

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
 Steven Quist John O'Brien
 Allen Phillips

Mr. McCormick convened the Selectmen's retreat meeting at 7:00 p.m., which is being held at Choey Lee's Restaurant.

Discussion of Selectmen Responsibilities and Roles

Mr. Gaumond outlined the important responsibilities of the Board which include communication with staff, media and the general public; guidance on establishing goals and objectives for the town and staff; ceremonial as the people of the town need to see the Selectmen as special events; and, promotional as the Selectmen take a lead in representing local government to outside communities who are interested in sharing services.

Benefits of Goal Setting

Mr. Gaumond outlined the benefits of goal setting which include getting everyone on the same page, helps you spend time wisely, establishes clearly defined goals and guidelines for the Town Administrator, helps establish budget guidelines, helps with communication with constituents and provides measuring tool for evaluations.

The goal processes we will use this evening will be to first identify the issues and needs of the town. Once the list has been developed we will set the goals, then set priorities and then determine which goals are the priorities for the Town Administrator to move forward with. Mr. Gaumond noted that one of the things the Board of Selectmen should think about is the Town Administrator's evaluation is coming up in the next month.

Discussion of Town Goals

Mr. Phillips - work with the School Committee on attracting and keeping students in West Boylston.

Mr. O'Brien – budget is priority, and increase Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Rucho questions whether there is any way we can control what accounts people take money out of such as the trash budget and voiced concerns regarding pay-as-you-throw. Controlling town meeting's use of the Stabilization Fund.

Mr. McCormick – change sewer department operation.

Mr. Phillips – more community events and get more people involved.

Mr. Rucho – highlight community events.

Mr. Phillips - work with Parks Commission to expand summer recreation plan. Expanding the charge of the Celebrations Committee to look at all the town events and get people involved, and bring back West Boylston Day.

Mr. Quist – we have to start with being pro active, especially in this economy, and the way we do things. He suggested teaming the schools up with high-powered businesses and tie in with Bose and HP to benefit the schools. Mr. McCormick pointed out the fact that there is a limit as to what the little businesses can do and it is not that easy. Mr. Quist advised that HP has a program.

Mr. Phillips suggests first goal should be working with the schools to attract and keep students.

Other suggestions included – senior center, promotional brochures, gateways.

Mr. Rucho asked to have the National Grid property at the railroad tracks on Route 140 cleaned up.

Other suggestions, town hall, training, regionalism, town pool demolish or rebuild. Have public meeting to take comments on the Mixter property is it an asset/liability.

Other suggestions more public meetings, reuse of former landfill, Tivnan Drive property, wage and classification study.

Goals for FY2011

1. Re-examine pay-as-you-throw
2. Senior Center/Senior Services
3. More community events and spirit
4. More public meetings for citizen input
5. Increase investments in rainy day funds
6. Plan for municipal lands/properties
7. Motion Mr. Phillips to include as a goal to work with the School Committee to improve school marketing and retain/attract students, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Phillips and Quist yes; Messrs. McCormick, O’Brien and Rucho no.

Motion Mr. Phillips to work with the School Committee to build closer relationships on school issues, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Phillips, Quist and O’Brien yes; Messrs. McCormick and Rucho no.

8. Bring operations and maintenance of the Sewer Department in house
9. Implement Economic Development issues.
10. Town Beautification
11. Improve Recreation
12. Human resources to try to improve our practices

Outstanding Issues

1. Budget FY2012. The same process will be followed with fixed costs being backed out, look at the revenue and divide the numbers 2/3 school and 1/3 town. Mr. Phillips requested a budget time line. It was agreed to meet on November 15th to review the revenue picture and to extend an invitation to both the School and Finance Committees to attend.

2. Holiday decorations. Mr. McCormick agreed to meet with the Municipal Light Plant on this item.

3. Review of Selectmen Assignments. The Board reviewed their list and agreed to remove the Street Light Subcommittee and Vision and Mission Statement Update. Mr. Rucho’s assignment to the Community Preservation Committee will be removed as it is not as a designee of the Selectmen. Mr. Rucho questioned the need to post DPW Liaison meetings and requested clarification on whether it is required under the new Open Meeting Law. Mr. Gaumond will inquire with the Attorney General’s Office.

4. Land Swap with DCR. The proposal from DCR was they would give the town a parcel of flat land on Prospect Street in exchange for River Road and the town’s portion of the rail trail. Mr. Phillips noted that the Board is still awaiting soil test results from DCR which indicate that the land was acceptable to use. Mr. McCormick wants to retain ownership of the rail trail. Mr. Phillips would like to exchange River Road for the Prospect Street property. This will be scheduled for a future agenda item.

Motion Mr. Phillips to have Mr. Gaumond approach John Scannell of DCR with a proposal to swap River Road for the field on Prospect Street, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

5. The evaluation of the Town Administrator is due and there have been some changes in the Open

Meeting Law as to what is public record. Mr. Gaumond is unclear as to whether the individual Board evaluations become public record.

Reminders

1. Warrants need to be signed each weekend by the Board of Selectmen.
2. Should a member of the Board be out of town for vacation or work, it would be helpful to inform the office or note the dates on the calendar in the Office of the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator.
3. Mr. Gaumond will be meeting with the Community Preservation Committee next Wednesday. He plans to schedule a meeting with the Board and the CPC for a future date to work out some of the issues the Selectmen brought up at their last meeting.
4. The Moderator is not available for the October 18th town meeting. The first order of business will be the election of a temporary Moderator for the evening.
5. Preparation for Selectmen's Meetings. Mr. Gaumond asked the Board if they are receiving all the necessary agenda information in advance of the meeting. No one indicated otherwise.
6. The FAA Contract for accounting services expires on June 30, 2011. Mr. Gaumond intends to go out to bid for the services.
7. The Town Administrator contract is due. In the past, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Phillips served as the negotiating team and the Board is amenable to continuing that practice.

Other Items

Mr. McCormick stressed the need to be firm with the School Committee concerning the budget process which has been established.

Mr. Quist questioned when the town took over lining the ball fields for the school. He was advised that the task has always been performed by the town.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Phillips at 10:00 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: October 20, 2010

Nancy E. Lucier

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Steven J. Quist, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John J. O'Brien, Selectman