

Approved September 20, 2011

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011 beginning at 7:08 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. The following members were present.

Nancy Mackenzie, Chairman
Eric Kraus, Vice Chairman
Michael Berry, Clerk
Clifton Snuffer
Christopher Timson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sponsored Agenda Items

8-1 Proclamation for Lets Move Walpole

Christina Knobel along with Robin Chapell presented to the Board a program the MRC is starting. First Lady Michelle Obama is raising awareness of the needs for better physical and emotional health of Children. Let's Move Walpole is looking to become an official program with the purpose to spearhead a campaign to promote healthy living.

They are looking at a kick off event at A. Farm Day. Advertise food pantry, farmer's Market, hiking through A. Farm. Their plan is to schedule an event every month focusing on a different topic. First we will introduce ourselves, than nutrition, walk to school day, talk about stress and mental health. Looking for volunteers to teach some exercise classes. Yoga at the pavilion would be great. We are working with Recreation and School dept to be on the same page.

Ms. Knobel read the Proclamation into the record.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the proclamation for "Lets Move Walpole, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

Adams Farm Field Day

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the use of A. Farm by the Walpole Lions Club for Field Day on September 17, 2011, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

Bid Award, Elevator

Board of Selectmen minutes of August 9, 2011

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to award contract No.2011-32 to Associated Elevator Companies, Inc., S. Yarmouth, MA, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

OPEN FORUM- No one present

T. Admin Update

MEMA- They support the application for Norfolk Street drainage and the next step it goes to FEMA.

It was discussed that a letter to Congressman Lynch seeking favorable support for this would be beneficial.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to send a letter asking Congressman Lynch to weigh in favorably on our request, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

Re-Precinct Process- State approval

Chip Seal program begins on August 22

Down town road improvement project-business owners will be consulted with in September regarding a program for the downtown. He has solicited costs as it has to be done for this process.

FY2011 property casualty ins- MIIA rewards \$38,829 savings. Several workshops were taken and that goes towards a credit. Safe driver programs helped. Same coverage, just less cost. The town also received a \$10,000 grant from MIIA for snow load assessment they did back in the winter and \$5,000 for safety trailer. did all the coordination.

September 11th-working with Chiefs brief remembrance. Should have details by the next meeting.

Selectmen Principal Clerk Hiring- we are moving forward with this process. We will have a review team of Jim Johnson and Cindy go over finalists and I will bring in the finalist.

Compost site issues-disposal of TVs the problem is that is hazardous material. It is causing problems, likely going to remove the building. That is significant cost.

Regional services- met with Town Administrator of Foxboro and Franklin and spoke about a variety of issues. We have a long way to go. He is working on Board of Health regional services. Cost sharing with other communities.

Fundraising for emergency management vehicle is not going well.

MINUTES

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the minutes of July 19, 2011, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 4-0-1 (Mrs. Mackenzie abstained)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Timson wants to revisit the cost of going into the State Health insurance compared to W. Suburban Health Ins. We are probably close to what the cost would be. I think we need to have the numbers and show that we have looked at them.

Mr. Timson recalled at the last meeting the Board discussed the improvement of the concrete road, Hitching Post, he does not believe the board approved the work, just discussed it. Mr. Kraus agreed the Board only discussed the issue there were no votes taken.

Mr. Timson is having a difficult time accepting the fact the town would have to spend \$500,000 to service few people and others are getting chip seal. He would like some solution to the concrete road with less expense. He is having a hard time rationalizing that expense. Mr. Boynton explained the town continues to asphalt patch the roadway, but there is a point there is no other fix. Concrete does not work in New England.

Mr. Berry explained that Mark and he met with members of the MPIC, COA regarding a new senior center. We should have more information going forward.

Mr. Kraus recessed the regular scheduled meeting and the Board will reconvene with School Committee and Finance Committee. If anyone watching wants to come down they are welcome. This portion of the meeting is not televised.

Budget Discussion:

The following members from Finance Committee and School Committee were present

Fincom Members-Carol Lane, Mary Kent, Joe Denneen, Ralph Knobel, Larry Pittman, Joe McDermott, Dennis Crowley

School Committee-Brain Walsh, Nancy Gallivan, Bill Buckley, John Desmond, Supt. Lincoln Lynch, Mike Ryan, Ed Thomas and Allan Cameron.

Mr. Boynton has tried to come up with a working plan as to where we are going next year. Next year will be the most challenging we have had. Take a look at FY2012 where were we when we first met. What are some of the unknowns? It is important in looking at prison mitigation money. Planning for FY2013 should have a working group set up; we would be in good shape.

FY2012-Revenue/Expenditure comparisons. There are a few changes but no changes to the Operating budget.

He discussed the FY2012 State Aid Projections. There has been an increase in Chapter 70 money and but a decrease in the Charter school reimbursement.

Local receipt projections- Did not hit the proposed target on Motor Vehicle Excise Tax. The revenue is coming there is an addition \$200,000 coming in this FY. People have not paid their bills. We are going to do two demand cycles. We will get back on the May cycle. The other state tax, meals tax, the town missed by about two hundred dollars than what we were looking at. It is not something that turned into a cash cow. We are hopeful to see what that will do for a full cycle.

