

A Special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Room 112 of the Town Hall. The following members were present:

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

Also present:
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

Mrs. Mackenzie opened the special meeting of Selectmen at 6:00 p.m.

Interviews for Animal control

John Spillane, Animal Control Officer is retiring. The Board was presented with three candidates to fill the open position. The candidates are Mark Nicholson, Kelly Rockwood and Deni Goldman.

Mr. Boynton spoke about the kennel process, talking to different folks. He has spoken with the Medfield Shelter and they are going to talk to their team and we may be able to work out a temporary agreement. The amount budgeted will not be sufficient.

Mr. Snuffer stated for the record in the interest of disclosure, I have had Mark do some work for me personally.

The Board interviewed Mark Nicholson, Kelly Rockwood and Dina Goldman for the Animal Control position. It is an 18 hour a week job with no benefits. The same questions were asked of each candidate. It is noted for the record all three candidates have a valid drivers license and transportation necessary for the position.

Mark Nicholson

Mr. Kraus stated for the record, he does not know Mark in a pest control scenario, he knows him as a Coach. He lives in Walpole. Mr. Nicholson stated he has been doing private animal control for fourteen years and it would be an honor to work for Walpole. In an emergency situation when people are threatened in their home, he can control the situation. He stated he is successful at it. He has five children, and the stability of having a stable job would be ideal for him. He does not currently have a firearm license but is working on that. He is willing to take classes for animal control certification and would learn the laws relating to dog control. He would not allow his private business to interfere with this position. He has handled hundreds of situations where animals get into homes and is able to take control of the situation. He understands that emergency calls are part of the job. He feels he is skilled at calming people down in a heated situation which is beneficial when it comes to dog situations.

Kelly Rockwood

Ms. Rockwood is currently doing food service work, and would remain in that position. Her boss is very lenient. If there is a situation she can leave. She lives in Walpole. She does not have a license to carry a weapon but is willing to take the necessary courses. She has had some experience with rabid animals but never had to capture one. She has trapped animals and is not afraid to learn all aspects of the job. She has worked around animals since she was a little girl and has dealt with animals getting into the barns. She understands that emergency calls are a big part of the job and is never far from home. She knows how to deal with the public. She works in the family business operating a riding farm and must deal with clients. She was assistant manager at Longrove Farm and has had to deal with clients and was responsible for a lot.

Deni Goldman

Ms. Goldman does not live in Walpole, but feels that once you learn all the streets there should be no problem. Her commute to Walpole would be about 15 minutes. Ms. Goldman is currently the part time animal control officer in Hull. She works twenty hours a week. Her job was full time but the hours have been reduced. She has the firearms certification and has been trained in animal control. She continues to train. She has a great background in animal control. She knows a lot of resources. She went through basic police academy. She feels she can bring a lot to the community. She can go to elementary schools and speak to children. She is very pro active. She is aware that emergency calls are a portion of the job. The board explained this position is 24/7. She explained in Hull they use the environmental police for deer calls. She would use those resources. She feels she is good at calming people down. If she has someone that is a threat she would not hesitate to ask for a cruiser. She was Animal Control Officer of the year and is very involved with various organizations. Her volume on animal calls in Hull is very minimal and she would not have a problem going back and forth.

Mr. Boynton explained to the Board the current Animal Control officer is out on calls frequently. The DPW does not handle road kill, which is part of this position. Board members discussed the candidates and how they are going forward with this position. It was noted that anyone who takes this job would more than likely have another job. The Board discussed the candidates and their qualifications and their ability to be on call.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to appoint Mark Nicholson as the apart time Animal Control officer, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie

Mr. Berry expressed concern with conflict. Mr. Boynton will meet with Mark to discuss the issue.

VOTED 5-0-0

Mark Nicholson came back into the room. Board congratulated him and he can't wait to prove himself as Animal Control officer. Mr. Kraus noted we have to make sure that the conflict of interest is above board and hope it is not an issue.

Bid Contract 2010-35, BMS Re-Roofing

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to award the bid to UDA Architects of Walpole for \$13,200, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 5-0-0

Agenda Format

Mr. Berry would like the Board to consider having Open Forum at every meeting and early on the agenda. The citizens would be allowed 3 minutes.

Mr. Snuffer noted that one thing that would be helpful, is for us to manage the citizens expectations, it needs to be understood, it is not a dialogue, conversation, it is an input.

Mr. Berry sees it as someone has a concern they can put it before the Board. We would not engage in debate. If we thought we could help, we can point in right direction.

Mr. Timson thinks the point is there, but it could be a hot issue that may be in between our scheduled monthly open forum. He is not supportive of putting this on every meeting. The Board can add at their discretion other open forums. It is not that he is looking for less citizen input, but we need to manage our meeting, if you have 50 people come in and they have 3 minutes a piece, that could take up an entire evening. Let's have some discretion.

VOTED 4-1-0 (Mr. Timson opposed)

Transfer of funds, Town Clerk

Because of the special election they are asking to transfer funds from salaries to expenses.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to approve the transfer from salaries to expenses for Town Clerk, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 5-0-0

Reserve Fund Transfer, DPW

Due to the June 20th storm, there is a need for funding in Parks, Fields and Trees account. Many trees were damaged during the storm and Hamilton Tree was called in to assist with chipper, large crane and bucket truck.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$5,000, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$2,000, seconded by Mr. Kraus, VOTED 5-0-0

Tee-T's Reversal of Vote

The Board had approved the transfer of the license to Cheryl Sullivan and the passing did not take place. The owners do not wish to go forward and the ABCC is requiring the Board vote to rescind their vote of transfer of license.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to rescind the Tee-t's transfer of all alcoholic liquor license, seconded by Mr. Kraus VOTED 5-0-0

7:45 P.M. Walpole Youth Football

Josh Cole, Dennis Ricci, Robert Conrad, Stephanie, Don Johnson, Ed Forsberg, Al Goetz, Dick Nottenberg were all present.

Mr. Boynton explained the Board received a letter from Youth Football on the future of the Stone field and the town's commitment. It is clear that we needed more definitive outline. Mr. Boynton read the letter into the record.

Robert Conrad questioned if it gives them permission to have control of where heavy equipment from the carnival would go if for some reason another Board allowed it. He is looking forward to continue with the project.

Josh, concern is the field, they have been paying the fees for use of the field and he did not know if they would continue to pay the fee. That is for every group. Mr. Conrad believes they paid about \$1,500.

Mr. Kraus biggest concern is how to maintain the field. He expressed his concern of the field begin kept up. He sees how the other fields in town are maintained and he wants to know what we are doing to maintain.

Mr. Conrad spoke of the general maintenance of the field and that is what we will continue to do. They are investing approximately \$80,000.00 into the project. Mr. Kraus does not think we can depend on DPW to do maintenance. He suggested this is going to be a new multi use facility, but he has lived in this town for years and the lower Turco is a disaster, Morgan is a disaster. Old Post Road and Boyden are in bad shape and there is no money to do anything on these fields. We are going to build this and in two years it will look marginally better than it does now. Mr. Conrad stated he can only give them a guarantee for about five years from him. Once you have a field and it is getting used. He is hoping that it can stay maintained.

Mr. Forsberg spoke of the discussion on MPIC about working with them about enhancing spring brook area. Clean up river expose it, walkway in there, benches along the water, picnic tables. There are a number of grants available. We want to clean up brush. Talked about the benches they would like to install around the area. They talked

about a bridge. If MPIC gets the grants for the path and maybe some picnic tables that would be beneficial.

Mr. Snuffer we are looking for no building on that field. Mr. Forsberg stated just for a park, which is all we want. Mr. Berry noted through MPIC and Board we show there is a vision that dovetails with reutilization of the downtown area. It will help bring things back and attract foot traffic. MPIC does have a vision. Mr. Conrad felt this would blend in well with what they want to do.

Dick Nottenberg agrees with Eric Kraus about the maintenance. Go out there now, there needs to be a mitigation plan. Mrs. Mackenzie agrees that maintaining is very important.

Mr. Snuffer spoke of dredging Memorial Pond. He can not recall the last time the town discussed the issue but he knows there are some people that will keep the materials. Mr. Snuffer also recalls a discussion about a fence area. Mr. Conrad talked about taking out the sheds and putting in a permanent one.

Mr. Boynton spoke of the Adopt a field program. He noted how well the high school field program has worked out. He understands the town is not keeping up with what they need to but that is an issue of staffing. The Town will do what it can.

Mr. Berry would like to see an action plan for this project so everyone will know what they need to do and who is going to do it. He would like the Selectmen to be kept updated. Mr. Timson noted since the Walpole Youth Football organization is bringing the money, they should be the point person. MPIC has a good idea but that is based on funding from the state. He would like the Town Engineer to meet with MPIC to develop a sketch plan. Mr. Conrad added the organization may be able to match some of the funding to MPIC. Mr. Timson would like them to come back to the Board in 45 days.

Mr. Boynton reviewed the letter. **Water:** It is understood that Walpole Youth Football (WYF) will pay for the install of a sprinkler system for the field as a gift to the Town of Walpole. The Board graciously accepts this gift as it will become the property of and owned by the Town, and we extend our appreciation to you. It is expected that the town will supply a water source, pay for the water used in irrigating the field, and set watering times to comply with water conservation directives issued by the Walpole Sewer & Water Commissioners.

Materials: It is understood that WYF will continue to pay for the materials needed to maintain the park. We understand the terms “materials” to mean and include all items & services necessary to perform, including the actual performance of, top dressing, core aeration, and overseeding of the field on annual basis.

Field usage: It is understood that the responsibility for managing and scheduling activities on the Field will rest with the Recreation Department. Permitted uses would be Youth Football, Girls Softball, High School Lacrosse, Recreation T-Ball, Recreation Soccer, Teen Activities (sponsored by Recreation), Senior Citizen Softball (sponsored by Walpole Recreation), Walpole’s Night Before The 4th festivities, Walpole Arts & Music Festival, and of course Walpole Day. It is understood that other needs for the Field may arise, however any other use not listed above would first need the permission of the Board of Selectmen following a positive recommendation from the Recreation Committee and input from WYF.

Carnival: Unless the matter is re-voted by a future Board, there are no plans or intentions to resume any Carnival use or activities on Stone Field. With respect to the generous and encouraging offers of donations toward the Field and flag pole made by Mr. White on behalf of American Legion & Babe Ruth baseball, we would request updates on any discussions your group has relative to acceptance of further gifts or request for “naming” consideration.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to send the letter to the Walpole Youth Football organization, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to enter Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and real estate when the open meeting may have a detrimental effect on litigating position and the Board will reconvene in open session to adjourn, seconded by

Approved July 27, 2010

Mr. Kraus, VOTED by Roll Call 5-0-0; Mr. Kraus-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye, Mr. Snuffer-Aye, Mr. Berry-Aye and Mrs. Mackenzie-Aye

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

Respectfully submitted
