

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present.

Eric Kraus, Chairman
Michael Berry, Vice Chairman
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
Nancy Mackenzie (7:10 p.m.)
Christopher Timson

Also Present:
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

Mr. Kraus called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Sponsored Agenda Items

6-33 **Matthew Hoffman, Constable Appointment**

Mr. Hoffman appeared before the Board seeking an appointment as Constable. He has worked in substance abuse and alcohol treatment. He was the clinical Director for first and second offense for drunk drivers in Boston. He has dealt with potentially violent situations over the years but never confrontation. He stated he is able to calm the person down and deliver services in a calm and peaceful manner.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to appoint Matthew Hoffman as a Constable for three year term, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

7:15 p.m. **Robin Chapel, MRC Video**

Clare Wolfman and Robin Chapell gave a brief video presentation to the Board for recruitment to the MRC. They currently have 150 volunteers and are always looking for more. They received a national award for their program. They are not only helping out in emergency preparedness but also get Americans healthy. The MRC has had some emergencies and provided flu clinics. They do various training and have a behavioral unit. The Board was very pleased with the video presentation and extended appreciation to Robin and staff for a great job.

6-34 M. Good, Debt Management & Undesignated funds Polices

Mark Good appeared before the Board seeking their approval on his proposal for two new polices relating to debt management and undesignated funds. Each time he goes to borrow they mention if the town has a debt policy. It has always been an unwritten rule. This will aide with the towns bond rating. Each time the town goes out to borrow they rate each bond.

Mr. Boynton explained it doesn't mean we are going to borrow that, you have to pay it back. We do not borrow for operations and Mark maintains a good cash balance. This is not suggesting we are going to borrow more, this is the limits we should be monitoring.

Mark noted the town's principal interests for FY12 is 2.7 million dollars, you are looking for some room to move there. It is a policy not a rule and can be adjusted if need be.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to adopt the Debt Management Policy and Undesignated Funds Policy drafted by Mark Good in a memo dated May 4, 2011, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

7:35 p.m. OPEN FORUM

James Taylor questioned why certain streets are being paved again. West, Oak and Summer Street were just done a few years ago and his street, Broad, has not been done in 25 years. He noted that last year Clarkson Drive was done.

Mr. Boynton believes Mr. Taylor had a conversation with the Asst. Superintendent today and it was explained the town has a pavement management program. They are paving the streets identified by the T. Engineer. They go out and take a look at the streets and take reports from residents.

Mr. Timson explained the town started a project with the roads and rate the roads on a scale. Get all the roads in a five year period to a C level. He explained there are roads in his neighborhood that need paving, I am sure everyone wants roads done. Not all roads are done yet, that is the program.

Mr. Taylor wanted to know what was going on in S. Walpole, the roads have been dug up for two years. The street is a mess, have been sitting there for two years. Mr. Boynton explained his is a TIP program we have reached 100% design, several pages of comments awaiting final approval from the state for bidding. The town saved over \$200,000 in engineering costs. Federal Dollars administered by Mass DOT. We are asking that construction begin before the end of the season. Mass DOT has worked closely with us, asked to waiver certain requirements. Tree removal issues, a long process, we had Bay State gas to do the work before this project. It will be great when it is done. The funds are there, it is the red tape issues.

7:45 p.m. Sean Ford Withrow, Animal Control Officer

Mr. Withrow reported his job is going great keeping him very busy. He is now a certified animal control officer in Mass. The general training was well worth it. His goal is to modernize the dept, ACO's have taken modern stance, things updated equipments, do my job safer and efficiently. Adding responsibilities and roles, taking all calls, not every officer would handle, helping injured wild life. MSPCA works closely and any organization goal is to help animals. A lot of his time is spent educating, he just goes out and talks to the resident, there is no threat. A lot of calls are from people who see wildlife in their yard. About 20% of the calls are wildlife calls. There is a list of other roles, social worker, domestic violence, zoo zoologist, criminal law expert, secretary animal rights activist. They give you what is needed to get started, the rest is experience. That is where I want to take the dept. It was somewhat old fashion.

On the Kennel last I heard they were taking bids. It will be great, I would love to be able to do that here in town. Any unclaimed strays, I am a trained animal behaviorist and determine if the dog is good to adopt out or not. It would be great to adopt the dogs out. I will ask for donations, once the kennel is built. I do not see that as a problem.

7:55 p.m. Jon Cogan, Veteran's Agent

Mr. Cogan reported he is finding ways to reach out to the community and it has grown since he has been here. He has created a few ways to reach out to the Veterans such as, Face booking. With the help of Scouts and residents they were able to place 1200 Flags, this year. There is huge support from the community. He attends the VFW meetings and the ones with the seniors with Florence. We are growing. Some have just come out of service and some for a long time.

