

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. Mr. Sullivan was absent. The following members were present.

Catherine Winston, Chairman  
Clifton Snuffer, Vice Chairman  
Al DeNapoli  
Chris Timson

Also present:  
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator  
James Johnson, Asst. Town Administrator

Ms. Winston called the meeting to order.

4-11 Richard McCarthy

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to reappoint Richard McCarthy as a Constable, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

4-4 Steve Baker, Information Systems

Mr. Baker has a background in computers and computer science and is seeking a seat on the information systems committee. He saw the listing on the web site for people to volunteer so he decided to volunteer.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Mr. Baker to the Information Systems Committee, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 4-0-0

7:30 Chief Stillman Quarterly

Chief Stillman reported it has been busy and he is hoping the legislators will come up with some money to help out. The good news, calls for service have decreased by 12% from last year and arrests have decreased by 15%. Crimes against a person have increased by three times as last year. Due to the current financial times he has reduced or eliminated a lot of the programs and is using supervisory coverage to reduce overtime. A lot of things officers do, so there has been some reduced patrol time and greater pressure for officers to complete their investigation during their shifts. There have been two recent retirements, Kenny Scanzio and Richard Ryan.

There was an armed robbery at CVS and that person was arrested, and this past Saturday at the Gulf station on Route One there was an attempted robbery and that person is under arrest. The Attorney General's office would like Joe Zangehetti to work with them one day a week with the computers for the next three months which will provide them with

good training. The Police Department has started training with the ATV which will be helpful trying to get into the woods.

Mr. Snuffer spoke to the increase of people on people crimes and the necessary training an officer must have. The Chief explained that this type of crime is not easily controlled as a lot of it is behind closed doors. There is a lot of stress and they try to refer people to the right agencies that can help.

The Chief will try to keep the school resource officer going for as long as he can. The school monitoring program has suffered without the community policing money the Chief can not pay the officers.

Mr. Timson spoke of the recent string of bank robberies in Massachusetts and wanted to know if there was a policy in place as to what the police department will do when two situations are going on at the same time. The Chief explained when you start mingling two situations it becomes overwhelming for any police department. The towns in the Southeast have put together protocols, about how to handle these things, using mutual aide, depend on neighbors.

8:00 p.m. Chief Bailey, Quarterly

Chief Bailey informed the members the ambulance runs are a little bit lower from last year. The past few months the deputy has been working on some programs and applying for various grants. He is working with the Town of Sharon for a home inspection program. They are working on re-designing the web page showing safety tools for residential and commercial and will be more comprehensive. Will offer a fire extinguisher training program which will be free if they come to the station of they can pay to have the department come out. Hessco is working on a new program which will help those that live alone. It is voluntary and they must enroll in the program in which the mail carrier can contact a family person if the mail is building up. There had been a situation in which a person living alone had past away and no one knew.

The Chief has not heard from MCI Cedar Junction, since the Board sent the letter regarding the contract. The department has received the new Engine #2 which replaces their 34 year old truck.

Mr. Timson expressed his concern with the overtime budget. He wanted to know if the Chief thought the amount that was transferred from the Reserve Fund would cover him through the rest of the year. The Chief felt it will be tight, and he hopes to make it to the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Snuffer discussed standard operating procedures at the Fire Department and the Chief is reviewing and updating them.

8:10 Jack Wiley, Conservation Commission

Jack Wiley, Chairman of the Conservation Commission appeared before the Board to update them on what the Commission has been doing over the last year. He explained that although the construction industry has slowed down they have been working on a number of subdivisions that are still outstanding. Reasonable amount of activity, there are a number of extensions that are coming up. They are involved in storm water management and some increase in that activity. There are five active members on the Commission and they have a great staff.

He is also the Chairman of the Adams Farm Committee and informed the members that the butterfly garden is beginning, and the community garden is due to start operating May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is an ongoing issue that pet owners need to clean up after their dogs. The Committee is pleased with the amount of residents using the site.

Mr. DeNapoli is very excited about the community gardening. Of the available thirty plots, twenty eight have been committed.

