
Present: John F. Fairbanks, Laila J. Michaud, Joseph E. Flanagan

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fairbanks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen’s Office at Town Hall.

7:00 PM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joseph Flanagan moved that the Board meet in executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations with the Police Union. The motion was seconded by Laila Michaud. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting will reconvene in regular session.

7:40 PM The meeting reconvened in regular session.

REQUEST FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ARTICLE

The Board of Assessors requested that Article #14 (revaluation) with a balance of \$1,966.00 be carried over to next fiscal year. Upon motion by Laila Michaud and second by Joe Flanagan, it was unanimously voted to grant a one-year continuation of this article.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Meet and Greet Action Items (Continued from 5/24/2010)

Items # 11-15 of the Meet and Greet Action Plan from May 8, 2010 were reviewed, and the Board determined what further action was to be taken (copy of Action Plan attached).

HEARINGS / OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

Interview / Interim Building Commissioner

Mike Gallant interviewed for the position of the interim Building Commissioner. After discussion, Laila Michaud made a motion to offer Mr. Gallant part-time employment for up to 19 hours per week at \$31.46 per hour. Mr. Gallant would be appointed beginning June 14, 2010 to December 31, 2010. The motion was unanimously approved. Mrs. Murphy will provide Mr. Gallant with a written offer for his consideration in accepting the position.

NEW BUSINESS

School Override

Mike Zapantis, Superintendent of Schools, explained the request for an override which will appear on the ballot on June 15th. Dr. Zapantis explained changes over time from FY06 to FY 11.

Amended and Restated Solid Waste Disposal Services Agreement

This agreement has been revised to allow Waste Management to go beyond 2017 with no definitive end date. The agreement has also been restated without changing the terms, but eliminating certain aspects of the agreement that no longer apply and will make the document easier to follow. A motion was made by Laila Michaud to endorse the Amended and Restated Solid Waste Disposal Services Agreement. Joe Flanagan seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Selectmen meeting date

The Board of Selectmen meeting of June 28th will be changed to Tuesday, June 29th. All were in agreement.

Habitat for Humanity

Laila Michaud discussed the new house to be built by Habitat for Humanity on Davis Road. Habitat for Humanity is looking for more people to participate from the Town.

Reuse Committee for Old Town Hall

Laila Michaud discussed reestablishing the Reuse Committee for the Old Town Hall. Joe Flanagan will review and discuss this with John Bowen. John Fairbanks recommended that meetings be scheduled at a time when any interested persons may be able to attend.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS / MINUTES

Minutes

The Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of May 17, 2010 and May 24, 2010 upon motion by Joe Flanagan and second by Laila Michaud.

Parks & Recreation payroll change

The Board unanimously voted to approve a payroll change request for four new employees for Park & Recreation.

Warrants

The Board unanimously voted to approve the following Warrants:

June 7, 2010	Accounts Payable #70	\$ 28,454.90
June 7, 2010	Payroll #71	\$241,693.76

NEW BUSINESS

Open Meeting Law Changes

State Open Meeting Law changes were discussed. Mrs. Murphy will work with the Town Clerk to provide information on the changes to all town boards and committees.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 9:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph E. Flanagan, Clerk
(prepared by S. Kalagher)

MAY 8, 2010 BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEET & GREET ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEM	COMMENTS	FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
<p>1. Provide microphones so cable viewers of board of selectmen meetings may better hear audience participation</p>	<p>The height of the ceilings presented a problem with the initial installation of the sound equipment. The cable studio director feels that the current setup is suitable; he suggested that the members of the audience be reminded that they need to speak up. There are also times when the rest of the audience should be asked to remain silent as this interferes with the sound quality.</p>	<p>No further action.</p>
<p>2. Provide a sign-in sheet for board of selectmen meetings</p>	<p>Unless the Board feels that it is important that the record show all those in attendance, a sign-in sheet is usually only required when the board is holding a formal hearing. The Chairman also has the prerogative of asking anyone in attendance to identify him or herself.</p>	<p>No further action.</p>
<p>3. Concern was expressed regarding sump pump discharge onto town roads</p>	<p>There is a town bylaw prohibiting the discharge of water onto town roads. The DPW tries to monitor and control these discharges as practically as possible. In some situations, there is no viable alternative to redirect the water, and no drainage system to connect to.</p>	<p>Referred to DPW.</p>
<p>4. The board of selectmen meeting schedule might be posted on the town’s web site.</p>	<p>The Selectmen’s meeting schedule has been posted and kept current on the website for about a year now.</p>	<p>All boards have been asked to submit meeting schedules for the website.</p>

ACTION ITEM	COMMENTS	FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
5. Town meetings should be no longer than 3 hours	If the Board agrees with this, a bylaw amendment will be required. The bylaw currently provides that the annual town meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and run no longer than 6:00 p.m.	No further action.
6. For cost-savings purposes, combine high school and middle school students on the same buses	The Supt. of Schools is confident that the school department has considered every possible alternative for reducing the cost of busing.	Inform School Committee that these questions (#6, #7) were raised at the Board’s Meet & Greet session.
7. As other towns do, sports activity fees might be charged based on the specific costs of the sport rather than on a flat fee	The schools used this method of setting fees back in 2003-2004 and made national news for charging \$1,000 to play football and \$150 to play tennis.	(See #6 above)
8. The selectmen should make sure they follow through on people’s requests for information.	Town Admin. was not aware that this has been a problem; would like specifics.	L. Michaud will research notes for more information on this comment.
9. A “Person of the Year – 2010” should be selected for Westminster	If the Board wishes to do this, please consider defining the criteria you want to use in making your decision.	Request proposal from Personnel Board, including different categories.
10. A computerized gadget, rather than paper ballot, might be used for voting purposes	Wayland recently approved such a system at a cost of \$150,000.	Town Clerk has been asked to research.
11. The board of selectmen should avail themselves for 10 minutes prior to, or subsequent to, selectmen’s meetings for the purposes of hearing residents’ concerns and / or questions.	It may be more appropriate to include this as a regular agenda item. If more than one member of the Board is present for these discussions before or after a posted meeting, it would not be considered a “chance meeting” under the Open Meeting Law.	Board will include 10-minute public comment period on agenda.

ACTION ITEM	COMMENTS	FURTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
12. Consider establishing a wind / cellular tower committee	The Town Planner is currently working with MRPC on a wind energy bylaw. The Planning Board and Energy Advisory Committee will have input along the way and public hearings will be held on the proposed bylaw. An article for funding a cell tower master plan is planned for the fall town meeting.	Refer to Energy Advisory Committee for recommendation and update.
13. For cost-savings purposes, consider regionalizing the position of building inspector and other inspectional (wiring / plumbing) services	Currently under consideration.	Currently under consideration.
14. Investigate whether there is, or needs to be, an independent entity reviewing real estate tax valuations to assure assessments are made “fairly and equally”	The values are determined through the services of an outside vendor. They are ultimately reviewed and approved by the Department of Revenue.	Refer to Assessors.
15. A resident offered to maintain Westminster’s municipal telephone system free of cost	KM and BK met with this resident on 5/13. He does appear to be very knowledgeable. We anticipate that we will take him up on his offer and shared his contact info with the Police and Fire Departments.	No further action required.