

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Room 112 and reconvened to the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall at 7:00p.m. The following members were present.

Eric Kraus, Chairman
Michael Berry, Vice Chairman
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
Christopher Timson
Nancy Mackenzie

Also present:
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator
Cindy Berube, Executive Assistant

Mr. Kraus called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room 112 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Firefighter Appointments

Chief Timothy Bailey presented two candidates for two openings on the Fire Department as Firefighter/Paramedics. He explained the candidates have been interviewed and these two candidates will start in November on the ambulance until they go to the academy. He is trying for April, but if they do not get into that academy, it will be in July. The first candidate is Frank R. Jewell. He has served on the Canton Fire & Rescue in Canton, NY. He is a certified paramedic. Mr. Jewell gave the Board some background information. Each Board member asked him a question and Mr. Jewell was given ample time to respond. He has firefighting experience is employed by Cataldo Ambulance and Cotuit Fire Rescue. He looks forward to serving on the Fire Department.

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to appoint Frank R. Jewell as a Firefighter/Paramedic with an appointment date effective November 5, 2012. This is a conditional appointment until all pre-employment testing has been successfully completed, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 3-0-0 (Mr. Berry and Mrs. Mackenzie were not present)

The second candidate is Ryan Anderson from N. Attleboro. He has worked for a private EMS for the past seven years and is looking to advance his career in public safety. He has worked for STARR EMS Training, Cataldo Ambulance service, and American Medical Response. He has a bachelors degree in Emergency Medical Services management and a Masters in Business Administration. He is a state certified paramedic. The Board members asked him questions and Mr. Anderson was given ample time to respond.

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to appoint Ryan Anderson as a Firefighter/Paramedic with an appointment date effective November 6, 2012. This is a conditional appointment

until all pre-employment testing has been successfully completed, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 3-0-0 (Mr. Berry and Mrs. Mackenzie were not present)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Major kudos to emergency operations center and CERT and Field Operations Personnel and thank all the members for protecting all of our citizens with Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Gallivan spoke to it being the first time sitting in there and it was great to see how well it worked. He thought it was very effective. All key Dept heads were in the same room. It was awesome. Mr. Berry stated he has a new admiration for what Administration did. All the feedback I heard that response was swift. Job well done. We are fortunate compared to other communities. Thank you to Police and Fire and utility workers.

SPONSORED AGENDA ITEMS

Storm Update & Action

Mr. Boynton reported that all the credit goes to the Department heads and staff, some people names are missing, some people came in from the CERT team and to cover the shelter. Everyone had a task and knew their role. They did not leave until 10 p.m. last night, proud of their work and the work in the field. All three Fire stations were staffed. DPW did not stop. There was continued communication with Supt. Lynch. This did not start yesterday, it started last week when we heard of the storm. Most everything was lined up. Everything was good to go. Precautions that we should take. Met with the Emergency Team yesterday and we flayed out what we expected would happen. The town's team made the determination that we would be in emergency conditions. Asking the Board to ratify the emergency declaration starting at 10 a.m. on October 29, 2012 and continuing.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to ratify the emergency declaration starting on October 29, 2012 and continuing, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

EOC Operations & Department responses- Mr. Boynton praised NSTAR for a job well done. Their communication and their response was top notch. Major limb came down and knocked out power. Our municipal liaison was outstanding. Tip of the cap to NSTAR. He related to him how pleased the town was. There are a few neighborhoods, Lewis Ave, Pettees pond, Glendale and Fisher St with some power issues. There are going to be NSTAR crews working. No matter what the event, residents need to call NSTAR directly or go log in the info on the NSTAR system. Those that were in the system were taken care of. Residents should go to NSTAR.Com and you can put the home phone number and enter data in there. That was very important it is automatic dispatch.

Post storm status- 150 w/o power. Cleanup, we did not have significant damage in the public way, we will not go around with chipping crews, not taking debris from residents.

