

Voted and approved 06-29-2010

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Tuesday, June 1, 2010
7:00 PM at Town Hall Meeting Room

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

Also Present: Diana Schindler, Town Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Call to Order

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

7:00 P.M. ALL BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND DEPARTMENTS MEETING

- What are they doing
- Where are they now
- What they hope to accomplish this year
- How can the Select Board help
- Open to suggestions to better the communications

Beth Russell-Smith rep Edwards Library: young families – main group served, need for more mats, looking for grants, early childhood focus, re-organizing space challenge, received in FY11 budget keeping extended hours, shelving in Capital Plan (8,000), do all this with limited staff is the biggest challenge

Robert Floyd rep Cemetery Commission: classes in stone repair, minimize expansion for FY11, Scott Cooper new member, discussing new property in back

Robert Floyd rep Moderator: keep open communication and maintain open dialogue

Bob Kozub rep Historical Commission: National register for center cemetery has been applied for, submitted 26 add'l properties for recognition as “resources” on register, have been accepted but not listed as of yet, preserve old schoolhouse roof bids in process, recognition of canal walk w signage by Goral's, demolition delay ordinance will be introduced

Maureen “Reenie” Groden rep Board of Health: septic and perc test, Rabies clinic just completed & H1N1 last year, making progress on housing violations and restaurant inspections

Bill Collins/Kim Schott rep Norris School: over ¼ million in school choice revenues \$10,000 tech grant, 21st century skills are being emphasized at Norris, Safe Routes to School – for sidewalks, DOT – federal \$ thru state, Southampton is 14th from bottom in per pupil expenditures

John Martin rep Finance Committee: trying to reconcile money when there isn't enough, generate new revenue, ways to save internally

Hank Barton rep Housing Authority: Housing Needs Assessment completed need shows elder and family affordable housing, far below 40B threshold that allows protection against developers that can use comprehensive permitting, Housing Authority is not entertaining an affordable = percent of income on housing mostly based on Springfield Regional Area.

PVPC needs assessment, need more affordable housing (various definitions), threat of 40(b) High Density and 40(r) School costs

Hank Barton rep Master Plan Committee: drafted a general vision statement for plan, June meeting will develop Master Plan messages, Town's zoning must be consistent with Master Plan (7 years)-this is legislation being entertained.

Eileen Couture Town Clerk: finish street listing, updating voting registry, letters to people that haven't been worn in and Ethics training program, June 15 dog licenses, New software for vital records on state computer end of 2010, citizens will be able to get vital records at any Town Clerk's office, notary work, genealogy, election work for Sept.

(petitions), gearing up for move, preservation of records continuing getting ready for move, Town meeting votes computerized since 1909, Zoning, General, Personnel policies on computer, Roads status

Kristie Slattery Treasurer/Tax Collector: collecting back taxes, tax title going to foreclosure, foreclosures in process ready for next billing

Judith Snyder rep Assessors: revaluation reval, cleaning up old records for move, trying to reduce impact on seniors, increased exemption for seniors on taxes

Charlie McDonald rep Conservation Commission: administer wetlands protection act, upgraded files, considering a Con Com bylaw, not going to make wetlands protection act more stringent but instead of implement fee structure, 550 acres of conservation land stewardship goal to make accessible to public, working on trails at Searle/Wolf Hill need to clear, using boy scouts to clean trail and add signage, extension of Manhan meadows sanctuary, also future 100 acres of top of Wolf Hill, Szyptca Farm license agreement in process.

John Furman rep Planning Board: create handbook for members, planning board rules and regulations, zoning initiatives, dumpsters regs for enforcement, site plan approval regulation (transferred from Zoning), and improve communications with other building land use boards committees looking for a home and support staff

Kim Schott rep Hampshire High School Committee: budget put forth at town meeting includes staff cuts, will need about \$30,000 add'l money, and needs one Hampshire Regional Committee meeting member

Bruce Coombs rep Capital Improvement: Activities in Town report, Five year capital plan, analysis of requests for expenditures, communication could improve, Town Administrator does spreadsheets

Park Commission: Helen Drive Park is being developed walking trails and benches

Almoners: helps people in need using trust funds gift certificates support people in dire need, need to raise money, no new requests since late 1800 early 1900 need to educate people about "almoners"

Virginia Ahart rep Community Preservation Committee: Money given to Almoners to make homes accessible or needs accommodations

Tom Whiteley rep Building Reuse Committee: contractors with change orders, CPC is big help with Highway, Margaret re did Town Seal to be part of floor, septic at Larrabee is in process, windows are coming soon, elevator shaft done, budget is going well, site work is going well, should be completed by fall, small meeting room with hoteling office, name of building for the BoS decision, Southampton Senior Center and Town Hall?, plaque for Larrabee dedication

Jeff Swanson rep Recreational Needs Committee: 239 boys little league, 120 girls softball, looking to expand fields and needs to expand recreational opportunities, would like home field for baseball

Bill Collins Local School: for Almoners, combination effort between school and elders, 600 students could carry flyer home fundraising

Steve Hyde Fire Department: demand is increasing on Fire Department, still have a lot of volunteers for fire and ambulance good for community, need for training, new regulations coming from state that require training, increased coverage up to 40 hours a week for day time.