The other number they are not hitting, investment income. Had anticipated \$85,000 and we did not hit that. There is nothing jumping out as being overly beneficial in terms of revenue.

He reviewed a comparison from April 5, 2011 numbers to the August 9, 2011. Have picked up an additional cost in charter schools. The revenue did not cover those increases. We had a \$20,000 gap that needed to be covered and that was covered with changes to contracts.

Nancy Gallivan thought looking at the numbers the estimated revenue is \$122,000 then last year. Mr. Boynton agreed and explained without the snow and ice reimbursement that number would change dramatically. I think we are right on target. Reimbursements do not happen every year and you need to qualify for the funding. I am cautious regarding the one time revenue.

Mr. Boynton talked about the Prison money, the hosting program. Last week spoke to Finance Director of DOC and asked him where Walpole stands. We are now more of a transitional facility. The prior program the State gave us \$65,000. The state use to fund that at 1 million and this year at \$500,000. Not sure what the dollar figure is as it would be a benefit. Second part of unknown, regurgitating, the amount of cut that took place in FY2010 to 2012 up to 50% of that would be returned to communities to make them whole from the local aid cut. That could be \$115,000. He should know sometime in late September.

Superintendent Lynch stated they have been cited by the Dept of Ed for not enough instructional hours for too many study hours in 6th grade. We are in violation of state law. We are not sure what they will do. We have had to post two positions pending funding support. We have to under spend in other areas of the budget. So it is about \$90,000 total. Adding this staff will not impact the number of employees with health insurance. They have reduced four cafeteria workers. The cost is there. We had four students move in, during the month of July. Because of the increase in Special Ed students, he has had to add two aids and a teacher. That is the bind we are in now. They should have a hard number by next week. He must also hire a teacher certified in math.

Mr. Boynton asked them to keep in mind how difficult and increase of \$90,000 in a budget like this. Absorption use to be less painful. It begins to identify that we need to look at FY2013, It brings us to Prison mitigation funding. We do not have the money yet. As soon as the Administration and Finance gives the thumbs up, the DOC will transfer the money to the town. The entire state is going to have to share the \$500,000. I would like to optimistic that the \$750,000 is coming in every year, but I do not know. We have started looking at FY2013. We are so tight with our budgets. We are not hitting the extra one million. When we closed the FTM we still had 1.2million in uncommitted free cash. Based on conversations with Arti we are looking at 1.6 million in free cash. When you look at where we were three years ago we are down in terms of revenue.

Mr. Kraus would like to see the Board prioritize where that \$750,000 should be spent. He would like to see the building study go forward. He wants to see the best use for the money.

Carol Lane questioned if this is considered one time money, which makes a difference on how you spend it.

Mr. Boynton suggested that each committee come up with suggestions for pressing needs. He would like to see a subcommittee with two members of the School Committee, Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee work together and come up with a plan.

Mr. Knobel urged them to look at this as one time money. You can pray for it. Mr. Timson agreed, in a perfect world, there is a potential there is going to be returned money. We should try to avoid it. It is a matter of what is on the table in front of us.

Mr. Denneen also agrees. It had been used for reoccurring and then it was not funded. It should be considered one time money.

Mrs. Gallivan explained they try to provide stability. She is concerned that it is one time money because it takes the legislators off the hook. We should do in long term planning look at what we do get from the state. Good six years ago we did a presentation about Walpole not getting fair share of Chapter 70 money. Fixing chapter 70 is difficult. I think our legislators did work on it and supplement it with Prison money. I do not think we should be in the newspaper saying it is one time money. We need to make sure it is recurring money. The long range planning will tell us

Mr. Boynton explained they have talked about certain projects. There has to be a realistic discussion about revenue for the town. We do not have major projects. You have to have conversation. Walpole spends less per person than any other community around. Look at Dedham; they spend about \$400 a person more. Franklin is very close to us. Mrs. Gallivan noted they get 125% more in spending. They do not want to take away money. One of the things that would be smart is to be better informed.

Mr. Kraus would like the working group would come up with something and come back and say how it should be used. Mr. Berry would like to have some consensus on the framework on the guidelines. Mr. Kraus is looking at six people getting together to come up with the best use of the money. Tell us what they feel. We can come up with the criteria.

Mrs. Mackenzie suggested based on numbers putting thru a presentation and invite our delegation in and show them the differences. Maybe they can come in.

Mr. Knobel does not think we are communicating well to the taxpayer, need to express the difficulties that state mandate does. A lot of problems we have are state mandates.

Supt. Lynch balances the budget on what they give him for services. The state does not fund the mandates. Mr. Berry feels communication is paramount, when people think about overrides, they think about is my trash being picked up and we have been able to weather the storm and you are dealing with these cuts and still providing services. They see Walpole getting the job done. To think we can convince people, public safety and basic is what people care about. It is credit to Mr. Boynton and Superintendent Lynch that we can provide so much.

Mr. Kraus asked each Chairman to get two names to serve on the committee to Michael. Would like to work on this sooner rather than later. Then get the legislative body back to let them know we are not thinking of this as one time money.

Mr. Gallivan see the Legislators coming in as an opportunity for a photo op for thanking them for their support for the prison mitigation money.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 9:05, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie,
VOTED 5-0-0