

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Town Hall. The following members were present:

Mark Gallivan, Chairman
Michael Berry, Vice Chairman
Nancy Mackenzie, Clerk
Christopher Timson
Clifton Snuffer, Jr.

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

Mr. Gallivan called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROCLAMATIONS

New Finance Director Marilyn Thompson was introduced to the Board. She will begin in July and is currently the Treasurer/Collector for W. Bridgewater. She has worked for a number of municipalities and has great references. The Board looks forward to working with her.

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to ratify the appointment of Marilyn Thompson as the Finance Director, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

Mr. Boynton thanked Jodi and Kathy for their assistance over the past months. Great to have a fantastic team in place.

SPONSORED AGENDA ITEMS

Buck Consultants, OPEB Valuation Study

Each Board member received a copy of the July 1, 2012 Post Retirement Benefits Analysis of the Town of Walpole. The OPEB audit is required every two years under GASB 45. Mr. Boynton explained the last time we were in 1.2 to 1.3 obligation annually. The non-funding was 2 to 3 million. In addition to what we pay for health insurance for the town. The figures have gone up. Looking at the calculation process, we have made changes in plan design and rates. The numbers are higher than anticipated.

Hillary an associate trained to review explained the medical plan covers retirees not the current working. As life expectancy increases so does the benefits. She would generally present the results. The person who signs the report has to be present.

Reza Vahid specializes in OPEB practice. He has ten years doing this. The numbers were higher than thought of. As of July 1, 2010, the new number 84.6 million a 13% increase over what we would have expected from last year. He reviewed the document with the members explaining the information which was used to calculate the OPEB obligation which includes, employee census data, enrollment data, claims, premiums, participant contributions.

Mr. Timson wanted to know if there was analysis as to why this occurred. Mr. Vahid noted some of it was anticipated. One change is to include mortality. People are dying later. This year we project that people will live a lot longer. Mr. Timson wanted to know is our 13% similar to other towns. It depends, some people see less and some see more. He has seen 30% in some towns.

Mr. Vahid explained how they do the evaluation. They looked at the retirees, and in Walpole it was 90%. Not everyone takes the benefit. They looked at everyone who retired in the last five years. They do not depend on the material provided from last data. Mr. Snuffer questioned if you are a retiree at 55, and have a spouse who can be on your plan, can you jump in at anytime on the retirement program. Mr. Boynton explained you can if you were eligible for benefits. Mr. Snuffer asked if this Board has the power to impose a 50% cost factor. No it is based on what ever the current plan is. He noted the 84.6 million is a staggering amount of money, is it fair or unfair to categorize OPEB, the reason why we are in this situation, is because we do not fund properly when we are negotiating. Is it true we do not have to fund it?

Mr. Boynton pointed out he makes good points, look back at section 2. We would need to contribute an additional 1.6 million a year to bring us down to 44 million. Here is the problem, do we have to fund it. There is no statute that requires us to fund it, as we have heard from our audit team; they do have to note the town's liability. For every project we do there is an added cost to borrow funds. We are trying to be active. There are only a few communities that are fully funded. The folks at GASB, we have in Mass, CHPT. 32B, public employee benefits, requires you to provide retiree health insurance, 50/50, for retirees that are in that period of time are still able to participate in HMO Rates. If you were hired 2003, your contribution is 20%, after 30%. We are about 600,000 cost for 80/20. The problem he has is these are imaginary numbers, you would have to cut back your entire operation. The option is to continue to get at the number.

Mr. Vahid explained that Walpole is somewhere in the middle compared to other towns. There are towns that are much worse off than other towns. The number also takes into consideration future medical costs. Some Towns are either cutting benefits or charging their retirees more. Under the Affordable Care Act, the town is obligated to offer insurance.

Mr. Berry wanted to know if he sees any difference between W Suburban Health and GIC? Mr. Vahid explained the town's premiums stay flat, they are steady and that is

a huge benefit. They are reasonably equal rates. When you look at this info projected 30 years, you are looking at current and retirees.

Mr. Gallivan noted GASB has asked towns to switch from funding on an annual basis and start thinking about long term liability for employees. It is not a mandate. If the state mandated it they would have to help pay for this. It is an accounting transition goal to look ahead. These are future obligations. There is no way to transition from one method to another.

