

MEETING BOARD OF SELECTMEN/SEWER COMMISSION JANUARY 2, 2013

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick John W. Hadley
 John J. O'Brien Michael J. Kittredge, Jr.
 Christopher A. Rucho

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

Read and Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the regular session meeting minutes from December 19, 2012, seconded by Mr. Kittredge, all in favor.

SEWER COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS

Sewer Abatement Requests

1. Brendan O'Connor, 26 Townsend Drive

This issue was tabled at the last meeting so that the Water Department could be contacted to see whether Mr. O'Connor filed for a water use abatement. The Board has that paperwork in their agenda package. According to Superintendent Michael Coveney they did not call or file for an abatement for the water and generally if the water went through the meter an abatement would be denied by the Water Commissioners. The only grant a water abatement if the resident can prove they were overcharged due to an incorrect water reading. The issue was a break in their sprinkler system.

Mr. Rucho stated that he can understand why the Water District did not give them anything. However, he would like to look at doing something in the future due to the fact that the water didn't go through the sewer system and we do not have anything in place at this time, which would allow that. He would like to include that as a future agenda item.

Motion Mr. Kittredge to deny the sewer abatement request for 26 Townsend Drive, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Results of RFP for Operations & Maintenance of the town's sewer system

Mr. Gaumond reports that we went out to bid for sewer operations and maintenance of the municipal sewer system and he held a bid opening on December 21, 2012. The town received two proposals, one from Whitewater Inc. and one from Weston & Sampson. He will review the two proposals, make sure they are complete and meet the specs of the bid. He noted that his preliminary review indicated that they are fine. In the past a member of the Board participated in the interviews, or they could come in and make a full presentation to the full Board. Mr. Rucho recommends bringing both firms in to meet with the Board on January 16th.

2. Announce that the town will be partnering with the City of Boston and the state on an innovative mobile/web app and consider signing the Municipal Grant participant Agreement

Mr. Gaumond reports that the town will be partnering with the City of Boston and the state on an innovative smart phone app for reporting problems in your community – see, click, fix. We wrote a grant to partner in this and West Boylston was accepted. Some time during the beginning to middle of 2013 residents who have android or smart phones can download an app and from that they can report problems that exist in the community. The training will be in the new few weeks in the Town of Westborough. We are proud that we were chosen. In the agenda package there is a sample agreement the Board of Selectmen needs to execute. This is at no cost to the town for the first three years and the average cost is \$4,900 per year. After the training and before implementation we will have a

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presentation to the full board. In the initial trial period they have asked us to come up with three things we would like to see reported. He will look for things like pothole issues and problems with street and stop signs that might be damaged. It can also be expanded to incorporate other issues. Mr. Gaumond encouraged Board input on this.

Mr. Gaumond explained that if you happen to be in one of the other 33 communities participating in this program and you have the app, you would be able to report problems to that community. There will also be an app on our website where you can report the issues and you will be able to follow the progress of the issue being resolved.

Motion Mr. Rucho to accept the Municipal Grant Participant Agreement and allow the chairman to sign the contract on behalf of the Board, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Rotti Repair Service, 94 Lancaster Street Request For Small Engine Repair License

Mr. Rotti joined the Board. Mr. Gaumond advised that the various departments in town are all set with the request. Mr. Rotti explained that he intends to repair all kinds of lawn mowers, chain saws and snow blowers out of one of the barns they have on the property. Mr. Rucho questioned whether the zoning allows this use. Mr. Gaumond advised that it does. Mr. Hadley questioned the hours of operation. Mr. Rotti advised 9-4 Monday through Friday, 9-2 on Saturday and closed on Sunday.

Motion Mr. Kittredge to grant the request for a Small Engine Repair License to Rotti Repair Service, 94 Lancaster Street, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

3. Review and approve schedule for May 20, 2013 annual town meeting

Motion Mr. O'Brien to accept the schedule as submitted, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor. Mr. McCormick would like to meet with the school in the beginning of February. It was agreed to invite the School Committee into the February 6th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding contract with Charter Communications

Mr. Gaumond advised that we are still ironing out the details so this agenda item will need to be passed over this evening.

