

Voted and approved 06-29-2010

**SELECTBOARD MEETING
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Absent: David McDougall, Chairman

Also present: Diana Schindler, Town Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Call to Order

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

7:00 P.M. CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC HEARING w/Tom Cohen

Present: Tom Cohen from Charter.

Mr. Cohen briefly explained the nature of the business and stated the cost is not based off the consumer price index. He stated the programming prices went up forty percent. They used to carry the broadcast channels for free such as abc, nbc, cbs and fox. Those networks are looking for other ways of making money. They are now looking at the cable companies.

Mr. Cohen explained customers are demanding faster internet speeds, HD TV, and offering phone service.

Mr. Cohen asked the Select Board if he could to open to public comments:

John Aberdale, Eastwood Drive

Stated on topics of: The number of channels avail with and without the cable box, he believes Comcast is offering more service with less cost, He also spoke about the bundle packages, he signed up for a package that lasted three months and has seen on tv the bundle package lasting longer than three months, how their email is constantly going off, and why don't they have a charter substation more local with a phone number and not a 1-800 number.

Woman resident (couldn't hear her name or street) who explained about her experience with Charter She stated she had a terrible experience until she was given Tom Cohens name and number. She also explained her situation and was told to receive service it would cost her 1,700 which included a box on the road and police officer on duty. When the time came to them installing it there was neither police officer on duty nor a special box installed.

Kevin Canton, East Street

Asked does charter have a cost or price of what they pay in Southampton? What does the rest of the world pay? Example if they look at Westfield. Mr. Cohen stated it is the same; it may vary by pennies or dollars, town to town. They have the same service.

Kristine Canton, East Street

Stated her daughter has Comcast in Springfield and she pays on a monthly basis what they pay but she gets the internet and more channels.

Ed Cauley, Highway Superintendent

He had concerns when the technicians come out to install a pole such as Old County road, and they would not accept a dirt road as a legal road. They had issues with citizens who had poor signal in street, or where someone has a driveway that is long; they have no communication to solve those issues. Mr. Cohen stated the town officials should know how to reach you. Mr. Cauley stated they have had hard time reaching them. When they have agreement with poles and service with right of ways they are having issues with Charter.

Mr. Cohen explained they have a density formula. Mr. Cauley further explained that there are various degrees of signals in town. Mr. Cohen stated the internet does go up and down depending on the number of users, he further stated they are working on improving that.

Mr. Cohen apologized to anyone who has had a bad experience from Charter. They do not want to lose their customers.

Someone stated a comment about the phone service, stating there are a few issues the phone line is static and the 411 has a communication issue, unless they have the same exact spelling and same street they cannot get the number.

Selectman Dods suggested to Mr. Cohen for Charter to have a service campaign to explain themselves.

Selectman Blanchard stated when he calls for service he wants to make sure we have people in the U.S. and not in another country. Mr. Cohen stated they have developed a call center all over the world.

Selectman Dods stated when he uses his smart phone, Charter does not support it. He takes his laptop to WIFI and he has to go thru Verizon.

Mr. Cohen explained the PEG (public educational grant). He stated Southampton receives 30,000 and 3,000 for the PEG and the subscribers pay for that, each customer pays .43 cents per month. Selectman Phelan stated then it really is not a grant, it's more like a loan.

Selectman Dods announced for those who could not be here for the comment period there will be a two week period where people can call or go on line.

MOTION: To close the public hearing. (ROY, BLANCHARD)

Voted and approved 4-0

7:30 P.M.

CONSTABLES WITH POLICE CHIEF SILVERNAIL Re: Discussion to change from elected to appointed

Selectman Phelan stated he and Police Chief Silvernail were looking at that ballots in the hallway and briefly discussed the history of the position of the Constables. The Chief expressed his concerns with nowadays they may want to have trained police officers for that position and recommended to have it changed from elected to appointed. Chief Silvernail stated he was not advocating for it to be police officer his concern was because of the inherent police powers the constable does have and he thinks it is prudent of the select board to ensure they have they have qualified people performing the job. Chief further stated what the constable can do. MGL 91a and b...

