only had one small area of ledge. The initial plan called for an area to the right having a retaining wall. However, in conversation with vendors they recommend going with containers at grade so the wall was eliminated. They are still in a place where the monies dedicated to the project are holding up and the site work is close the complete. The septic system is being designed and it may get constructed this fall. It is going along fairly well and they hope to have a hazardous waste collection in before the winter. It will be a four-hour time frame and they met with the Police and Fire Chiefs last week and they had a good meeting about traffic flow. He thinks they were fairly satisfied. The site has been designed to get car storage onto the site and off of the road. To be cautious they will ask for a detail as it is hard to gauge the crowd.

Mr. Rucho asked about the parking area, and asked if it a drive through and the deposit items. Mr. Scannell explained that during a hazardous waste collection event you drive up and open your trunk. The company doing the collection does everything. You check in and give you town and they remove the items. They have one person who will be there to identify the costs. The parking area will be used for the Wachusett Earth day volunteers, which are between 50 and 60. Mr. Pruneau asked if they had encountered ground water. Mr. Scannell noted that the circle area in the middle per was 36 inches. People are stopped at the beginning of the site. Mr. Phillips asked if they anticipated anyone on the roadway as he is concerned with the hill. Mr. Scannell expects the biggest days will be the hazardous waste collections. They can store 50 cars in one area and the cars can get around them. They have fourteen years of experience and on the busiest of days there were 40 cars at one time. When we had our events twice a year we occasionally had somebody from an outside town, however, it was rare. Mr. Philips asked whether the Health and Safety Plan was reviewed by the Fire Chief. Mr. Scannell noted that the Chief has a copy of the Plan. Mr. Rucho questioned whether they still intend to provide lighting. Mr. Scannell advised that the entrance will be lighted and ultimately there will be lighting on whatever buildings they will erect on the site. Mr. Pruneau asked if it will be gated. Mr. Scannell noted that it will be gate. Mr. Phillips asked about the hazardous waste area to the rear of the property. According to Mr. Scannell that area will be used for chemicals, paints, pesticides and insecticides. It is unlikely that oil and antifreeze will be collected as they are trying to find a way to help people get rid of hard to get rid of items and other places take oil and antifreeze. Mr. Rucho asked about a price list for residents. Mr. Scannell explained that the company who is in charge of the

collection does an estimate on how full a container is and they work out specific numbers. He does not if they can produce a price list ahead of time, but will look into it. Perhaps something such what does it cost to get rid of a gallon of paint. Mr. Rucho asked the target date for the next collection. Mr. Scannell anticipates the time will be the first Saturday in December.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the next time Mr. Scannell will report back to the Board will be in February. After the first hazardous collection Mr. Gaumond would like a report on how it went and Mr. Scannell also thinks it would be a good idea to get together.

OLD BUSINESS

1.Charles Derrah, Olde Century Farm Road curb cut issue

Mr. Gaumond wrote to Mr. Derrah, sent him a copy of the Planning Board's response, and advised him we were going to discuss the issue this evening, he does not see Mr. Derrah present. Mr. Phillips recommends tabling this until Mr. Derrah can be in attendance for the discussion. Mr. Pruneau agrees.

Public Hearing: Re: Consider Amending The Office Hours For The Office Of The Treasurer/Tax Collector On Wednesdays Prior To A Thursday Holiday

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, November 4, 2009 at 7:45 p.m. for the purpose of considering amending the office hours for the Office of the Treasurer/Tax Collector on Wednesdays prior to a Thursday holiday. 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. Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman, advertised on October 21, 28, 2009.

Mr. Gaumond explained that every year at Thanksgiving time he comes before the Board to get permission to have the Office of the Treasurer/Tax Collection close at a normal time. Wednesday nights they typically stay open until 7:00 and this change would allow them to close at a normal time. There is no one to comment on this request.

