

The Board of Selectmen met on Thursday, March 21, 2013 beginning at 7:00pm in the Walpole Public Library. 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 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Proclamations

3-24 Proclamation

Mr. Boynton read the proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness into the record.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to sign the proclamation for Childhood Cancer Awareness, seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 5-0-0

WELCOME BACK SSG John McCarty.

John is a Walpole High Graduate who was deployed with 444th Engineer Company out of Oswego NY and returned from Afghanistan on January 31, 2013. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Accommodation with V device for Valor. This was his 2nd deployment his first was in Iraq. His daughter Shannon attends Fisher School.

Jon Cogan, Veterans Agent invited SSG McCarty to the podium. Mr. Cogan spoke to the Town being very grateful for his service to the Country. Jon Cogan noted the family members are very important to the military, because of you it is why we do what we do. Mr. Berry noted this is a great thing and we hope to invite more Veterans in to honor them. Mr. Timson expressed his appreciation for agreeing to come to this. The Board has been trying to have this program for a while and we appreciate your participation. He said his wife is here in attendance, and would only be here for SSG McCarty. We appreciate your service and thank you very much. Mr. Boynton had heard some really good things about the upcoming Memorial Day service in remembrance of "Rockie".

Courtney Sullivan, COA Director

Mr. Boynton introduced Courtney Sullivan the new Council on Aging Director. Barbara Coghlan retired and Ms. Sullivan will be her predecessor. He explained Ms. Sullivan interviewed very well and he is very excited with her coming on Board.

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There is a lot of work to be done. Ms. Sullivan gave a brief history of what she has been doing for the past seven years. She has some great ideas and officially starts to work on April 1.

MOTION Moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to re-affirm the appointment of Courtney Sullivan as the Council on Aging Director seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 5-0-0

Michael Donovan, IT Director

Mr. Boynton introduced Mike Donovan the newly hired IT Director. Mr. Boynton is very excited to have him on Board. He has been here for a couple of months. Mr. Kraus can tell from his emails he is doing a great job. Mr. Donovan thanked them and explained he worked in Saugus and Walpole's IT is light years ahead of theirs. Walpole has made a sound investment in IT. He noted his predecessor, Pat Krusko did a great job.

Mr. Berry noted we are launching a new web site and this is something we continue to talk about. He is looking forward to our continued work.

M. Boynton explained the new website goes live in two weeks. We are looking for a new phone system. Tie everything to an IP system.

Town Administrator Update

Next Tuesday there will be a meeting on disabilities in the Library.

Snow & Ice Update- As of projections. Estimates we appear to be in the \$170,000 shortfall going forward. Some additional snow this evening, and a possible storm on Monday. We do have another order of salt coming in and hope to get through this then some of our other neighbors. Crews have done a great job. Transfer from existing funds. Mrs. Mackenzie noted when you go in to storm mode, so many individuals give time that they are not getting compensated for. The dedication of our town employees is wonderful. We should appreciate the staff and the time they put in. They spend time making sure everyone is safe.

Finance Director – Mark Good has left Walpole for a New Position in Malden. They are starting a process for a search. Will be accepting applications through the April 12, 2013. There will be a screening panel to look through the applications.

OPEN FORUM

Jimmy Taylor asked about the \$50,000 returned back from the COA to the State. He wanted to know why they were not saved for future construction of a center. Mr. Boynton explained the funds can not be used for construction. The funds were a grant. Mr. Taylor thinks it is time for a senior center. Mr. Kraus does not disagree

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that we need a new senior center, almost every aspect is outdated. We are doing everything in town. We are trying to do this without asking people for money. Mr. Boynton explained the Board needs to determine which direction they want to go to with the study.

Mr. Kraus noted he has seen several other centers and they are up to date and modern. The question is how we are going to pay for it.

Mrs. Mackenzie is looking for Mr. Taylor's support in making the Senior Center a reality.

Dan Ryan- Ponds Committee

Mr. Ryan reported he is there to recognize families that contributed to the purchase of the sweeper for the Ponds Committee. We can not buy used merchandise. There should be a way we can do this in the future. Should be able to buy something for \$800 used. He would like someone to look into that.

Mr. Boynton explained when funds are expended by the town; federal tax law comes into effect. There is a number that is tripped, that makes you 1099 it. All has to go through bidding law. If someone is providing a good or service for the town, there is no way around it.

Mr. Ryan reported they had over 250 families skating on the pond this year. The Committee wishes to thank the wives and families for all their support. The Committee know has three sweepers.

3-26 Little League Parade

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the annual Little League Parade, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 5-0-0

3-27 Good Friday Walk

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the annual Good Friday Walk , seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

3-28 Red Cherry Frozen Yogurt

Evelyn Sidropouilis is opening a Yogurt store with her father and hopes to have it open in a month. This is the first time she has opened this type of business, new to it, very excited. It will be a family friendly business with forty seats. It is self serve, you pay by the ounce. This is a new concept. They want to be a positive part of the community. They will be open for Birthday parties

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MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Common Victualler's License for Red Cherry Inc. d/b/a Red Cherry Frozen Yogurt, 1049 Main St, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

3-29 **One Day Liquor License**

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the One Day Liquor license request for the N. Walpole Fish and Game, (No shooting during service of alcohol), seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 5-0-0

3-30 **Re-Appointment to Board/Committees**

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to re-appoint those members seeking to serve another term, seconded by Mr. Gallivan, VOTED 5-0-0

3-31 **RTM Apportionment**

This is a continued discussion from the March 7th meeting. Mr. Fucile had checked with other towns and all excluded the populations in the prisons. Mrs. Mackenzie, so we are the only town that pads a precinct. If we took them out what would the numbers look like? So we add numbers to Precinct 5 that we are not even sure about. Mr. Fucile had checked with Framingham, they have RTM, they do not even count there is a prison in their town. M. Berry they are RTM they do not count the prison population. Framingham does not have a Charter. Mrs. Mackenzie noted, so there is one town that is like us. Mr. Kraus believes this is a difficult issue; precinct 5 has an additional 690 from the prisoners, so they have a greater voice. We should have addressed this during the redistricting. We have kept it this way for how long. Mr. Fucile explained it has been this way for 13 years. The charter says inhabitants.

There was discussion as to the interpretation of the word inhabitants. Mr. Berry would like to see the numbers stay how they presently are. He can not justify supporting the new breakdown, as it unfairly adds more reputation to Precinct 5 when it should not be there in the first place. I would like to see things stay the way they are. I do not think the Charter meant to count prison populations

Mr. Timson suggested if the issue is with the Charter, Charter review would be the place to correct it. Inhabitant is someone within the boundaries of your town, should not try to do something that the town requires. The Charter says something, we have to follow it. Maybe figure out, how many voters are voting in this. I do not think we should vary that. He is in favor of keeping the precincts balanced in RTM, that promotes a system where everyone has an equal voice. He does not see the need to change as drastically as we have here.

Mrs. Mackenzie does not support the addition of the Prisoners in apportionment. She grew up in Precinct 5, but does not feel they should have a larger voice than the

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other precincts. Mr. Boynton noted the Federal Census includes the prisoners. Mr. Fucile explained it is not new. It reads the number of inhabitants, divided by the number of inhabitants in each precinct. You need to fix what is in the Charter. Mr. Kraus asked if they can we get Town Counsel to tell us a definition of inhabitants. He needs to understand what inhabitants mean. Mr. Boynton will get a legal opinion for the April 2 meeting.

3-32 Special Election Warrant

To have an election on the same day as the High School is open is difficult, we do have this building, Sal said we could use it. Mr. Fucile asked that for precincts 3,4,5 make the library a polling place. Mr. Kraus suggested the Town over communicate on this so people are aware.

MOTION moved by Mr. Gallivan to approve the polling location to the Library for the Special State primary election for precincts 3,4,and 5, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie,

Mrs. Mackenzie is concerned with safety asked if the police checked the safety at OPR and Fisher? Mr. Fucile explained the voting is in the gym, the other doors are locked. We will have a police officer there. I would recommend we not lock it but a police officer there.

