

Members present: Kevin McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
Allen Phillips Steven Quist

Members absent: John O'Brien

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

Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the regular session meeting minutes of January 19, 2011 seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the regular session meeting minutes of February 9, 2011, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Request for Intradepartmental Transfers

1. Request for intradepartmental transfer from DPW Salaries and Wages to Purchased Services in the amount of \$5,000

The is the second request to transfer \$5,000 from DPW Salaries and Wages to Purchased Services to cover costs associated with the lawful disposal of contaminated catch basins by CEA on Worcester Street, Pheasant Hill Run and Marsh Hawk Way. The total cost of CEA's work is \$13,164.84. The line item will continue to be monitored, and if needed, will be adjusted at town meeting.

Motion Mr. Phillips to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

2. Request for intradepartmental transfer from Sewer Reserve Fund to Sewer Admin Purchased Services in the amount of \$14,000

The funds are needed to cover the costs of litigation for property owner who did not connect to the sewer system. This is an ongoing process and future requests should be a little lower, and we also have a judgment for reimbursement.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

John Scannell Update on Wachusett Earthday

Mr. Scannell joined the Board and reports that the weather has slowed things down occasionally on Wednesdays at the Earthday site. Their monthly Saturday collection is this Saturday, which brings in 25-30 people. The third Saturday in April will be their first hazardous production collection event of the year. Winter weather kept them from finalizing their electrical collection. Things move along smoothly at the site and he plans to report back to the Board in another six months. If there any other items the Board wishes to discuss with Mr. Scannell they will provide him with a list in advance of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider recommendation of the Naming Committee to name the new basketball courts at Goodale Park

The Naming Committee has reviewed a proposal sent to the Town Administrator from Susan Haines requesting consideration to name the new basketball courts after her father, Robert J. Halloran. The Committee reviewed the history as to why this naming was so deserving and are recommending to

the Selectmen that they vote to accept his name and present this to town meeting. Mr. Rucho questioned whether this has been given to the Parks Commission. Mr. McCormick suggesting holding off until March 16th to solicit input from the School, Parks Commission and Parks Facilities Committee.

2. On behalf of the Celebrations Committee vote to accept \$500 donation from the West Boylston Firemen's Association

Motion Mr. Rucho to accept the \$500 donation from the West Boylston Firemen's Association on behalf of the Celebrations Committee, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion- Messrs. McCormick, Quist and Rucho yes; Mr. Phillips abstains.

3. Vote to accept \$300 donation to the town from Anthony Meola

Motion Mr. Quist to accept a \$300 donation to the town from Anthony Meola, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Mr. Meola, who is a member of the Municipal Light Board, wishes to donate his salary to the town rather than taking payment. Vote on the motion, all in favor.

Christine Mazeika, Request to Serve on Personnel Board as Employee Designee

Motion Mr. Rucho to appoint Christine Mazeika as the employee designee to the Personnel Board, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Public Hearing: Re, Consider Amending Ambulance Rates

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, February 16, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of considering an increase in ambulance rates. The meeting will be held in Conference Room #1 of town hall, 127 Hartwell Street, West Boylston. For additional information, or to review the proposed changes, please contact Fire Chief Richard Pauley, Jr., at (508) 835-3233. All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend. Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman, advertised on February 2, 9, 2011. Mr. Phillips recused himself.

Fire Chief Richard Pauley, Jr., joined the Board. He explained that the department routinely reviews its ambulance rates and this is typically an annual process. Last year they opted not to do an increase the rates and in hindsight now they have to catch up. A couple of changes in Medicare have cut their rates and put a rule in effect that they will not pay for certain services that are provided. They give a flat rate and it does not cover our costs. In his discussions with area chiefs, and Mr. Martin of Comstar, Chief Pauley developed a proposed middle of the road rate schedule. Mr. Rucho noted that it is a good 20% increase. Chief Pauley explained that in the past we would go about 5%, however, with changes in the economy and health insurance many communities are going Medicare plus 100% or Medicare plus 200%. Mr. Rucho asked if the fees pay for a portion of the ambulance services. Chief Pauley explained that from July 1 to January 1, 2011 they have taken in \$247,000, or maybe \$255,000. Last year they took in \$450,000 to \$460,000. The only thing they have done in the past with these funds is pull a little out for the replacement of the ambulance. We have not done a break down on fleet costs and all the costs involved. In some communities all the receipts go back to the Fire Department to run the ambulance service. The Chief thinks what we are doing now works and it should be treated as a revenue of the town. Mr. Rucho noted that usually when you set a fee you see what it costs to run the program, however, in this case we do not. Chief Pauley added that we are losing money on the Medicare reimbursement rate. These are above the Medicare rates because Medicare rates do not cover the costs. What we are losing on the Medicare side and making it up with the private insurances. These rates will bring us to a little higher than Sterling, however, comparable to Holden. And 90% is

covered by insurance. Our income is a little down this year by \$12,000 and Chief Pauley thinks it is because of the Medicare reimbursement rate because they are not covering what they used to cover. Our collection rate is 87-88%.

If someone is not covered by insurance, the Fire Chief can write the bill off. With some of our customers we are getting inaccurate names and addresses. Mr. Phillips, speaking from the audience, asked who pays when the department responds to the jail. Chief Pauley advised that the jail pays in full in 30 days. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is attempting to create a system that they would reimburse the patient directly. Through the Fire Chief Associations they are fighting this. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is pushing this because they want us to sign on with them on the rates they would pay. It is possible that it would have an impact on us. Mr. Rucho remembers a discussion on finding out how much it costs to run each department. Mr. Gaumond explained that he is committed to The Cost of Government Project, which is still being developed. There is no one present who wishes to speak on the issue.

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

Motion Mr. Quist to approve the adjusted ambulance rates as presented by the Fire Chief, effective March 2, 2011, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Mr. Phillips returned to the meeting.

Public Hearing, Re: Amending Investment Policy #F-4

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, February 16, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of considering amending its Investment Policy, #F-4. The meeting will be held at 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 February 2, 9, 2011.

Mr. Gaumond explained that one of the financial policies the Board adopted in 2008 was an Investment Policy. At that time the FDIC insurance protection limit was \$100,000 and it was mentioned in two places within the policy under Section C-1 and C-4. The FDIC has changed from \$100,000 to \$250,000 and we recommend that the policy be amended not to reflect a number but rather to include the language "the prevailing FDIC limit" in both places. There is no one present who wishes to speak on the change.

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

Motion Mr. Phillips to amend Investment Policy #F-4 as recommended, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

6. Town Administrator Update on Town Goals

Goal #1 - Implement the West Boylston Economic Development/marketing program. This goal will be met when at 80% of the action steps of the plan are implemented by the end of the year. We have developed an information brochure, which Mr. Rucho, member of the Economic Development Task Force, reports should be completed. They developed a logo/slogan contest and Mr. Rucho reports that 80 people submitted suggestions, which were narrowed down to 12. From the 12, the winner, by a two to one margin was Small Town, Big Heart. Mr. Rucho noted that two people

submitted this as their suggestion. The Welcome to West Boylston signs are in process and we will begin the program with two signs. The Task Force is also working on developing a web presence. We are also in the process of establishing procedures to tour local businesses, and they are developing a list of all available property in the community, and become a member of an Economic Target Area. Mr. Gaumond noted that we are still on track with all of these projects.

Goal #2 - Gateway improvement/beautification. Mr. Gaumond stated that we are committed to implementing this by the end of the year.

Goal #3 - Reexamination of Pay As You Throw. The Finance Director made a presentation to the Board on pay-as-you-throw. What remains is whatever the Board wishes to do with a strategy moving forward with the recommendation of the Finance Director, which is dissolve the revolving fund and look at this as a local receipt.

Goal #4 - Examination of Senior Center/Senior Services in West Boylston. Mr. Gaumond would like to move the deliverable dates on this project. He would like to move them to June/July.

Goal #5 - Improve parks & recreation programs. Success is measured with the parks facilities improved as per performance plan, the creation of recreation programs offered to town residents, summer recreation program offered to town residents and evaluation of programs to building a sustainable framework. Mr. Gaumond is committed to the evaluation component and we have to begin looking at the Summer Recreation Program immediately. The recreation programs have begun and have been announced under the our Meetings, Invitations & Announcement section of the agendas. The fire arms safety course was so popular, people were turned away and we will be scheduling a second session. Thus far, people who have participated have been very positive. Jen Breen has gone above and beyond the call of duty helping out on this project. Mr. Gaumond has met with Jen Breen and Karen Barber on a regular basis and we have had a great working relationship.

Motion Mr. Phillips for the Board to send a letter of thanks to Jen Breen for her assistance with the program, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

Goal #6 - Develop a strategic plan for municipal lands & properties. We are still on track to present a plan in August.

Goal #7 - Explore alternatives for the Town Sewer. With the departure of the sewer director, we have to have a conversation with the Board of Sewer Commissioners very soon to discuss what we are going to do with the Sewer Department.

Goal #8 - Human resources. Mr. Gaumond is scheduled to bring this forward in April and requested this be moved forward two months as well. Back to June of 2011 and October 2011 for implementation.

Goal #9 - Increase our investment in the Town's 'rainy-day funds'. The goal we set was 5-15% June of 2010 and June of 2011 we are well on track on this goal.

Mr. Gaumond welcomed comments or suggestions.

Motion Mr. Phillips for the Board to move the dates forward on the Senior Center/Senior Services and Human Resources goals, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

7. Issues with the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Gaumond received correspondence from the Town Clerk regarding concerns she has about the Zoning Board of Appeals. Their meeting minutes and decisions are not being filed in a timely fashion. When we last dealt with ZBA issues, the Selectmen asked him to notify them of any concerns with their performance. Mr. Gaumond recommends that he and a member of the Board met with the ZBA. Mr. Rucho voiced concern of why a member of the Selectmen has to sit with them. He added what possibly could a member sit with them and say to them, file their minutes. The last minutes the Town Clerk has on file for the ZBA are from June of 2010. Outstanding minutes are from August 5,

September 16 and November 18, 2010.

Motion Mr. Phillips to send a very firm letter from the Board of Selectmen to the Chairman of the ZBA and outline the minutes which need to be filed with the Town Clerk and remind him that any decision need to be filed within a timely manner, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Mr. McCormick would like to go as Chairman to Chairman to say this has to stop. Mr. Phillips doesn't think the board should have to babysit a committee and we cannot continually attend the ZBA meetings. He suggested sending a very firm letter saying here is the problem. Mr. Gaumond offered to prepare the letter.

Mr. Rucho noted that when the Board met with the ZBA they spoke about setting up a routine meeting schedule and if needed, meeting just to approve meeting minutes. Mr. Phillips added that because they are appointees of the Board of Selectmen it reflects on us and it needs to be dealt with firmly. Mr. Quist wants to make sure this is not causing any hold ups or problems for people who have applications into the ZBA. Mr. Rucho questions if this is the only committee that does not file minutes timely. Mr. Gaumond states that the Town Clerk has never made him aware of any problem with committees under his jurisdiction. Mr. Rucho noted that he has looked for minutes from other committees are they are not there for months. Vote on the motion – all favor.

8. Clarification Vote

The Finance Director has requested a clarifying vote for the Parks Facility Committee's role in the Goodale Park Improvement Project.

Motion Mr. Phillips, in order to clarify the Selectmen's intent since the inception of the Goodale Park Improvement project I move to designate the Parks Facility Committee the authority to administer the project known as Goodale Park Improvement Project, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

9. DPW/Sewer Director Search

Mr. Gaumond has been receiving comments as to what we should be looking for in our new DPW Director. He welcomed input from the Board. Mr. Phillips noted that we have already advertised, however, we should have had a formal discussion. He suggested having a conversation with Boylston or Sterling about sharing a person and instead hiring a working foreman. Mr. Gaumond will include this discussion on the next agenda as he would like to get the position filled as soon as possible. He also reminded the Board that the position was created through a Special Act and if they intend to split it, we need to be mindful of that. We could bring something forward at the May town meeting and rescind the Special Act, however, it delays greatly our ability to fill that position and might require Mr. Gaumond to hire an Interim Director.

Mr. McCormick agrees that this could take some time and maybe we should look at hiring an interim person now and we could have an opportunity to fix it and do it right and we would not be stressed with a time frame. He suggested having one of the applicants serve as the Interim. Mr. Phillips thinks that would be a better way to go with this. Mr. Rucho noted that we also discussed about maybe hiring an engineer or looking at how other towns operate. Mr. Gaumond noted that if it is an interim situation and we are hiring somebody in two months it is manageable by him, however, if it is going to be a two-year situation, that is different. Mr. Gaumond will outreach to our neighboring communities to see if they are interested in a joint venture. The deadline for application is March 11.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Reminder – Adopt an Island/Square Applications are on-line – winners will be selected at the March 2 Board of Selectmen's Meeting

2. February 17, 6:30 – Listening forum on Chapter 40B Legislation at Berlin Elementary School Cafeteria, 34 South Street, Berlin
3. MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings to be held on Fridays, February 18, 25 and March 11 from 8-10 a.m. at various locations
4. March 26, 11-2 p.m. - Wellness Fair, Middle-High School

SELECTMEN REPORTS

1. Housing Production Plan Meeting – Mr. O'Brien – this will be tabled until the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Phillips noted the absence of the individuals who operate the cameras for us to have cable coverage. He added that often times people think the Board is doing something shifty if they are not on television and he stressed the need for consistency. The Board previously discussed the ability to go live. Mr. Gaumond reminded him that the Board voted to negotiate that into the new contract. If that does not come to fruition, Mr. Phillips would like a backup plan. Mr. Gaumond feels that the issue is we need to get more people to come out and cover the meetings. A part-time person was hired and if there is no one around to help tape the meeting, she needs to be here.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 8:28 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Phillips, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier

Approved: March 2, 2011

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Allen R. Phillips, Vice Chairman

Steven J. Quist, Clerk

Christopher A. Rucho, Selectman

John J. O'Brien, Selectman