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

Motion Mr. Phillips to amend the office hours for the Office of the Treasurer/Tax Collector for Wednesday nights prior a Thursday holiday, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Request from Christ Lutheran Church for Transient Vendor License to sell holiday trees

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor. Mr. Phillips suggested including this during the annual license renewal rather than as a separate request. The Board is amendable to that suggestion. Mr. McCormick suggested including the Masonic Temple as well as they sell holiday trees and do not get a license.

2. Request from Mothers & Company, 140 Worcester Street, for a one-day liquor license to serve beer & wine on November 7th of their Grand Opening Week

Mr. McCormick recused himself. Today Mr. Gaumond attended the Grand Opening of Mothers & Company. They told him as they do not anticipating selling any alcohol, they may not require the one-day license. Although Mr. Gaumond did not hear back from the Board of Health, all

other departments have indicated that the business is in compliance. If the Board is willing to grant the license it would be provided that the Board of Health has no issue.

Motion Mr. Rucho to grant the for a one-day liquor license to serve beer & wine on November 7th of their Grand Opening Week provided that the Board of Health has no issue, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Mr. McCormick returned to the meeting.

3. Request input on town goals & objectives

Should any members of the Board have any town goals they would like to see for next year, they need to forward them to Mr. Gaumond. He has outreached to town residents and the various departments for their input so that he can present a list to the Selectmen for their deliberation. Mr. Philips questioned whether we had any way to collect information on what the towns' people think we should be working on. Mr. Gaumond explained that this is a process we have done annually for four years, he also sends out a blog, and surprisingly we get little input.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. November 5, 2009 – 10:00-11:30 a.m. - Lt. Governor to hold Municipal Cabinet Meeting at the Framingham Town Hall

Mr. Gaumond will attend the meeting tomorrow.

2. November 9, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. – Semi-Annual Town Meeting, Middle/High School

3. November 12, 2009, 1:00-3:00, Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission regional local boards training for regulators at the Leominster City Hall Auditorium

Mr. Gaumond noted that Mrs. Lucier will be attending this training

4. November 13, 2009 – 5:30-9:00 p.m. – Nashua River Watershed Association 40th Anniversary Celebration & Annual Meeting, Fitchburg Armory

5. November 16, 2009 – 6:30 p.m. – Economic Development Committee Roundtable Meeting for Businesses

This meeting will be held in Conference room #1 and letters have been sent out to the local businesses. In addition, Mr. Gaumond sent out a blog. The Planning Board, Building Inspector and DPW will be in attendance and it will be a good opportunity for the business community to discuss any issues they may have.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Pruneau thanked the DPW for getting the crack sealing done. Mr. Gaumond noted that Mr. Westerling indicated to him that is should be completed n two days. Mr. Pruneau thanked Mr. Westerling for a job well done.

Mr. McCormick would like to revisit the ability to broadcast the Selectmen's meetings live. Under the budget fix at town meeting he would like to include funds to trench power to the new holiday tree. He believes the estimate is about \$500. The last time we had an issue with the tree lights on the original tree it was paid for privately. Mr. Gaumond suggested transferring the money to his line item.

Motion Mr. Phillips to transfer the funds to bring power to the holiday tree into the Town Administrator's line item at town meeting, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond explained that every year we prepare a ComCap Application. In the past we have used some of the free hours of service Central Mass Regional Planning Commission provides to the town for planning exercises. This year the Planning Board will be using those extra hours. Mr.

Gaumond requested the Board's approval to transfer \$800 into the Town Administrator's line item to cover the cost of having Central Mass Regional Planning Commission prepare the town's ComCap application.

Motion Mr. Phillips to transfer the sum of \$800 to the Town Administrator's line item to cover the ComCap Application, seconded by Mr. Pruneau, all in favor.

Mr. Rucho questioned the status of the gentleman who came in and offered to prepare grants for the town. Mr. Gaumond reported that the gentleman and his wife had a new child and he will outreach to him to see what his status is.

Motion Mr. Phillips at 8:15 p.m. for the Board to enter executive session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to union negotiations and litigation strategy, and the Board will not be going back into open session, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. Pruneau, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Phillips yes and 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. Pruneau, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Phillips yes and Mr. Rucho yes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 3, 2010

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Vice Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman