

Approved July 19, 2011

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 beginning at 7:10 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. Mrs. Mackenzie and Mr. Timson were absent. The following members were present.

Eric Kraus, Vice Chairman
Michael Berry, Clerk
Clifton Snuffer

Also present:
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Appointments

Interviews for Candidates for Provisional Police Lieutenant

Sergeant David Smolinsky, Sergeant Joseph Zanghettai and Detective Sergeant James O'Connell expressed interest in the promotion of provisional police lieutenant.

Chief Stillman explained that Lt. Peter Salzberg retired and they do not have a current list of candidates. None of these candidates have taken the test that is why he is going with a provisional appointment. The promotion is with the understanding that the permanent lieutenant position is dependant upon an upcoming weighted-graded civil service lieutenant exam, assessment center and training and experience rating.

Each candidate was asked to explain why they feel they are qualified for this position and how they interpret the requirements of this position. The Board members asked each candidate what they would like to work on once they become Lieutenant. Each candidate stated they will be taking the necessary exam.

Each candidate was given ample time to answer the questions from the Board . The Board members deliberated on the candidates and reviewed the recommendations of the Police Chief.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to promote Sergeant Joseph Zanghetti as the Provisional Police Lieutenant in the Walpole Police Department with the understanding that the permanent lieutenant position is dependant upon an upcoming weighted-graded civil service lieutenant exam, assessment center and training and experience rating, seconded by Mr. Snuffer VOTED 3-0-0

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Interviews for Police Sergeant

Officers John White, and Christopher Mackenzie expressed interest in the promotion of Sergeant. They have taken the exam and both are candidates from the Civil Service list.

Each candidate was asked to explain why they feel they are qualified for this position and how they interpret the requirements of this position. The Board members asked each candidate what they would like to work on once they became Sergeant.

Each candidate was given ample time to answer the questions from the Board. The Board members deliberated on the candidates and reviewed the recommendations of the Police Chief.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to promote Officer Christopher Mackenzie to the position of Police Sergeant in the Walpole Police Department, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 3-0-0

7:55 P.M. **Walpole Woodworkers Public Forum**

Mr. Boynton gave a brief summary of the proposal to purchase the property. Mr. Kraus explained to the audience it is the Board of Selectmen's job to take a look at any opportunity for land that would be available especially in the downtown area. There is support from various Boards and Committees and has the support of Town Meeting. There are provisions in the purchase and sale agreement and we will not be able to get insurance if there are environmental issues. If there are issues with the property, the town may terminate the agreement.

Mr. Snuffer reminded the audience that Fairfield group had proposed a Chapter 40B project and the price was 7 million dollars. For those who believe this might not happen again I suggest to you that the rental market is very strong and there will be people looking at the site and the highest and best use is for apartments.

Mr. Berry noted the average tax payer will see an increase of \$46 a year. He feels the Selectmen should present to the voters from time to time the needs. The likelihood of low and moderate housing is tangible. This override also includes a study that will be inclusive to all municipal facility needs. The town will have a long term plan.

Mr. Tilley stated he felt that Mr. Berry sounds like he knows who is going to go there. He is concerned how this fits in with the use of water.

Mr. Berry stated he does not have a plan of what is going on the property. It is not earmarked for any use until the study is completed. That is the purpose of the study to look at the needs of the town.

Mr. Kraus noted that each taxpayer will have a vote on what the property would be used for. We need outside counsel to help us determine what the best use of this land will be.

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Mr. Boynton spoke of the highest and best use of that site is for someone to develop a 40B project.

Mr. Snuffer suggested that if the town were to own the property we would have better control of the use of the site and the wetlands issues.

Mr. Al Crosby, Hoover Road believes the town is determined to buy this piece of land. He has been in the town for many years and he noted no one has mentioned the brook that runs through the middle of the property. He feels they want to buy a piece of property that is no good. He believes it is a swamp. He is upset about the increase in taxes.

Mr. Kraus explained that he understands his concern but the Board does not take asking resident for money lightly. The Board did not go into this without research. He would love to bring business into town but we are losing the battle to Foxboro, Dedham and Wrentham.

Carl Road Resident believes they want to purchase the land to protect it from being bought by someone else. He is concerned with the access onto East Street.

Richard Guisti stated he is a builder in town and is always looking for good land to build on. It is his opinion that this land is not good and the town is paying too much for it.

The Board thanked the audience for attending.

MOTION moved by Mr. Snuffer to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Berry, Clerk