

Voted and approved 06-29-2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday, March 16, 2010
7:00 PM at Town Hall Meeting Room

Present: David McDougall, Chairman
Douglas Blanchard, Vice Chairman
Michael Phelan
Jess Dods
Ann Roy

Also Present: Diana Schindler, Town Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Call to Order

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

7:00 P.M.

COMMUNICATIONS

Present: David Silvernail, Police Chief, Steve Hyde, Fire Chief, and Ed Cauley, Highway Superintendent

There was discussion as to when should the Select Board been notified and what is their role during a storm

Chairman McDougall stated he wanted to talk about communications. He stated he can't express in enough words how grateful he is that everyone came together on Feb 23rd and when he refers to communication he is referring to his board and the different departments.

Chairman McDougall stated the board was out of the loop when they opened the town hall as a shelter he felt they should have been involved if there was a shelter.

Mr. Cauley stated the information is misleading; they prepared to open the shelter they had 38 employees working during the storm. They established protocol based on their training. Everyone came together and the command center was dispatch.

Chairman McDougall asked at what point did they think they should let the select board know what is going on. Mr. Cauley stated at some point someone from the select board should of called the command center/ police dept. to see if they were needed, or to deal with the press.

Chief Silvernail stated the biggest role that the board is going to make is declaring an emergency. Chief Silvernail suggested to the Board they should work with the Finance Committee and getting a genuine shelter with cots.

There was a discussion of the concern for the seniors or for the residents that are on oxygen or dialysis machine and the idea of COA maintaining a list of those who live alone.

There was also a detailed discussion of the estimated costs along with employees using their own vehicles, liability and insurance coverage.

Chairman McDougall asked if there are any other concerns about communications.

Mr. Cauley asked about the status of the budget and wages. Chairman stated they are meeting with Finance Committee next Tuesday. He further stated when the board hears information they do not

share it with the other departments. Mr. Cauley also stated he is not at his desk all day and therefore he does not read his email, if anyone wanted to get a hold of him to call. He also stated they have not had a dept head meeting in a while. He further explained that he heard there were no funds for the Labrie Field and no one told them that. That is communication. Ms. Schindler stated she thought they announced it. Chief Silvernail stated when they had dept head meetings they were being held at the Library, he stated the center of town government is the town hall and most of the dept heads are in this building. Ms. Schindler stated she did have a few dept head meetings here at town hall but felt she would have the dept heads full attention.

Mr. Cauley expressed a concern, for years they have been asked to cut, cut, cut, to eliminate personnel; they as dept have not been able to replace these losses. They have not been able to address what needs to be fixed. When energy and money that can be spent, they have hiring freezes and seven people have been hired. They are doing more with a lot less and it is starting to break their backs. He suggested starting putting money back that was never replaced.

There was discussion regarding the Storm closing and employees being paid vs. the employees who made it in to work and not being compensated, and the possible disparaging treatment of non union employees. Chairman McDougall and Selectman Blanchard stated they are not opposed to anyone unionizing and they are looking at policies for storm closings.

Chairman McDougall stated they have an open door policy if they have any concerns just show up.

Mr. Cauley stated when dept are at the meeting they may need to address them please entertain them; they have been working all day.

The next budget meeting will be on next Tuesday 23rd at 8am. One of the board members will be there. Mr. Cauley stated he would like to discuss about wages.

Chairman announced on behalf of the select board thanking all the employees for their hard work.

I. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Schindler stated she has been working on reports that will be on the website with all projects up to date and they will be working off that.

II. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Select Board Meeting March 23rd April 6th and 20th
- Annual Town Caucus March 24th at 7:00 pm

III. OLD BUSINESS

Goral Property

The Select Board received a letter from the Goral regarding their property of 36.1 acres that is next to the Labrie Field on Strong Road asking if they were interested in purchasing the land. Chairman McDougall read the letter aloud.