6-7 Ari Socket, One Day Beer A. Farm

Mr. Socket is requesting a one Day Beer only at A. Farm. They are hosting a mountain bike race. This will benefit A. Farm; we will have kid's races. It is sponsored by Harpoon. It is a great way to add revenue at the fundraiser. He had submitted a plan showing where the beer being sold will be located.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie one day Beer license to Ari Shocket for Blue Hills Cycling Club on July 28, 2013 from 11-4p.m. at Adams Farm, subject to the selling and drinking of Beer be within the enclosed Pavilion area as shown on the plan. Seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 5-0-0

OPEN FORUM

Lois Glasgow, 28 Clark Ave has been emailing you regarding the superfund site. We met with Mr. Boynton and Mr. Gallivan. We have been working on outreaching to EPA and Congressman Lynch and Senator Warren and petitioning them for support. Asking EPA to take a step back, we are up against the July 9 deadline for the water treatment plant. I sent to you a letter in email. Our biggest concern is R. Fisher (EPA), on May 14th letter. The residents have issues about the water treatment plant, this is not just about Clark St, South St. She asked Mark if they had heard back from Rick Fisher. Mr. Gallivan replied no he has not. I am here to introduce myself. We are up against July 9 date. The whole long term plan is in question. Mr. Boynton noted these dates are arbitrary, we as a community will continue to fight that process. Frustrated about the response we got from the responsible parties. We will be at the July 9, 2013.

Mr. Gallivan explained it is very powerful when the neighbors get involved; your impact has more than we do.

6-23 EDIC

The Board received a letter from Mr. Morris seeking appointment to the EDIC.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to appoint John Morris to the EDIC to fill a term until July 1, 2015, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 5-0-0

6-8 Animal Control Warrant

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to sign the annual Animal Control warrant, seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 5-0-0

6-9 One Day, Knights of Columbus

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the one day all alcoholic license for Gerad Comeau, Knights of Columbus, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-10 Tee T's one day entertainment

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the one day entertainment license for Tee-T's Restaurant Inc. for June 29, 2013 for a live band, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 5-0-0

6-11 COA

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to accept with regret the resignation of Florence Sundquist from the Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Gallivan VOTED 5-0-0

6-12 JWCW, A frame

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the request to place an A-Frame on the Common from August 24, to September 7, 2013, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-13 Use of A. Farm, Boy Scouts

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the use of A. Farm on August 22, 2013 from 4-8 pm seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

6-14 Use of A. Farm, Norfolk Hunt Club

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the use of A. Farm on September 7, 2013 from 8-10 a.m. to conduct a Drag Hunt, seconded by Mr. Berry VOTED 5-0-0

6-15 Camy 5K Run

MOTION moved by Mr. Berry to approve the annual Camy 5KRun and David 5K Walk on November 9, 2013, seconded by Mrs. Mackenzie, VOTED 5-0-0

Acceptance of Gifts

6-16 to 6-19 Acceptance of Gifts

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to accept the gifts with gratitude
Seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-20 Award of Bid, 2013-33

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to award bid contract 2013-33 for one year partial contracts for the water treatment chemicals to the low qualified bidders per unit prices, seconded by Mr. Boynton VOTED 5-0-0

6-21 Award of Bid, 2013-24

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to award bid contract 2013-24 for bituminous concrete to Lorusso Corporation seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

6-22 Sanitarian, Job description

The Board was presented with an updated job description for a Sanitarian. It was noted during the discussion this position was explained at Town Meeting that it would be a part time job. It was suggested this might be a consultant type person. Mr. Snuffer wanted to know the days and hours of service this person would be on duty. Do they need a sanitarian license? Mrs. Mackenzie noted it may be cheaper to hire someone without the license who may obtain it later.

Mr. Boynton noted this will be a part time job. You do not have to do this tonight. Mr. Berry asked to be held would be interested in learning if they are certified sanitarian. He understands the main role of this person is concerning restaurants. Have Robin come back.

