

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

Mr. McCormick convened the special goal setting meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Gaumond outlined the benefits achieved through goal setting. They include it gets everyone pulling together, helps you spend your time more effectively, establishes clear guidelines for the Town Administrator, gives you some useful budget guidelines, helps you communicate with constituents and build support for programs and policies and it gives you an evaluation pool. When you set goals and agreed on priorities, you have a benchmark against which you can measure how well you are governing.

Board members provided the following suggested needs of the town. Mr. Phillips - town hall and finances. Mr. Pruneau – DPW services and reorganization, combining some of the town services and a long-range plan for uses of the pool and town hall. Mr. McCormick – cost cutting by combining sewer/water department, look at privatizing such functions as street sweeping, mowing lawns and parks, scheduling departments to save money on fire, police and DPW, a long-range building plan and getting the right people in the right positions. Mr. Phillips – personal preparedness within the community. Mr. Quist – economic development, what do we have in this town to offer businesses, and proper land use. We have land in town owned by some individuals and maybe we should help those individuals in the use of their land, the need for preservation of buildings, lack of spirit in town, have business and community organizations work together in town, and lack of systems/procedures. Mr. Phillips suggested preparing a new Selectmen's handbook to better orient new Board members and perhaps do the same for other boards as well.

With regard to a new town hall and long-range building plans, Mr. Gaumond noted that the new Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee will look at those needs this year. Mr. McCormick passed on an idea he heard, which was a regional middle/high school, and move the elementary school to the middle/high school and the elementary school could be turned into a town hall. Mr. Rucho would like to invite the regional school committee in to provide the Selectmen with an update similar to what they did for the School Committee. In addition to the long-range building plans, we need to have a plan for municipal buildings no longer being used. Mr. Phillips would like to concentrate on new revenues to cut down some of our expenses. Mr. McCormick noted strides the Board already made with pay-as-you-throw the local option taxes for hotel/motels and the food tax. Mr. Quist feels finances and economic development need to work together to enhance businesses to come into town. Mr. Rucho pointed out the fact that we have an Economic Development Committee and there are not a lot of people interested in coming into West Boylston as we do not have a lot of land or vacant properties on Route 12. Mr. McCormick suggested cost cutting through privatizing services using basin cleaning and street sweeping as examples. Combining the town's sewer system with the water district was also mentioned. Mr. Phillips recommends the Police Chief, Fire Chief and DPW Director work on personal emergency preparedness to include a list of handicapped residents. Mr. Quist feels we have a potential on Lee Street to help the property owner do something with the property. He would also like to focus on preserving our municipal buildings. There are some people who would like to pump new life into the DPW building and make it a showcase. He will present a plan to the Board through the Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee. He would also like to work on community spirit and improvement of systems and procedures.

Goals and objectives include Gateway Improvements and Town Beautification. Mr. Phillips recommends getting the word out on the program and providing interested businesses with a specific

list of guidelines they would need to follow. He would also like to publish information on the website about our affordable housing numbers.

Improve parks and recreation programs is another goal. Mr. Phillips noted that many communities have full day programs and he recommends we move towards that goal and market the program. Mr. Quist questioned whether Mr. Gaumond goes out and talks with the business owners in town. The Board suggested having a discussion with the Economic Development Task Force. Another goal for the year is to renegotiate the trash contract and explore other trash collection options. Mr. Rucho asked how the trash bags sales are going and are they covering our disposal costs and suggested getting that information out.

Mr. Phillips would like to expand regional services. Mr. Gaumond noted that he is currently working on regional efforts for dispatch, Council on Aging and Parks and Recreation. The consultant we are using for the regional dispatch effort will have his final report out in the next week. Mr. McCormick suggested reorganizing the sewer organization or doing a study to reorganize to try to save money.

With regards to the budget and finances, we will look at cost cutting efforts to maintain level services without extra expenses. It was agreed to assign March 1 as a deadline for the Gateway Beautification Program and June 1 for Community Preparedness Program.

Outstanding issues include Mr. McCormick meeting with Mr. Gaumond on the land transfer issues, the wage and classification plan, street lights and a budget conversation. With regard to the street lights, the Board suggested taking the approach of spending a certain amount of money and asking the Light Department what the number would get them.

Other board reminders included signing the warrants and three employee contracts up for renewal this calendar year, including the Fire Chief, DPW Director and Town Administrator.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: January 20, 2010

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Valmore H. Pruneau, Vice Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

Steven Quist, Selectman