

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

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

**Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Motion Mr. McCormick to approve the regular session meeting minutes for the October 5, 2011, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the motion – Messrs. O'Brien, Rucho, McCormick and Quist yes; Mr. Phillips abstains as he was not in attendance at the meeting.

**John Scannell and Colleen Abrams**

John Scannell, Regional Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation joined the Board with Colleen Abrams, President of Wachusett Earthday. Mr. Scannell stated the reason why they are in attendance this evening is because Wachusett Earthday has asked DCR and the Town of West Boylston to consider looking into changes to the agreement which allows only the seven Wachusett towns to use the recycling center on Huntington Highway. Wachusett Earthday is charged with operating and running the center as economically as possible. The site has been operating for two years, has run well and seems to handle the traffic that has been there. Before Wachusett Earthday has further discussions they realize that right from the beginning DCR said it would be open to the seven towns and no one disagreed about that. He added that while DCR understands the economics of the project, they are here to protect our watershed. The driving factor of this request is the economic benefit to the towns. Ms. Abrams stated that she thinks Mr. Scannell has given a good summary of the situation. They think that the economics and use of the facility could be improved by allowing other participants.

Mr. Phillips asked how many communities they are requesting to add. Ms. Abrams advised that they have one in mind and depending on the size it could be one or two. They want to offer a good level of service, but not over commit. They already had in mind that they need to increase the service and it was one of the things the Town of Sterling was looking for, however, Wachusett Earthday did not want to start off delivering more than they could deliver. She added that they have had a very good response from the towns and volunteers who man the facility and they think that are at a point to add to that. The hours are at 2:30 to 4:30 now and Ms. Abrams would like to offer improved services gradually as they do not want to have backups or problems.

Mr. O'Brien noted to Mr. Scannell that if the mission of DCR is to protect the watershed, what is DCR's sense for using the site for this purpose. Mr. Scannell explained that their greatest concern is the watershed and he would not want to double the amount of towns. He thinks the site works well and if you add more bodies the cost per community comes down. They are open to looking at a reasonable proposal that still leaves DCR comfortable as they try to keep the hazardous waste products collection events as inexpensive as they can for users. In addition, a little better traffic numbers will keep the revenue up. They understand the economic piece as well and are open to hearing what may be considered.

Mr. O'Brien asked how many phases there are as he is concerned about neighbors who purchased homes on the street prior to the site being established. Ms. Abrams explained that the phases were in the original agreement. The first phase is preparing and organizing the site and the second was putting a building there. The third was operations which is a continuous phase. Mr. McCormick is

concerned with how big the town would be because all the little towns are already members. He also voiced concerned that it has only been two years and we were promised that no other town would ever be included in this project and now less than two years later you are back asking for more towns, he is unsure that this will not happen in another two years and he is bothered by the fact that it has happened so quickly. Before he can agree he wants to know who the town is and how big they are. Mr. Rucho asked which town is being considered. Ms. Abrams has a couple of possibilities and they would discuss it with the town first. At this point there has not been a specific conversation with any town. Mr. Scannell added that the reason this came up is because Ms. Abrams receives calls from individuals who are interested in using the site, however, there has not been any specific conversation. Ms. Abrams noted that she receives calls occasionally from people who have heard about the site and are not aware that it is not open to everyone and when they had their household hazardous waste collection in Holden a few years ago they did get about ten people from outside, however, that has not happened here in West Boylston. She added that their numbers are not overly busy as it is a site built to handle considerably more capacity. In a three hour collection for a Saturday you can get 300 cars, their busiest Wednesday was a little over 100, with an average of 60.