Town Administrators update

Walpole Park South- Mr. Boynton met with reps from WPS and the Chair of S&W. He believes S&W will discuss this next week. The street lights are there. It will be in proper fashion for town meeting. There is no mandate that it become a public way.

Mass DOT-Wal-Mart project and RT1A paving. Met with DOT trying to improve the lighting out at the intersection, Talked about RT1A, slated for milling and overlay south of Walpole center. From Spring Valley back to Cedar. Request from resident on Main Street about sidewalk. All we can do is make a request. Outreach to people in that are to send a letter of support. It is whatever they can do. Something that they can do.

COA Center- need to replace the carpet in the senior center, remove and retile, it is old asbestos tile. The Senior center will be closed for a certain time.

Mrs. Mackenzie suggested putting this out after the summer and maybe someone can allow you use of space. She suggested they use the High School cafeteria for this.

S. Walpole Pool – it is leaking 6 inches of water a day, it is in the return lines. Pools in the center are open. They are working on this.

Mr. Timson suggested if may be wise to have after hours video surveillance. Mr. Boynton noted that both pool areas will be protected.

Abandoned buildings-Peggy Lawton bldg. is down. The large green house on Summer Street will be coming down. The one on Brown Drive, trying to follow up on that. It has been registered on abandon buildings.

Downtown Sidewalk repairs-did a walk thru, can not wait for long term solution, immediate needs. Some repairs will take place.

Final Municipal Facilities Report-Delivered on Friday.

Fairfield Review Meeting-tentatively scheduled for July11. Will ask for one or two board members to sit on this.

New Business

Mr. Berry noted with the resignation of Florence he suggested advertising and solicit members for the COA. Mr. Gallivan explained that Courtney has asked that the Board hold off on membership.

Mrs. Mackenzie raised the issue of parking during the country festival at Gillette Stadium, we were not getting the response from the Police Chief in Foxboro, if traffic did become a problem. I would like us to entertain a motion give our Police Chief permission to open lots within the town (3) heading south to the stadium because he feels it is a public safety issue. Give ability to get traffic off the streets.

Mr. Boynton did talk to Dan Murphy about various issues, we do not attribute the problem to the stadium, need to continue to discuss with Foxboro. Dan is willing to hold pre concert discussion.

He heard there will be free parking for country fest and Taylor Swift concert. To get traffic off the route. Anything to get the traffic off Route One will be better for Walpole.

Mrs. Mackenzie asked that we give our team the back up they need before they go to the meeting. Last year it left S. Walpole and moved to E. Walpole. She asked it be put on the next agenda and vote that for the Chief

Mr. Timson spoke to following OPEB, putting what we can in terms of dollars expanding ways to attack this, if there are any positions that could be outsourced. Should have the conversation, what affect it might have. There are positions that can be contracted out and I do not know if the Board has the will to do that.

Mr. Berry noted that he had talked about contracting out DPW services, the prevailing wage gets in the way. The cost savings was minimal compared to what he thought it would be. You can see the long term benefit with OPEB.

Mr. Boynton explained that at the end of the day this is not going to get solved by moving a few positions

Mr. Snuffer would like to recommend attendance a meeting on Thursday with Ian Cook. Today there was a meeting at 10:30 for the Moosehill area, and there was strong participation.

Mr. Timson talked about a proposed bill to change zoning. Consider doing a little outreach to other Boards and Committees..

The Board would like to send thank you letters to the Representatives and Senators for their assistance in pushing the funding for the Prison Mitigation funds. Mr. Snuffer would like to have a discussion on the utilization of those funds. Mr. Boynton reminded the members it has only past the house at this time.

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to send a letter to the representatives thanking them for their support in obtaining the Prison Mitigation Funds, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 5-0-0

Minutes

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Minutes of May 30, 2013, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 4-0-1 (Mr. Snuffer abstain)

MOTION to approve the Executive Session of May 16, 2013, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 3-0-2 (Mr. Berry and Mrs. Snuffer abstain)

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to approve the Executive Session of May 30, 2013, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 4-0-1 (Mr. Snuffer abstain)

MOTION moved by Mrs. Mackenzie to adjourn at 9:15, seconded by Mr. Timson VOTED 5-0-0