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The composite site will be open 8-3 for the rest of the week. We will reevaluate Monday morning to see if we need to continue with the hours.

Thank You to Joe Gant, for the Boyden Fun Run. He was fabulous merging the run with the Washington Street project. Chris, Mike and Nancy were there along with Congressman Lynch.

Regional services meeting-It did not result in nuts and bolts. Brought discussion back to the table. The county has asked us to complete a survey. More to come on that.

Town Hall Staff changes: Pat Krusko is retiring from Walpole and heading back to Western Mass. We will advertise in Globe. Mr. Timson asked if there was any thoughts about outsourcing the position. It will be a long process before hiring someone.

John Naff is moving over to Medfield to be their Building Commissioner.

Senior Work Off Program- We have Gene Hickey working with us, putting together street light outages. We pay for the lights and this was a great opportunity to make use of the program. It is working well

Walpole Business forum-November 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Boynton needs to get a system soon so Department heads can do updates on the web. Pat is great, she comes in on the weekends to update the site.

Mr. Berry suggested looking in to the positions being shared to the School Site. Maybe reach out to the Lincoln lynch to see if we consolidate to one company. To share costs. We did have a shared IT dept.

MINUTES

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the September 18, 2012 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

NEW BUSINESS

M. Berry-payroll system in town. What the cost savings to go electronic town wide. I understand that is potentially collective bargaining. Look at that to save money. Looking at data to go paperless.

Mr. Boynton noted anytime you make a change to the system can be construed as collective bargaining. The overwhelmingly staff here has direct deposit. We just had this conversation. Mr. Berry would like to look at by-weekly pay on the municipal side.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Timson informed the Board votes were taken this morning on the Business Recognition program. Article in the Globe regarding Kraft land in Foxboro. They are continuing to try to pass the zoning we opposed. Do we want to re-engage in conversations?

Mr. Timson believes it is the same proposal they had. The zoning proposal they had did not say gambling, it was broad enough to include gambling. Same Zoning proposal we were opposed to. We should investigate, to find out where that is at. We can reach out, if a zoning proposal was submitted it goes to the Planning board. Reach out to the Town planner.

Mr. Kraus spoke of the recognition of Veteran's. The Veteran's Officer was here and was asked when he was going to bring in Veteran's to recognize and provide the Board with names of service men and women. Mr. Boynton explained that as folks are returning, if they are willing to come in. The information regarding residents in the military is classified.

Town Charter- Mr. Kraus spoke to the interviews conducted earlier in the evening for the Fire Department. He noted they were fabulous candidates but does not understand why the Selectmen appoint. He feels the Fire Chief should have checks and balances. Something to look at when reviewing the Charter.

Jack Fisher, Update from Information Systems Committee:

Mr. Fisher reported the WISC is an Advisory Committee. Talked about membership which included IT professionals with experience in networking, data centers, software etc. Mr. Gallivan was on the committee for several years. Having a broad range of experience. What started this was a major server upgrade, made significant changes. They performed analysis, design and drove approval for fiber optic network.

There has been low activity for last two years and their last major activity was a security breach in 2010. Their future goal is to provide guidance, support and expertise for operational security and increased and improved utilization of IT. Money is an issue always, it is important to develop. One thing about Walpole in terms of hacking, not a high value site. From a privacy perspective it is huge. All employees need the services just addressed differently

There are four internet connections, we have more than the US Navy. We are not trying to tell anyone what application they should use. What we do is to look at the infrastructure and services. Review the 5 year technology plan, how to accommodate the growth. He has been looking for residents to become involved. Need support and guidance.

Mr. Boynton agreed there is a need for additional membership, especially with a time with the transition. An opportunity for this committee to assist. I certainly have faith in

what he has to say. He has asked Jack and Mark to help with screening process when replacing Pat Krusko. We begin to look at the overall impact of the system. We do share some services with the School Dept. There are other things that are way beyond him.

Mr. Gallivan asked if Mr. Fisher could identify the specific skills he is looking for. A list would be great.

8:00 p.m. Education Fund Committee

Mr. Berry was pleased to see the interest in serving on this Committee. It has been inactive since 2007. The last expenditure was in 2008 and there is a balance of \$15,000. It is purely funded through donations.

Mrs. Mackenzie felt the candidates would be a great chose for this Committee

10-39 MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Kathy Melish to the Education Fund Committee for a term to expire on April 1, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-40 MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Joanne Mulligan to the Education Fund Committee for a term to expire on April 1, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-53 MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Marcie Handler to the Education Fund Committee for a term to expire on April 1, 2013, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-41 MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Laura Devlin to the Education Fund Committee for a term to expire on April 1, 2014, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-42 MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Beth Muccini to the Education Fund Committee for a term to expire on April 1, 2014, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to appoint Joanne Mulligan as Chairman Pro-Tem of the Committee, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

Increase in Membership, Education Fund

There are currently five members and there is a desire to increase to seven members. Mr. Gallivan thinks it is a great idea. The bigger committee will have a core group.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to increase the membership of the Education Fund Committee from Five to Seven , seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

8:15 p.m. Elder Service Property Tax Credit Program

Barbara Coghlan updated on the work off program, two fold purpose, to help elders to remain in their home and to provide services to town departments. They started the program in 2000, past by T. Meeting in June 2001. They have a capacity to thirty participants, the maximum deduction is \$750. They could be a worker in the DPW, BOH, Schools, COA , Finance, Engineering, Administration. Participants in a program special employees of the Town of Walpole, we could remain the same. We have 25 people in the program, we have five more positions. Susanne has been able to put the people together with the departments. Age 60 and over no income guidelines, we did contact other towns to see how their program is operated.

Sharon can accept up to 200 people, but they have income guidelines, they go thru the income based on fuel assistance. You can make up to \$1,000 or as little as \$500 a year. The number of hours in Walpole is acceptable. We do have a number of people in the jobs. The current program says nothing about having more than one person per household. We do not limit. Medfield, Millis, Canton, if you have more than one member they are considered as one until and accrue the same amount off your taxes.

Mr. Timson would like to see an increase the number of people who can participate. If it is available people will take advantage. Sharon has a sliding scale.

Mrs. Mackenzie would not want to limit it because of someone's experience. It gives them something to do, if they have an expertise. She does not want to limit because of income, I do like the one member per household, I would start there.

Mr. Gallivan agreed. He likes the one rebate per household and people should re apply each year. You recommend participation at 30. The towns who were high had stand alone facilities.

Mr. Berry appreciates the amount of time put into this research. It as much a volunteer program as it is a tax work off program. In Marlboro we did have a income based program. He does not think we need to do that yet. When you adopt an income guideline you cut of some with talents. He also agrees with one per household. He supports increasing the amount to \$1,000. When you look at the impact to the taxpayer, it is pennies on the dollar. The only thing he would like to see, to restrict Town Employees from participating in the program. It is for residents. Indemnify participants. Advertise in Walpole Times, we can put on Cable. Get the information out. Push the program.

Mrs. Mackenzie would like to go to each department/committee I would like to see back from them potential needs. I would like to see what the need is first. I disagree with you about working for the town, part time and they are over 60. I think that is discriminatory. There is no one that has ever been a town employee work for us.

Mr. Kraus commented it is conceptually fantastic, participation, types of employees, levels and the amount we cap this at.

Ms. Coghlan feels they do well where we are. What the current people are not paying in taxes is \$22,000 if you double that. M. Boynton does not see a problem with going with \$1,000. He would not recommend doubling. As the legislators have adopted the new Veterans work off program, if we are talking another 10 or 20 participants. We put this into the overlay. Next steps, I have heard eligibility requirements. What I think you would like is a draft policy, write up a policy for a future meeting to get back to you to look at and come back. Mr. Boynton will forward to Town Counsel for review. The Board members agreed only one per household.