Ed Cauley rep Labrie Field Committee: Strong Road project met with Doucet Assoc with other professional, 6-7 months, evaluated soils, water series of improvement for final plan, June 15th meeting at Norris at 6pm, no money for construction at this time

Ed Cauley rep Transfer Station/Landfill: develop series of renewable energy on landfill could generate revenue, we will host hazardous waste day sometime in the fall (September), Northampton closing 2012, 67% recycling rate, landfill alternate energy \$to town, hazardous waste day fall September

Ed Cauley rep Water and Highway: drainage grants for East St and Strong Rd, resurfacing money for Ponds area/still in bonds although state has no produced, not enough staff (manpower) especially for winter ops, no good budget in 27 years, 10 employee (1 is water superintendent) DPW how do we get there, no adequate money in 27 years, develop new well at site, avoid Tighe Carmody

David Silvernail Police Chief: 7% cut last year, level funding means cut 30% increase in arrests and housebreaks on increase, equipment is broken down, no cruiser this year, capital improvement says they did not take off, many departments did not get to discuss wage increase, and communication issues need to improve

Chairman Dods rep Select Board: budget challenge continues along with communications issues, the challenge collectively figure out way to get through this

Chairman stated in the handouts (need to attach) he stated we need to work together, people are stretched and moral is down and this situation is flowing down hill. The way thru this is to work together.

Linda Summers expressed she does not think it is the groups responsibilities to find the answers, she stated it is the leadership of the Select Board and Town Administrator to explain to the public what the needs are, what needs to be done about it, higher taxes probably or else explain why they are not getting services she thinks to start at the top, the public employees are struggling they shouldn't have to be the source of the solution.

Craig Jurgenson he would like to be part of the solution.

Selectman Phelan stated they talked about having dept head meeting or opening up the select board meeting to the dept heads to one meeting a month to have dept heads or committee heads and have it more formalized, to ease the communication problem, the first fifteen minutes to half hour. Selectman Phelan further discussed the budget process and changing the way they discuss it, streamlining with the Select Board, Finance Committee and the Capital Improvement Committee.

Selectman Phelan stated the next step: on June 29 the Select Board meeting the board will have the dept head at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall to Communicate, what to prioritize.

Tape was shut off and turned back on to

0:00 P.M. EXECUTIVE SESSION M.G.L. CHAPTER 39, §23B #3 Letter to Highway Union

Reconvened into regular session

I. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Nothing at this time

II. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Labrie Field Design, Use and Development Hearing June 15th at 6:30pm at Norris School
- Select Board June 15th and 29th

III. OLD BUSINESS

Re-appointment of COA Theresa St. Martin

MOTION: To re appoint Theresa St. Martin of COA (PHELAN, ROY)

Voted and approved 5-0

Memo from PPPB

Selectman Phelan stated they scored the Building Inspector position and it was scored less than what he is currently receiving now. Selectman Phelan stated the next person that comes in should start at that rate.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

DPC Contract for the Town Hall Feasibility

MOTION: To table to next meeting. (ROY, PHELAN)

Voted and approved 5-0

O'Connor Chapter 61A removal

MOTION: To table to next meeting. (ROY, PHELAN)

Voted and approved 5-0

July 4th Holiday Closing

MOTION: To observe July 4 holiday on Monday, July 5, 2010. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 5-0

V. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE AND SIGNATURES

One Day Permits Conant Park

MOTION: To approve and sign the One Day Beer & Wine Permit for First Congregational Church on Sept 11, 2010. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 5-0

MOTION: To approve and sign the One Day Beer & Wine Permit for Edward and Nancy Skwira on June 19 at 1pm at Conant Park. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 5-0

VI. MINUTES OF MEETINGS, APPROVAL & SIGNATURES

Minutes of March 16, March 23, April 6, April 27, May 4 and May 11
Tabled until next meeting

Bill Warrant

MOTION: To sign bill warrant #W10-49 \$575,067.88. (PHELAN, ROY)
Voted and approved 5-0

VII. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC

Ms. Schindler wanted to clarify for the record everything they heard in terms of the capital improvement committee is false; the CIC saw every change that went on the plan. They went thru line by line and the idea that they did not know what is going on is false and according to Nancy who told her tonight, she spoke with the Chief over the phone and explained this to him.

Ms. Schindler stated in the future when they talk about communication it is important for her to know specifically what kind of communication they talking about, she further stated we sent out the agendas and at every meeting on the agenda they had budget discussion on it, what more can they say.

Chairman Dods suggested making phone calls. She said she is willing to do it as long as it doesn't set her up for failure. Ms. Schindler stated she feels there is a lot of communication coming in and out of the office all the time. She does not understand where they are coming from.

Selectman McDougall stated in the past year he has been approached by some of the department heads who have expressed that they feel like they are out of the loop and they do not understand the decisions that are made. He stated they just want to be heard, they want to be a part of the action.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 0:00 P.M.
Respectfully submitted
Regina Shea-Sullivan