Mr. Rucho noted that they planned the entire facility on seven towns. Mr. Scannell explained that seven towns was all we would do because it is only to protect the watershed towns and he thinks once you take the next town others will come in. He is here because he would be willing to entertain a conversation and DCR is willing to listen. Mr. Rucho suggested the discussion be around opening the site one or two times a year to a couple of town and if we do not need a building, do not build it. Ms. Abrams explained that the agreement was that six of the seven towns would contribute to the building as part of the agreement. Wachusett Earthday agreed to do some fundraising, which is going forward and these are hard times, tax wise for the towns. We are cramming things into a trailer and losing things we could have saved. Mr. Quist asked if Wachusett Earthday is non-profit. Ms. Abrams indicated that it is a group of volunteers with no paid staff. Mr. Quist would like to see the books. Ms. Abrams indicated that the Site Team, which is comprised of representatives from all the towns, gets a financial report of the collects and financials. The report from last fiscal year is about to be shared with the Site Team. Mr. Gaumond is the Board's appointment to the Site Team and Mr. Rucho is the alternate. He will prepare a package for the Board.

Mr. Phillips indicated that he has used the site, found it to be well run and he didn't see any back up. He has the same concerns about the number of cars this could bring in and if and when the Board does make a decision he would like to know the town and the amount of traffic which could potentially come in as he does not want to create a burden for the neighbors. He gave Wachusett Earthday and DCR credit for doing everything they said they were going to do and he would rather see a small building on the site rather than the small ugly trailers. He does not intend to agree with the proposal unless there is something in it for West Boylston. Mr. Abrams noted that the benefits accrue to all the seven participants. Mr. Phillips pointed out that West Boylston police and fire departments are responsible for responding to the facility and we have more of the burden and still have to pay as everyone else. He thinks the Board should have a discussion and he would like to put this on an upcoming agenda.

Motion Mr. Quist to schedule a discussion about opening up the Earthday site to non-Watershed communities, seconded by Mr. McCormick. Mr. Phillips would like to discuss what West Boylston would like out of the proposal. Vote on the motion- Messrs. Phillips, O'Brien, Quist and McCormick yes; Mr. Rucho, no.

Mr. Phillips told Mr. Scannell and Ms. Abrams that the Board will have a discussion and get back to them and should they feel we need to have a discussion with them they will be invited in.

Mr. Quist thanked Mr. Scannell for the report he provided on water quality in the town since the installation of the sewer system. He would like to post the information on the town's web site. He questioned how much money have we saved by eliminating the need to chemically treat the water. Mr. Scannell is not sure as the state received a waiver from putting in a filtration system and it is hard to say we spent so many million dollars but it saved us this amount. Mr. Quist thanked Mr. Scannell for the report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Robert Barrell, Chairman of the Board of Health is in the audience this evening. Mr. Gaumond explained that we received notice that the Board of Health has been meeting and discussion a regional health initiative. The Governor has been very interested in this initiative and we have been a partner in the feasibility study phase. The Board of Health met with the City of Worcester and had a presentation on the feasibility of this moving forward. On October 12 the Board of Health voted unanimously to move forward with the grant's implementation phase. We are not sure what the governance model will be and there has been movement on the cost for smaller communities. The Board has a letter of support in their Signature File should they wish to go on to the next phase. Mr. Gaumond joined the Board of Health in their recommendation to continue to participate in this phase with the goal of trying to improve the services provided by the Board of Health and hopefully not have it cost any more money as now is not the time to be adding any more money to the department's budget. There was also an article in yesterday's newspaper noting that Shrewsbury, Millbury, Leicester and Holden have voted to join Worcester's regional effort. Mr. Barrell added that this will provide health services to our community through a more regional approach than local. We will be able to join a large group with more experts, will not cost us any more money and will benefit our community. We also have a 30-day opt out clause, and the Board of Health will sit to make policy for our community. We are not giving up any of our authority. Mr. Barrell would like to see if we can get it to work favorably for our town. He added that Worcester assists with our smoking programs and we have a mutual aid agreement with them in case of emergency. Mr. McCormick attended the Board of Health meeting when this was discussed and when the Board of Health asked his opinion he expressed the fact that he has concerns but he would support this. He hopes his concerns are unfounded. Mr. Phillips questioned whether they answered the question on how the state-wide mutual aid plays into this as the town can get assets from communities who have opted in for any public safety incident. Mr. Barrell noted that we might need help with food inspection services.