8:50 p.m. Question 3 on the Presidential Election Ballot

Chief Stillman stated it is clear how we feel about this vote coming up, we are not here to tell people to vote no. What this really means. How does this law make Walpole a better place to live, and how it will impact the quality of life in Walpole. It is not a good law and in my opinion it should not pass. We are preparing that it might pass. What are we going to do as a community if a dispensary wants to open in Walpole. As a community we need to discuss this issue.

Mr. Berry thanked him for bringing this to us. In looking at the questions, from a public safety, is your decision based on enough protection. Mr. Stillman stated if this was a law written tightly for people with serious illness very strict, I would not be here. It would not be an issue for me, this is written to legalize Marijuana in Mass. They will make everything like cookies, brownies, etc. He has a huge problem with the law. The DPH will make no public comment.

Mr. Kraus noted you will need a prescription, You get a card from a doctor and he says you could get relieve. Once you get the card it is good for life. I know number of states in pacific northwest, have they seen an increase in adolescent marijuana.

Mr. Timson stated he put this on the agenda as we talked about it at the last Coalition meeting. The BOH took a vote on this. He sees this as a public safety issue. I think we should take a vote on this. The information begin provided is misleading. All you need is a doctor say that it will benefit you. I see you will have the go to doctors. What is a 60 day supply. I do not want to be here arguing on where we can put the dispensaries. The Globe came out with an editorial, if this was limited to serious medical condition and get this drug and went thru the FDA process, but that is not what this is. I would urge everyone to vote against question 3.

Mrs. Mackenzie realizes what it would open up. Person would get a card for life. A prescription is a record. You can go anywhere with it. Cant operate a motor vehicle. Financial hardship they grow it at home. It is poor and insulting to people who have found relief. To me to use them in the seriousness of their illness .

I urge everyone to read it and Vote NO.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson that we as the Board of Selectmen oppose the Ballot Question #3, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

10-45 Meeting Schedule

Mrs. Mackenzie asked if they could change their February 19 meeting to February 12. the Board members agreed.

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to approve the schedule with the change of February 19 to February 12, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-46 Special hours for Liquor

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson That on New Year's Eve, no alcoholic beverages be served after 2:00 a.m. that all outside lights be turned off at a closing hour of 2:00 a.m. All patrons to have vacated the premises both in an out by 2:30 a.m. and doors locked. The only persons permitted on the premises after 2:30 a.m. would be the licensee or the employees to perform some task or other work pertaining to the premises' business., seconded by Mr. Kraus, VOTED 5-0-0

10-47 Santa Parade and Christmas Tree Lighting

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to approve the annual Santa Claus parade on November 24, 2012 at 11 a.m., seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

10-48 Gift Acceptance

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to accept a gift from the Junior Women's club in the amount of \$250 for Turner Lodge Program with gratitude, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

Remote Participation Policy

Discussion on the proposed policy ensued. Mr. Berry discussed restricting use of the policy during Executive Session. The person calling in could say they are by themselves but there could be someone with them. He would like to see us not allow it for Executive Session.

Mr. Kraus disagreed and cannot think of part of the policy that is more important. Mr. Berry noted in a number of other communities this is a big deal. It is a serious issue. I feel there has not been a lot of discussion. The town of Foxborough put together a report from every Board, Committee, and town.

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Mr. Gallivan likes this law and our approach, individual Boards and Committees can opt out, good use of technology. He would rather have opinions of other selectmen if they are not physically be here. He understands there are potential issues. Get the participation of Selectmen on important votes.

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to approve the Remote Participation Policy (with amendments), seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 4-1-0 (Mr. Berry opposed)

10-50 Electronic Communications Computer usage policy

Mrs. Mackenzie tabled this discussion.

10-52 Recreation Committee, Membership increase

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to increase the membership of the Recreation Committee from two Associate to five, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie VOTED 5-0-0