Mr. Cogan explained he started with eight cases and went to ten, but is now down to nine, it fluctuates. Mr. Timson questioned if he feels comfortable with the budget. Mr. Cogan noted the town receives 75% of the funds issued back and he feels comfortable with the budget

6-35 MPIC, Update of Facilities

Mr. Forsberg spoke of the letter sent to the Board. MPIC has almost completed the study. They have been working on it since February and have had ten meetings, met with various departments. MPIC made up a questionnaire which was submitted to all departments and asked them to fill out. All but two were completed. Brainstorming tomorrow night, and have a full report in a month or so, ask that you refrain from allotting any property to anyone until we are complete with the study. Mr. Kraus does not see any issues with that. They are trying to find parcels for the facilities and prioritize.

Mrs. Mackenzie thought the intent was that you were going to check the past studies, do interviews, with the depts. I thought the second part for placement would be with the study we would have gotten. I know this board was thinking of having Mr. Snuffer to discuss all the town properties. I am not sure if you want to make recommendations for placement.

Mr. Kraus believes step one is the report on the review of everything and after that we can talk about potential future uses. Get what Cliff had done and schedule a workshop meeting. Look at both; it will give us a clear picture.

Mrs. Mackenzie explained as far as parcels go we have discussed parcels that may be sold off. If you take that step to place parcels it could prohibit us. I do not want you to go thru that process. The time you have spent with every dept, their need is a bigger help and let us go thru the parcels and see what we have.

Mr. Berry noted the board will be impressed with the professionalism with how the report was put together. The time line we are working on having something done in 4-6 wks, before we make recommendations to use. Maybe get together and contact Mr. Snuffer to go over these properties. We all want to look at the same information.

Mary Kent talked about the \$190,000 that did not come thru with Walpole Woodworkers and suggested keeping in mind funding that study. Hoping you will figure a way to make that study come through.

Mr. Boynton noted it might be a free cash request on T. Meeting.

6-36 & 6-37 Edie Janas, Home for Little Wanderers

Ms. Janas introduced herself and she was not here for the last meeting with the Board. She spoke to the letter from Dept of Children and Families regarding adverse incidents that have occurred in co-el residential programs. They are trying to balance concern about the neighbors, have instituted uniform dress code, ID tag and wear yellow lanyard identified by the neighbors. The surveillance cameras have been installed but can not use them yet as they must notify the residents and staff they will be utilized. Starting September 1, there will be live cameras in the common areas and outside parking areas.

Mr. Kraus wanted to know if it is 24 hour viewing. Ms. Janas explained they will be used for post incidents or concerns only select member of staff can view. Mr. Kraus appreciates their continued diligence on this, progress has been made and we expect everything will be done for safety of neighbors and the residents. We also expect administration to work with the neighbors. We hear from them, at the end of the day and take great credence in what they say. Progress has been made we are still concerned about a co-environment. We urge you to reconsider that option; it has the potential of getting out of hand.

Mr. Berry you are the program director, I know Ms. Benjamin is the CEO, as program director; you are the day to day administration of Longview Farm. The possibility of on site security is that something there is a need for and at what point as the day to day would you see feeling the need to look into that.

Ms. Janas explained they have a whole team, by design they are a staff secure facility, youth that deserve attention, that is not the work we do, that is a different population we do.

Peter Evers, VP programs, does not think that is the model of care we are looking for. Sometime it is counter productive. Mr. Berry discussed the one issue the idea the students leave the facility, short of contacting the police, it did not seem you were as good as you could be to try to prevent those things from happening. When the students get off campus, who is watching them? I would want to see someone trying to bring someone back

Peter Evers explained their restraint policy over the years; they are trying to create a non violent environment. In days gone by there were many restraints that happened and often the youths were restrained. We look at that only as the last resort

Mr. Berry wanted to know what is the protocol, what is the latitude you give that student. Ms. Janas explained they do not stop them from leaving the campus; they reward them for staying on campus. For those that chose to leave, sometimes it makes it worse to follow them, but in most cases they are following students. Give them the right amount of space. They have had a significant decrease in walk a ways.

Mr. Timson believes they are seeing movement in the right direction. Did you get a copy of what Mr. Gilmore sent in? It was written by Mr. Evers. You are writing about success that is being had. Mr. Evers stated the article is saying offering congratulations for not considering lock up only for a way of dealing offenders. Use of foster homes is a way of keeping families intact. There are various ways of managing behavior. He is trying to tie into an incident that happened seven years ago in that article.

Mr. Timson believes when they started this process they almost had a scenario of a public nuisance and he is grateful for the improvement.

Mrs. Mackenzie appreciates the letter, her concern are the kids living there, and if it is not safe for them, in requesting the info about the issues about other facilities which house male and female. She had recommended they call the communities and check with police departments to see how many complaints were taken from that address. There is a way to do it.

Eugene Gilmore, 349 Lincoln Rd, you covered the article and letter I sent to you. The neighbors have brought up many times, the Star program at Longview farm. We do not want to see another equivalent of a Star program. We were concerned that kids from

DYS would be coming out to Longview farm. The reason why they are committed to DYS is because it creates a level of safety. We do not want to see a STAR program.

Mr. Kraus wanted to know if communication since the last time they met has increased or decreased. Mr. Gilmore has seen no major increase in communications. Mr. Kraus wanted to know if the staff wearing different colors helps. Mr. Gilmore has not paid a lot of attention to that. There are fewer kids around the neighborhood. They did institute a phone program. He would like to see improvement in communicating with neighbors.

