

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick Christopher A. Rucho
John W. Hadley Siobhan M. Bohnson

Mr. McCormick convened the special meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Jeanne McKnight, former town counsel, joined the Board. She explained that she retired last year and has a presentation to make to the Board. She added that it has been an honor to work with West Boylston and a pleasure to work with Leon Gaumond. She was very proud to work on the sewer project for the town. She presented the Board with a 1870 colored map of Worcester County which shows the railroads of the area before the reservoir went in. She presented it to the Board for our new town hall. It previously hung in her office.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Concurrence on Hiring of Parks Seasonal Laborer

Mr. Gaumond emailed the Board the DPW Director's recommendation to hire Glenn Parker for the position of Parks Seasonal Laborer. Mr. Hadley asked if this is the person the Director was waiting to interview. Mr. Rucho noted that the Director was at the last meeting of the Board at which time he indicated that of the three applicants, two he could not get in touch with. He asked if this was the one he was able to get in touch with. Mr. Gaumond thinks this is the one he was going to interview and eventually interviewed. Mr. Rucho asked about the differential. Mr. Gaumond advised that the position is covered under the Personnel Bylaw and a differential would not apply. Ms. Bohnson asked when he might start. Mr. Gaumond advised that his physical is scheduled for tomorrow morning and he will begin next Monday.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the hiring, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

Discuss Process to fill Zoning Board of Appeals Vacancy

Mr. Gaumond reports that the gentleman who was chosen by the Board to fill the vacancy on the ZBA has declined appointment. He writes that after careful consideration I am going to have to decline the position. I am sorry for wasting everyone's time. Mr. Rucho suggested putting out the word that we are looking for a member and scheduling this for the next agenda. Ms. Bohnson asked if the Board had the option of voting on the other three people who were interviewed as she would like to vote from that pool of candidates.

Motion Mr. Rucho to appoint the current Associate Member, David Femia to the Full-Member Position, seconded by Mr. Hadley. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Hadley, Rucho and Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. McCormick no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Concurrence on the appoint of Nancy Lucier as town's representative to the WRTA Board of Advisors

Mr. Gaumond explained that he currently holds that seat and feels that somebody should represent the town.

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

2. Concurrence on the appointment of Nancy Lucier as the Acting Town Administrator effective May

1, through May 15, or until an Interim Town Administrator is chosen

Motion Mr. Hadley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rucho. In discussion, Mr. Rucho asked if we had a mechanism to pay a stipend. He feels that Ms. Lucier should get a stipend for this and for when the interim isn't here because all the questions will go to her. Mr. McCormick suggested he and Mr. Hadley sit down with Ms. Lucier to work out a stipend. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

3. Update on Town Goals

1. Make amendments to the site plan review process. Mr. Gaumond has spoken to the Building Inspector as part of this process to begin looking at the document and come up with suggestions. He thinks the Board should be able to bring a proposal forward to the fall town meeting.

2. Seek creation of a Facilities Manager-type position: This will be something the new Town Administrator will take on. He has left all the documents and information and this will be a May 2016 town meeting item.

3. Work with the FISP on building projects: Mr. Gaumond prepared a detailed memo to the new Town Administrator on the Council on Aging/Community Center and Police Station projects. You will also need to decide if the interim Town Administrator will be active with the FISP or not. You will also need to have somebody take over doing the minutes of those meetings.

4. Improve the Department of Public Works: Mr. Gaumond has left a detailed memo on this for the new Town Administrator. We are bringing forward a warrant article for the funding of this project.

5. Examine the current elected officials for possibility of appointment: We were going to discuss this at a special meeting some time this spring or summer. You need to let Nancy know when you would like to hold this public discussion.

6. Improve the public access opportunities in Town: Mr. Gaumond thinks we are seeing progress on this now that our system is back up to speed. Tonight we are broadcasting live our first FISP meeting. Mr. Rucho thinks it is the first meeting other than the Board of Selectmen's that has been live.

7. Increase the amount of affordable senior housing: We just received notice from the state that they approved the land transfer. That will be on the front burner again.

8. Advocate for the release of state bond funds: The Board met with the legislators, we sent letters and put information on our website. It is a continuing process

9. Seek development opportunities for the landfill land: Mr. Gaumond and Ms. Bohnson met with the MLP Commissioners to discuss the possibility of locating a solar project on the capped landfill. We are still in discussions. He has a memo on this for the new Town Administrator

10. Promote positive aspects of the community and its governance: This year we began the second meeting of each month with a Municipal Minute tidbit.

11. Prepare customer satisfaction surveys for citizens and employees: Mr. Gaumond left sample documents for the new Town Administrator. This was something we were going to do this summer or fall. We could do this online, or through the town meeting mailer for the fall town meeting as it is mailed to every resident.

Mr. Gaumond asked if there are any goals the Board wishes to see amended or changed. Otherwise, the document will be left for the new Town Administrator. The Board has no comments.

4. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Gaumond explained that he left this on the agenda just in case there was something we needed to handle at the end of the meeting. He is compiling a list of open items for the new Town Administrator with back up information. He will share it with the Board and the interim. He told the

department heads not to hesitate to contact him. The budget and town meeting are all set. We still do not know the exact number for snow and ice or the Capital Investment Board recommendation. They will finalize that on May 7th. All the other motions should be straight forward and easy to handle. The Town Administrator's blog outlines each article, the budget is on the website, and yesterday he taped his public access presentation for town meeting.

Mr. Gaumond expects town meeting should be relatively easy. The department heads are on notice that they will have to answer any and all questions on town meeting floor. He thinks we will be fine and he will tidy up as much as possible. He wishes everybody well and he thanks them for the confidence they had in him. The average tenure of a Town Administrator is four to five years. He thanked everybody and the Town of West Boylston for letting him come to work here every day. Mr. McCormick thanked Mr. Gaumond. Ms. Bohnson thanked him for the tremendous work environment and the fact that they never walked in and it was a negative. She truly enjoyed working with him and gained a lot of knowledge. It is not good, but another phase of our life. Mr. Hadley thanked Mr. Gaumond for his help on the Board of Selectmen and FISP. Mr. Gaumond calculated the number of meetings he attended, using three per month, and he probably attended over 600 meetings during his time with West Boylston. Mr. Rucho thanked him and noted that Sturbridge is lucky to have him.

Motion Mr. Rucho at 8:15 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 collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. The Chair so declared. Seconded by Ms. Bohnson Roll call vote: Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. McCormick yes, Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Rucho yes. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Motion Mr. Rucho at 8:30 p.m. to come out executive session, seconded by Mr. Hadley. Roll call Vote: Mr. McCormick yes, Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Rucho at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

John W. Hadley, Vice Chairman

Christopher A. Rucho, Clerk

Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman