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LOCAL MEALS TAX DISCUSSION

Advisory Board Chairman Jim DeLisle was on hand to recap the discussion of the prior meeting regarding the proposed local meals tax.

He suggested that the Board consider the possibility of allocating funds from the revenue that would be derived from this tax for the purpose of marketing the Town. He also said this in turn would generate more money.

Mr. DeLisle also mentioned that they would have to figure out how to keep the money with no term limits on it.

Don Foster of the Old Mill was on hand. He mentioned that there were very few towns in the area that have implemented the meals tax and questioned why Westminster has to be one of the first.

The Board discussed the possibility of reinstating the Economic Development Committee to handle the matter.

It was agreed to continue discussions on the local meals tax before the November Special Town Meeting.

OLD TOWN HALL REUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman of the Old Town Hall Reuse Committee Walter Haney stated that there were three options for the old town hall; sell to a private developer, demolish the building or retain the building as Town owned.

Mr. Flanagan felt that the Town couldn't proceed until the future of the Senior Center is determined.

Town Planner Steve Wallace pointed out that he might be able to work with MRPC to see if there is any Historical rehab grant money available as the old Town Hall is considered a Historical Building.

He pointed out that to rehab the building there would be ongoing maintenance, lack of parking, and elevator costs.

After much discussion, Steve Wallace suggested he research other COAs who have rehabbed a building.

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SCHEDULE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board schedule the Special Town Meeting for November 15, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE SUSTAINABILITY GRANT COMMITMENT LETTER

Town Planner Steve Wallace explained he saw this as a vehicle to pay for a sustainability chapter for the Town’s master plan.

He further stated that the bulk of the commitment for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant would be his time for meetings, etc.

Mr. Flanagan moved that the Board approve the three year Sustainability Grant Commitment letter. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FROG HOLLOW ROAD TAX TITLE PROPERTIES

Town Planner Steve Wallace recommended the Board of Selectmen authorize a perc test on the two acre tax title property on town-owned Frog Hollow Road. He further explained that this would not obligate the Board to turn over the property.

Mr. Walker moved that the Board authorize Habitat for Humanity to conduct a perc test on the two acre parcel located on Frog Hollow Road. Mr. Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Flanagan suggested they also pursue a possible land swap with the city of Fitchburg regarding another ten acre parcel of land on Frog Hollow Road which might be a water view property. Mr. Wallace agreed to pursue this possibility but indicated that it will take a considerable amount of time.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE LETTER REGARDING 72 DAVIS ROAD

Ms. Michaud announced that the Board has received a letter from Chairman Greg Buckman indicating that the OSC decided that the 72 Davis Road property does not warrant the placement of a conservation or deed restriction.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING – OCTOBER 24

Mrs. Murphy stated that she had received a request from the Police Chief to hold a dog complaint hearing with the Board on October 24, 2011. The Board of Selectmen agreed to schedule a meeting on October 24, 2011.

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7:31 P.M. - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Michaud moved that the Board enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel; further, that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town, and that the Board adjourn directly from executive session. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned from executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne R. Walker, Clerk  
(Prepared by B. Kazan)