Motion Mr. McCormick to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of support for the District Incentive Grant implementation application with the City of Worcester Division of Public Health, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

Mr. Gaumond will periodically update the Board on how this initiative is progressing. He thinks it is a wonderful step for us. Mr. Barrell added that the process will evolve, we will have a seat at the table and if we were to delay entry we may have to pay an entry fee.

2. Sign Acceptance of Deed for parcel of property on Lancaster Street identified as parcel 79.01 on Map 131

This item was approved at town meeting and now the Board needs to sign the Acceptance of the Deed.

Motion Mr. McCormick to sign the Acceptance for the Deed for the parcel of property on Lancaster Street identified as parcel 79.01 on Map 131, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

3. Clarification on the demolition costs for the Mixer Building, \$225,000 for abatement costs & \$70,000 for demolition and disposal; pool demolition costs \$50,000.

Mr. Gaumond noted that the numbers are from quotes received in 2008 and if we were going to pursue this he would do a formal Request for Proposal. Mr. Rucho asked now that we have clarification on the costs, what will the next step be as the big question that comes up is how long are we going to let these properties go. Mr. Gaumond advised that the Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee took these issues up at their last meeting and they recommend we should begin the process of removing the buildings. He suggested the Board recommend to the Town Administrator that the capital plan of the town include these projects and we could begin a conversation with the Capital Investment Board. Mr. Phillips suggests getting real costs before recommending these projects. Mr. Gaumond does not believe there will be a substantial difference and if we are going out to bid we should be prepared to begin that shortly. We could go out to bid and bring the project forward for town meeting in May.

Motion Mr. Quist to pursue demolition of the town pool and former town hall, seconded by Mr. McCormick. Mr. Gaumond explained that because the capital funds are not tax revenue dependant, if we receive the authority in May we could award the project the next day. Mr. McCormick recommends beginning the process with the Capital Investment Board and putting the project out to bid. He does not think we will have a person who will hold a bid in November for work to be done in May. Mr. Rucho would like to move forward with this. Mr. Gaumond reminded the Board that we have public records, which we are storing at Mixer and we do not have the authority to dispose of. If we dispose of the building we will need to deal with that issue as we do not have the space to bring those documents to our current town hall. Mr. McCormick suggested purchasing a lockable, air conditioned storage container and locating it at the town barn. Mr. Phillips suggested contacting some of the vendors, who typically take part in the MMA Trade Show who deal in digitalizing records. Mr. Gaumond noted that we are required to keep some records, such as the large warrant books. Mr. Rucho added that the Town Clerk is trying to preserve a lot of town records in a digitalized version and it is a very expensive process. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Mr. O'Brien question the plan moving forward on what we would eventually do with the land. He also questions whether we could accelerate that process. Mr. Rucho advised that people who attend the listening agree that the buildings are an eye sore and need to be torn down. Mr. O'Brien would like to have a plan. Mr. McCormick was approached by someone who suggested selling the Mixer property with the building or a certain amount without the building and let someone else tear it down. He added that it would be cheaper for someone else to tear it down as they are not subject to prevailing wages. Mr. Phillips would like to proceed with getting the buildings torn down and start having those discussions about what we will do with the property. Mr. Rucho reminded the Board of their goal for developing a strategic plan for municipal land. The goal of the Town Administrator will be prepare a survey to be on the town's website and get some feedback on what people think we should do with the property.

Motion Mr. McCormick for Mr. Gaumond to look into store containers or units for the items at Mixer, seconded by Mr. Quist. Mr. Rucho suggesting having Mr. Gaumond report back on what we should do.

Motion Mr. McCormick to amend the motion and have Mr. Gaumond give the Board his recommendation on what to do and if necessary prices on storage containers, seconded by Mr. Quist. Vote on the amended motion – all in favor.

4. Consider request from School Superintendent Schaper to install a barrier to divide foot traffic from vehicles driving and walking to Major Edwards Elementary School

The Board has received a letter from School Superintendent Schaper outlining concerns about safety issues on the pathway that runs from Major Edwards to the corner of Goodale and Crescent Streets. It is a two-way problem as vehicles will come onto the walkway injuring walkers and on the other side there is a need to prevent children from running into the road. Mr. Gaumond had the Police Department and the DPW look into this situation. The Police Chief concurs with the Superintendent and has brought this situation to the attention of the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen in the past. Mr. Baruzzi is preparing a rough estimate to remedy the situation. Mr. McCormick asked if this could be Chapter 90 eligible. Mr. Gaumond will check into that. Mr. Rucho questioned what happened the last time this was brought up. Mr. Phillips reports that we were talking about getting some of the round in the ground security poles, a guard rail, or jersey barriers. We also agreed at the time it would not be astatically pleasing and former DPW Director John Westerling was going to get some pricing and the issue went away and it was not brought forward again. Mr. Phillips added that when the subject was previously discussed there was concern about cars going onto the sidewalk. He would like a recommendation on materials and the cost.

5. Authorization to begin construction work on Marsh Hawk Way project

Mr. Gaumond explained that a couple of months ago we had a presentation by LEI regarding a drainage issue which has been ongoing for some time. Both he and the DPW Director recommend the Board authorize the use of \$15,000 of Chapter 90 funds for a drainage reconfiguration project on Marsh Hawk Way.

Motion Mr. McCormick to authorize the use of \$15,000 of Chapter 90 funds for a drainage reconfiguration project, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

6. Notification that the Henry Street & Campground Road projects will be coming in shortly for approval of construction funds

No action is needed on this agenda item it is just an update on the project.

7. Consider supporting the adoption of H1972 and Town Clerk's recommendation

The Town received notification that they would like to have towns and cities in Massachusetts support a resolution to change the date of the primary to the first Tuesday in June. For us that would mean three elections on the same date. Thus far some towns are in agreement and others are not. After having a conversation with the Town Clerk she recommends against the proposal. The Board can either not approve or take it under advisement for consideration later.

Motion Mr. McCormick to take it under advisement for consideration later, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

8. Consider Signing School Funding Agreement

Motion Mr. McCormick to authorize the Chairman to support and sign the Project Funding Agreement for the School Window and Door Project, seconded by Mr. Quist, all in favor.

## **MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> - 9-10:30 a.m. – Municipal Cabinet Meeting with Lt. Governor Tim Murray at the Old Town Hall in Barre

2. Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:00-9:00 p.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Listening Tour for Town Buildings and Lands, Media Center at Middle/High School
3. Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 – Department Head Meeting – Mr. Gaumond will be showing a video from the ICMA Conference on The Next Generation. He invited the Board to attend the meeting.
4. November 4, 6:00 p.m. – Retirement Party for Brad White, MLP Manager at The Manor
5. Announce that the Town of West Boylston received \$31,758 from MIIA, which includes taking advantage of their early payment program, loss control grants, participation credits and MIIA Rewards
6. Announce that the deadline for comments and suggestions for 2012 Goals & Objectives is October 28
7. Announce that performance review packages for the Town Administrator are ready for completion
8. Reminder that the Council on Aging Survey is online
9. Mr. Gaumond announced that today we received notice that the town has obtained an \$8,000 grant from MIIA for an HR Audit, which ties into our goal of improving our human resources. The audit will review our practices and procedure.

Motion Mr. McCormick at 8:30 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21, Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. Quist yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. O'Brien yes, Mr. Rucho yes. The Chairman declared that having this discussion in open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Board will not reconvene in open session.

Motion Mr. McCormick at 8:50 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Rucho. Roll call vote: Mr. Quist yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. Phillips yes, Mr. O'Brien yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Quist at 8:51 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

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Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

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Allen R. Phillips, Chairman

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John J. O'Brien, Vice Chairman

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Christopher A. Rucho, Clerk

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Kevin M. McCormick, Selectman

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Steven J. Quist, Selectman