Mr. Snuffer noted that Rhonda has been a great help to the Adams Farm committee and she is moving would like to send her a sincere thank you.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to send Rhonda a letter of thanks, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0,

8:15 p.m. Stephanie Mercandetti

Stephanie explained she has been trying to be creative with working with existing businesses and brokers and property owners to create a win/win for everyone involved. They want existing businesses to grow, working with them to examine what resources are available to them. She is looking at existing underutilized sites. We do have a concentration of the downtown and are holding a series of meetings to help create a vibrant more successful downtown. The Economic Development Committee held a special meeting as CVS is thinking of expanding and that brought about discussion for that area, this would be the right time to convey a note of encouragement to business owners in the area. She would like to send a letter to the property owners from the Selectmen saying we are willing to work with them, benefit for all to have a lovely and vibrant downtown.

Mr. Snuffer had attended the meeting and it would be nice not to see empty buildings in the downtown. CVS is planning to expand into the old Blockbuster area. This will be a focal point and hopefully influence the other property owners to get involved.

Mr. Boynton noted the town does not own the property but we can deliver the tools, and help work on grant applications. Receptiveness of the property owners, we hope that CVS will be the spring board. It was suggested a joint meeting take place after town meeting with the EDC to see if there are any other interested property owners.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to authorize the Chairman to sign the two letters as requested by Stephanie Mercandetti, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 4-0-0

8:30 p.m. Tony Rosselli, Audit Report

Tony Roselli of Roselli, Clark & Associates presented the year ending June 30, 2008 Audit. He explained some of the operational results are outdated as this was completed in October. At that time, the undesignated fund balance was 3.5 million, Stabilization had 1.3 million, debt stabilization had 0.8 million, receipts reserved for ambulance was at 1.2 million and your overlays had 0.7 million. It was a great financial picture but many things have changed. This helped in your crisis.

Mr. DeNapoli spoke to even in light of what is going on now we are trying to keep stabilization fund. The fact that we are holding it is giving us safe harbor.

Mr. Roselli explained the town needs to move forward. He found nothing worth discussing in the single audit report. The school department has done a wonderful job correcting the previous errors. He noted the ambulance receivables are not recorded in the town's general ledger. This is a requirement of GASB34 and should be monitored closely.

The present manner of capturing compensated absence data is through the software vendor and there should be a better way to come up with these numbers. The Town will work on adding ambulance receivables to the balance sheet. By reflecting it, it gives a bonding company the idea that the town is sophisticated in keeping that.

With respect to the High School field grant the town was not doing the background checks on the vendors. The process was something new and the town is now going forward with additional steps. Mr. Roselli explained they did perform the test of the vendors and there were no problems or they would have had to report them.

GASB45 that liability will grow and grow, funding retirement, this will be a problem in about twenty years. This will be a challenge to fully fund and the town would need to set aside one million a year. It is post employment benefits. The total funding is about 23 million. The town needs to be concerned about this and be proactive. There is a benefit to funding it as it is not going away.

Mr. Boynton spoke to being difficult to fund this during these economic times. There needs to be a funding source, but not at the expense of operations. I am happy about the comments in the Audit in recognizing the need not to spend down every time to get through. Talked about the budgets and how difficult next year it will be. The Snow and Ice deficit along with the cut in the \$750,000 from the state for the prison has had a significant impact on the budget.

Mr. Timson noted the Town has been borrowing funds to bring up quality of roads, and questioned if that was a prudent thing to do in light of the current financial status? Mr. Roselli explained it is prudent to work with your infrastructure to keep the town in good shape.

Mr. Timson spoke to the operating grants and contributions increased by almost three million dollars. Is that something we can attribute to the employees of the town? Mr. Roselli explained a good portion is the money provided by the state for school retirement benefits. In order to get more grants you need people writing them.

Mr. Roselli closed by saying he sees a lot of fraud in many towns. He does not see that in Walpole.

#### OPEN FORUM

Philip Chzarowski thanked the Board to bring the level of funding to keep state accreditation at the library. In response to the cut they gathered over 600 signatures on a petition. He believes this shows people do value the library. Ms. Winston spoke to the many emails and letters the Board received and they were respectful and it was something the residents valued. Not one flip letter, all a pleasure to read.

Mr. Boynton explained that getting to this point has been a challenge. This is a difficult time with this budget. The house will come out with the budget on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a possibility that we balanced our budget on a number that may be lower. Every resident should contact the legislative delegation, work to generate revenue for this town; it is inconceivable that the state would rely on capital gains tax for new revenue. Anyone that was on the email list should stress to them how difficult it is. I do not anticipate making any changes. We would have to make changes at the Fall Town Meeting if necessary.