VOTED 5-0-0

3-33 Buy Back Cemetery Graves

An individual bought the graves and wishes to sell them back to the town.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the request of Linda Colletti to buy back grave 129 and 130 at Terrace Hill Cemetery , seconded by Mr. Gallivan

Mr. Timson wanted to know if there is no registry, what happens to a cemetery plot. Is there a chance this deed could get past around? Mr. Boynton explained there is a provision on the deed, in order to transfer they must get approval from the cemetery commissioners. Maybe we should have the back of the deed signed as well

VOTED 5-0-0

3-34, 3-35 and 3-36 Gift Acceptances

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept the gifts with Thanks, seconded by Mr. Kraus, VOTED 5-0-0

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Mr. Boynton stated if any of the Board members want to put a hold on any of these we can invite dept heads in.

Mr. Berry would like Fire and Police to come into talk about public safety.

Reserve Fund-Mr. Berry saw a discrepancy between the Town Administrator's recommendation and Fincom. Mr. Boynton reported there are special elections and we will make some transfers. Fincom does not want to see it in elections they want it in the Reserve Fund.

Treasurer/Collector that number could change will not know that until he hires a new Finance Director.

Legal Services- Mr. Boynton had recommended a number and then recommended another number later. He dropped it by \$5,000. He went back to level funded number. We stayed at \$155,000 for number of years. Encouraged and feels the town should be ok with what is budgeted.

Town Audit- Mrs. Mackenzie talked about the annual audit and doing more in-house audits.

Walpole Public Schools- Mr. Timson did not see any line item, looking for funding for the Coalition. It would be nice to have a line item for funding. Mr. Boynton understands the desire to set it up, challenges, police officers do certain programs. They are going to take them out of the police dept account and charge to them. Mr. Timson stated assuming they were looking for money and the police did not have any. Mr. Boynton suggested this should be through donations from a gift fund. The departments are doing a great job making the program work.

Mr. Timson questioned the gap between what the School Department is asking and the Town Administrator's recommendation. Mr. Boynton explained the school dept is working to close that gap. His calculation is based on 66/34. They do have flexibilities to close this gap.

Snow and Ice- After the health insurance figures came in, we knew the snow and ice would increase every year. He does not want the 719,000 become the new 250,000. With the health insurance savings it was good to put the money here. We should consider the cost of this item has increased dramatically. I would like to take a look at it to make it more efficient. The town can make cuts but you will not get the results you currently get, the costs are calling in contractors. The other biggest expense is salt and sand. We only call in contractors when we need them.

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Mr. Berry noted with regards to contractors, do we open that up to allow them to bid? Mr. Boynton explained the town's rate is competitive on the low end. You get familiar with certain contractors.

Street Lighting- Mr. Gallivan wanted to know how we decide which streets have lights. What are the guidelines? Mr. Boynton stated to his knowledge we have not added lights. It usually comes through engineering through subdivisions. The town has not added anything nor removed street lights. The line item includes traffic lights and street lining. This is not just street lights.

Solid Waste and Recycling-have Robin come in and discuss recycling and how that is going. What the increase in costs are.

Retirement of Debt-Would like the sheet to know what is ending. Do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Kraus would like to start talks with Michael on his Contract. Board members agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kraus read the declaration into the record. I hereby declare that:

- Under G.L. c.30A, §21(b)(3) the purpose of the executive session will be to discuss potential litigation
- That a discussion of the foregoing in open session could compromise the purpose for The executive session; and
- That the Board of Selectmen shall not return to open session to continue the meeting.

MOTION to enter Executive session for the reason aforementioned by the Chair and the Board will not return to open session for the purposes of adjourning

Roll call Mr. Berry-Aye, Mrs. Mackenzie-Aye, Mr. Gallivan-Aye, Mr. Timson-Aye and Mr. Kraus-Aye VOTED 5-0-0

The Board moved out of executive session for the purposes of adjourning.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to adjourn at 10:10pm, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 5-0-