Mr. Kraus wanted to know how the star program got there. Ms. Janas stated that pre dates her. The STAR program is not a DYS program. They are all over the state. (DCF) it was a bid, many young people were coming into care and needed placement. The HFLW was successful in bidding for the program and that is how it got to be there. Mr. Kraus asked if that could come back to this facility.

Mr. Evers stated they have no plans for that. Mrs. Mackenzie wanted to know who holds the license and was told the Dept of EEC does. She thinks it is important reason someone from the town needs to be there when the state is deciding. We want to be sure Walpole is represented there. Mr. Condrón stated they are public meetings and the town can attend. They have been involving John Rogers with the work they are doing. He does not know when the license is up for renewal.

Brian Condrón informed them that separate from safety issue, there is upcoming meeting with neighbors on July 11, construction updates, set up web page, const. updates, telling them who is doing what.

Jack Shea 266 Lincoln Rd, I was never notified of a meeting. Mr. Condrón stated it was mailed Monday. Mr. Shea felt it would be nice to have 30 days notice not a week. Mr. Kraus stressed again to over communication with the neighbors is better.

Larry 320 Lincoln Rd, I think we need more structured dialogue with them. We have discussed off and on a better process. I really think on paper they are doing the right thing, end of day He would like to have a structured process.

Mr. Kraus felt it might be appropriate to have a liaison with a neighbor to address issues going on. Ms. Janas agreed. It was suggested the liaison could compile an email list.

Mr. Berry spoke of Mr. Gilmore concerns about someone getting back to a neighbor when they call. What is the protocol when someone makes a call? Ms. Janas explained they started back in January the Administration carries the phone at all times; we do our best to return calls. The phone is carried on someone. They should be able to answer it. Mr. Berry expressed his desire for them to call sooner rather than later as it can ease the neighbors' fears. Communicate with the neighbors.

Karen Taylor, Lincoln Rd, walks in the neighborhood and has never noticed any nametag that will distinguish the staff. She is concerned the number of incidents, walking as much as she does. She mentioned dress code; if someone is walking down the street you can not see the yellow lanyard she wanted to know why they did not wear a shirt for better identification.

Mr. Kraus suggested having a liaison as a voice and serve with the rest of community. The staff should do a better job identifying selves. Hopefully with liaison things like a meeting a week before construction starts is better communicated.

6-38 Michael Amaral, MPIC appointment

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to appoint Michael Amaral as the representative of the Historical Commission on the MPIC, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-39 J. Rockwood, Housing partnership

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to accept the resignation from Jon Rockwood from the Housing Partnership Committee, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-40 Recreation Department

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Concerts on the Common schedule as requested. Seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the request to hold the Walpole Arts and Music Festival on October 1, 2011 and reserve the Area around Blackburn Hall and Town Hall, Seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the date for Walpole Day for Saturday, May 19, 2012, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-41 Camy 5K Run and Walk

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Camy 5K Run and David 5K Walk on November 12, 2011 with route as outlined seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-42 Office Reconfiguration

We took a look at the office and we will have budget savings.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Office Staff Reconfiguration, job descriptions and proposed salary as outlined in the memo dated June 9, 2011 from the T. Administrator seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 5-0-0

6-43 Library Representative to PBC

The representative of the Board must be a member of the Library Trustees and Mr. Cesary is no longer a member. He was interested in remaining on the PBC but the way the Town Charter is written, the representative must be a member of the Library Trustees Paul will stay very active.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to accept the resignation from Paul Cesary and ask the library to appoint someone else, seconded by Mr. Berry VOTED 5-0-0

6-44 One Day Liquor License

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the one day liquor license for the Knights of Columbus on July 3, 2011 with a rain date of July 9, 2011, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

Town Administrators Update

DOT Mobility Grant Award & Friends of COA Donation- The Council on Aging received a \$40,000 grant for a new van and thank you to Friends of the COA who will match \$20,000. Given the value of that donation we should recognize on the vehicle.

T. Planner- The T. Planner is retiring, he will stay on as interim T. Planner. They will go forward and post the position.

Salvation Army boxes- I know we have had them for many years but are more trash receptacles and impossible to police it.

Landfill Solar Options- Mr. Boynton has told them that the town will take on no costs regarding the cover of landfill.

Budget efficiencies update-Overwhelming on some of the things the departments have done through this difficult time. Yes when revenue comes back it will be nice to have more staff. Mrs. Mackenzie would like to use the document as a tool when the Board is discussing goals and objectives.

Night before the 4th- reminder there will be a parade, fireworks and festivities. Town Hall will be closed on the Fourth.

Executive Session

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussing the possible purchase or real estate as the chair has declared that discussion in open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board, and to return to open session for the purposes of adjourning seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie VOTED by roll call : Mrs. Mackenzie-Aye, Mr. Berry-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye and Mr. Kraus-Aye

The Board moved back to regular session.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Gallivan, Clerk