MOTION: To send the Goral Letter to the Community Preservation Committee.
(BLANCHARD, ROY) Voted and approved 5-0

The Select Board is asking the CPC to fund an appraisal to see what it is worth. Selectman Phelan asked how long the Gorals are willing to extend the offer to town. The board stated

they can write a letter to Mr. Goral and tell him we are exploring it. Selectman Phelan doesn't want to spend money on an approval unless we are going to do something with it. **MOTION:** To send a letter to the Recreational Needs Committee to review the offer of the Gorals and to send a letter to the Gorals stating we are interested in the land and we are exploring the possible uses for it. (PHELAN, ROY) Voted and approved 5-0

Will the Recreational Needs Committee get back to the Select Board by their next meeting? If they do not get back to them in a timely manner they should go directly to the CPC, if you can't spend money out of admin fund, Selectman Blanchard stated will speak with Virginia Ahart, he would like to see the board encourage the Recreational Needs to get back to them as soon as possible.

Selectwoman Roy asked Ms. Schindler if the town received the grant for Labrie Field. Ms. Schindler said no the town did not get the grant this year. She said she wrote to the agency to find out why. They stated they did not have enough money but did encourage the town to apply this year. Ms. Schindler said the grant pays for design and construction.

Tighe & Bond request for comments re: Manhan Trail

Chairman McDougall stated Easthampton is going to have their rail trail on Coleman Road, they own part of that land they are going to continue with Manhan trail to Coleman road they are going to extend their sewer under the bed way and they are asking for documentation for comments to Tighe Bond. He asked if they could extend the sewer line. There is a public hearing scheduled for the project on March 24 in Easthampton.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

V. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND SIGNATURES

Disclosure of Financial Interest By Special Municipal Employee Form

Angela Mumblow and Regina Shea-Sullivan

Chairman McDougall read the two disclosures aloud.

MOTION: To sign the Disclosure of Financial Interest by Special Municipal Employee for Angela Mumblow and Regina Shea-Sullivan. (PHELAN, DODS)

Voted and approved 5-0

VI. MINUTES OF MEETINGS, APPROVAL & SIGNATURES

Payroll warrant #P10-38 \$218,354.69

MOTION: To sign the payroll warrant #P10-38 \$218,354.69 (PHELAN, BLANCHARD)

Voted and approved 5-0

No regular minutes at this time

Executive Minutes

Exec minutes 12/15/09, 11/10/09, 11/03/09, 06/30/09, 06/16/09, 06/02/09, and 03/24/09 (can be voted in regular unless something error needs to be discussed may need to go into executive)

MOTION: To approve executive minutes of December 15, 2009 as written. (BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0

MOTION: To approve executive minutes of November 10, 2009 as written. (BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0

MOTION: To approve executive minutes of November 30, 2009 as written. (BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0

- MOTION:** To approve executive minutes of June 30, 2009 as written.
(BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0
- MOTION:** To approve executive minutes of June 16, 2009 as written.
(BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0
- MOTION:** To approve executive minutes of June 2, 2009 as written.
(BLANCHARD, PHELAN) Voted and approved 5-0
- MOTION:** To approve executive minutes of March 24, 2009 as written.
Voted and approved 5-0

Chairman McDougall stated there was a letter to Ms. Schindler and to himself regarding public records from Dan Crowley Gazette.

VII. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC

Selectman Blanchard asked about GSA Coleman Road. Ms. Schindler stated they spoke about this in executive session. Selectman Blanchard stated he spoke with Virginia Ahart, CPC. We asked them if they would consider a study to see how much the land is worth the CPC did not have any interest in it at all for multiple reasons and they sent it back to the select board. Selectman Blanchard asked the Board what do we want to do with this, are we interested or do we let it go.

MOTION: To notify the government that we have no interest in the GSA Coleman Road.
(PHELAN, BLANCHARD) Voted and approved 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION M.G.L. CHAPTER 39, §23B

Nothing at this time

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.
Respectfully submitted
Regina Shea-Sullivan