Motion Mr. Kittredge to pass over this agenda item, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announce that the town has received the Central Mass Municipal Recycling Council Recognition Award for meeting the 30% Waste Reduction Goal set out in the state's plan

Mr. Gaumond explained that in the last few years we have been fortunate to receive this award from the Central Mass Municipal Recycling Council Recognition Award. He presented the plaque to Mr. McCormick and Mr. McCormick thanked everyone who made it happen.

2. January 3, 2013, 7:00 p.m. – FISP meeting

3. January 7-9, 2013, 7-3:30 Christmas Trees can be dropped off at the DPW garage, 35 Worcester Street as tree chipping will be held on Thursday, January 10th at 1:00 p.m.

4. January 9, 2013, 7:00 p.m. - special meeting to discuss DPW operation

Mr. Hadley would like to change the date of this meeting. It was agreed to change the date to February 13th. Mr. Rucho questioned whether we will have a DPW Director in place by then. Mr. McCormick explained that the discussion is for the future. It was agreed to postpone the discussion until the new DPW Director is hired.

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5. January 14, 2013, 6:30 p.m. - ZBA training with town counsel

6. Mandatory Ethics Training from the State Ethics Commission for all elected and appointed officials & employees

Mr. Gaumond advised that a few years ago they changed the laws regarding Ethics Training and they are now requiring that all board and committee members take the training. The new training better reflects municipal government. The document in the agenda package is being given to all municipal boards and committees and all members of the Board of Selectmen needs to complete the test by April 1, 2013. Mr. Gaumond will email the link to the Board.

7. Announce that Fire Chief Richard J. Pauley, Jr. has submitted his resignation and the Town Administrator is seeking citizen involvement in the Fire Chief search

Mr. Gaumond provided the Board with his plan for the Fire Chief search. He explained that it is similar to what we did the last time. He is also looking for interested persons to participate in an interview process. As the Fire Chief is a very public position he would be looking for ideas from the general public as to what kind of qualities they would like to see and he intends to create an interview committee as we did the last time. It would incorporate a wide spectrum of citizens and maybe elected officials. The last time we had seven to nine people. He would begin the process immediately given that the Chief's last day will be some time in mid-February. If members of the Board would like to be on the panel he would welcome their involvement. Mr. Rucho indicated having an interest. He also asked if we were planning on outreaching to our neighboring towns and perhaps share a Fire Chief. Mr. Gaumond explained that when we have a vacancy we could certainly do that. It would be Worcester, Sterling, Holden and Boylston. Mr. McCormick noted that initially you would have to ask their Board first to see if they had an interest. Mr. Rucho understands that our track record is not good, however, that is not due to our Board not trying. Mr. Kittredge asked if we shared a chief with Sterling and there is a fire in Sterling and one in West Boylston, which would he go to. Mr. Rucho stated that he does not know how it works and he does not know if it is even the correct thing to do. Mr. Gaumond will report back to the Board next week. Mr. Rucho suggested starting with the Chiefs. Mr. McCormick suggested talking with the Boards of Selectmen.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Rucho would like to look at water usage by residents on the sewer line, which does not flow through the sewer system as now there is nothing that can be done other than to charge for that usage.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Mr. Hadley asked Mr. Gaumond to discuss sanding of the town hall parking lot. Mr. Gaumond explained that he received complaints and concerns from people trying to get into the parking lot on Friday. We have had two storms and two incidents and the parking lot was not properly maintained by the time we opened for business and he intends to have a conversation with the landlord to make sure he is aware of our need to be open and ready for business at 7:30 a.m.

Motion Mr. O'Brien at 7:30 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the chair so declares, seconded by Mr. Rucho. The Chairman declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and the Board will

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reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Mr. Kittredge yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. O'Brien yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Motion Mr. Rucho at 7:52 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Roll call vote: Mr. Kittredge yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Mr. O'Brien yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

Mr. McCormick reconvened the meeting and explained that the Board had some discussions about the Reservoir Motor Lodge in executive session. At this point we want the public to know that it is in the hands of the Appeals Court and we will watch the situation and if anything changes we will let the public know.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Kittredge at 8:00 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: January 16, 2013

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

John J. O'Brien, Vice Chairman

Christopher A. Rucho, Clerk

John W. Hadley, Selectman

Michael J. Kittredge, Jr., Selectman