#### Article #24 Library

Paul Cesary, wants to thank all the Boards for all the work in getting where we need to get to. He understands how difficult it is. The library is 1% of the Town's budget. The library Board of Trustees wish to proceed with another attempt in an override question. We have until the end of this year to obtain funding. We understand times have not improved, but we may not get this opportunity again. We do not know if they will continue this grant round. The trustees would like to move into that direction and get your endorsement on that project. We continue to have dialogue with architects. We need to get updated cost figures. The new cost estimate has dropped. Continue to tweak the design, we only have conceptual drawings.

Mr. Snuffer suggested that marketing and selling of this project is vital. It is a down economy and will not be easy.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to place the question for the 2 ½ override for the library on the June Election ballot, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Article #24

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to recommend Favorable Action on Article #24, \$6,200,000.00 from borrowing, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0, unanimous

The average annual impact is about seventy-six dollars for average home.

4-10 Pool Fees

Josh Cole had provided the Board members with a copy of his proposed pool fees. He was not at the meeting. Cheryl Cavanaugh presented the Board with a comparison of other towns and noted that Josh Cole had not seen this document. Josh had put together a proposed fee schedule but she did not agree with his numbers. She felt it was critical that it gets done within the next two weeks. The Board wanted to speak to Josh prior to making a decision on the numbers.

4-5 Allied Recycling , Letter to Mr. Mosher

The Board drafted a letter to Mr. Mosher in response to the numerous complaints they have received. There have been many improvements at the site.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli that we authorize the Chair to send the letter on behalf of the Board, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Advertising signs around Town of Walpole

A resident took down over forty-six signs for Walpole singles.com around town. Chief Stillman has suggested the Board contact officer Zangehetti as he can try to trace where this business is located. This resident is concerned the town is getting junky looking. The Board suggested if residents see signs on public property or on telephone poles to put them in dumpster.

4-6 Chapter 90 Reimbursement

Mr. Boynton named the streets that would be part of this reimbursement.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to approve the Chapter 90 project requests as submitted, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

4-7 Village Fair

Board received a request from the Epiphany Church for the annual Village Fair. Mr. Boynton noted this is all consistent with prior use.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to approve the request of the parish, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

4-8 Shredding event

Ms. Chapell is seeking use of pool parking lot to hold a shredding event. Residents may bring down paperwork they want shredded at no charge to them. Robin will be doing outreach on this issue.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 4-0-0

4-9 Acceptance of Gift

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to accept the Gift from Jackman Co. For Walpole Day, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

4-12 Constable appointment

MOTION moved Mr. DeNapoli to reappoint John Vozzella as a Constable subject to him submitting a bond with the Board, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Town Administrator's Update

Mr. Boynton, Mr. Timson and Mr. DeNapoli have accepted the invitation to board members from Rep McMurtry to hear Speaker DeLeo on April 23, 2009 at the Dedham Hilton.

Insurance Bids: Mr. Boynton will present to the Board at the next meeting approval of quotes. The Town received two other bids but he is recommending they remain with Berry insurance as it looks like a \$20,000 savings.

Pine Street Sewer: The project is underway, and residents are being asked not to drive on the street unless you need to be there.

FY2010 budget: It is important to keep on top of our legislators. Ms. Winston does not see them doing a lot and need to be loud and clear. Mr. Boynton noted the state needs to make the difficult decisions they can not make everyone happy. We know money is tight, but they could start dealing with issues that impact the town. Health insurance is one of the biggest issues, if they would give the town the ability to control health designs. It should be management's rights and not mandatory bargaining.

New Business

Mr. Snuffer talked about the meeting attended by Chief Bailey regarding the proposed buildings across from Gillette Stadium. He would like to keep the residents in South Walpole informed. Mr. Boynton did meet with representatives and 1.4 million s.f. is for retail and offices. It is where the unpaved parking areas are. They talked about reactivating the rail line and setting up parking area at Gillette stadium. We sent a letter to MEPA outlining our concern which was signed by many staff members.

Mr. Timson suggested the town may want to consider setting up a committee on how to deal with GASB 45. When we do our goals we may want to consider adding this. It was suggested when the actuary comes in we can come up with some ideas.

Minutes:

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to approve the minutes of March 10,2009, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved Mr. Timson to approve the minutes of March 16, 2009, seconded by Mr. DeNapoli, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to move into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining, seconded by Mr. Timson, by roll call vote Mr. DeNapoli-Aye, Mr. Snuffer-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye and Ms. Winston-Aye.

MOTION moved by Mr. DeNapoli to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

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David Sullivan, Clerk