MOTION: To contact town counsel and ask how to eliminate the elected constable and to an appointed constable by the select board. (PHELAN, ROY)

Voted and approved 4-0

JOINT MEETING WITH BOARD OF HEALTH INTERVIEW: Thomas Boyle

The Board of Health joined the select board. Both Boards interviewed Thomas Boyle for the Board of Health.

Selectman Blanchard asked if his duties in his business will be in conflict with his job.

Mr. Boyle stated he does not think it is, he is not in the septic business and if there was he would recuse himself.

MOTION: To appoint Thomas Boyle to the Board of Health term to expire at next election. (PHELAN, BLANCHARD) Voted and approved 4-0

ROLL CALL VOTE

BLANCHARD – AYE, PHELAN – AYE, DODS – AYE, ROY – AYE

The Board of Health also did a roll call vote and approved the appointment.

7:40 P.M.

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE RE: Budget

Present: Bob Blancette, John Martin, Nancy LaBombard, Tammy Tefft, and Jim Flemming

Selectman Dods announced that Selectman Blanchard, Ms. Schindler and he were present at the dept head meeting today and the topic of the revolving fund came up in discussion.

They plan to have a thorough review of the funds. Ms. Schindler stated she and Mr.

Kielson went thru the revolving accounts and special revenue accounts.

She has revised copies of what she gave the dept heads this morning. She included in the budget those scenarios.

Selectman Dods stated they are trying to understand what are the exact fixed costs and costs that they have no control over.

The Finance Committee stated the wage is a big issue and they don't have enough money in the expense accounts to do what they need to do according to the letter from the dept heads. The Finance Committee is going to try to find a balance where they can look at the budget scenarios and where some of those expense accounts can be augmented a little to allow the dept to begin to do some of those things that were put off because it was level funded expense account or cut over the past four or five years, to them that is a big priority. To add to some expense accounts that are stressed would be their priority. Selectman Dods stated they will table the budget discussion until next week until they get a chance to review the revised documents.

I. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Nothing at this time

II. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Select Board Meeting April 27th & May 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
- Annual Town Election May 3, 2010 noon to 8:00 p.m.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Fournier APR

Ms. Schindler stated she spoke with Virginia Ahart and she put a call in to the field rep who has not returned her call. She asked the board to defer this to the next meeting.

Committee handbook

The objective was this handbook available to all members of boards and committees as they were sworn in. This handbook will include the new Ethics Law, the revised Open Meeting Law and the Sexual Harassment Policy. Ms. Schindler asked the board to review and discuss with suggestions and adopting.

Report of the Select Board

Ms. Schindler stated the Report of the Select Board is nearly finished and she will send to them by email for review.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Discontinued Roads

Present: Ed Cauley, Highway Superintendent

Selectman Dods stated this is in response to correspondence we received in town whether or not a road was discontinued or not.

Selectman Dods asked the board to take a look at the synopsis.

Mr. Cauley, stated there are several roads that have been discontinued by the town such as Wolcott, Bass Cove Road, part of County Rd, part of Camp Jahn, Freyer rd. Mr. Cauley further stated in the history of the time, the Town had several boards talk about this according to MGL we are not to be maintaining the roads without a vote at annual town meeting. They maintain them now with no liability. The liability is on us, no liability to cover it. They have issues if they want to maintain these roads they need to bring an article at town meeting.

Mr. Cauley further stated they are expensive to maintain.
(type list of roads here)

Selectman Dods stated there are seven roads to review. He would like to see a file on each road of what is the history, the cost to maintain them, are they liable and do they need to be acted by the select board or town meeting.

Selectman Phelan stated if they have a hearing they should do them all at once. To be done after town meeting.

V. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND SIGNATURES

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant Draft

Ms. Schindler is still working on the annual Town Meeting Warrant for the meeting of the 27th.

Council on Aging Director Position

MOTION: To sign Council on Aging Director Position PRF. (DODS, ROY)
Voted and approved 4-0

(no recording)

VI. MINUTES OF MEETINGS, APPROVAL & SIGNATURES

Bill warrant

MOTION: To approve and sign bill warrant W10-43 \$51,822.66. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 4-0

No minutes at this time

VII. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SESSION M.G.L. CHAPTER 39, §23B # Nothing at this time

Respectfully submitted
Regina Shea-Sullivan
Administrative Assistant