

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Membership

From July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 the Board was organized as follows: Harriet S. Warshaw, Chairman, Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Vice Chairman, Vincent Juliani, Jr., Secretary. On June 30, 2006 the Board was reorganized as follows: Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Chairman, Owen Dugan, Vice Chairman, Harriet S. Warshaw, Secretary.

Hans Larsen

The Town of Wellesley welcomed Hans Larsen, Wellesley resident, as Executive Director for the Town this past year. Mr. Larsen joins the Town of Wellesley from Guardent, a company acquired by VeriSign, where he was Chief Financial Officer. Prior to Guardent Hans was CFO of Compaq's Business Critical Server Group and the Enterprise Computing Group. In these roles he was responsible for strategic and tactical business planning, operational oversight and business controls for up to 10 Divisions and 10,000 employees. Prior to joining Compaq, Larsen was the Controller and Chief Accounting Officer of Digital Equipment, and previously, a partner at Coopers & Lybrand.

Sheryl Strother

The Town of Wellesley also welcomed Sheryl Strother as the new Finance Director for the town this past year. Ms. Strother was most recently the Town Accountant in the Town of Duxbury, a position she held for 11 years. Prior to her service in Duxbury, she was employed in the private sector as a controller and auditor. She holds a bachelor's degree and a master's of business administration degree with a finance concentration.

Annual Town Meeting

The 2006 Annual Town Meeting was convened on March 27, 2006 to act on the FY2007 budget and other Town business. The Board of Selectmen sponsored and made motions on the following articles which were approved:

Article 7	Set Salaries of Elected Officials
Article 8	Omnibus Budget and Capital
Article 14	Establish Revolving Funds
Article 15	Appropriation – Revolving Funds
Article 29	Acceptance of MGL Chapter 32B, Section 18
Article 30	Request Special Legislation for OPEB Funding
Article 34	Acceptance of Stonefield Lane
Article 38	Amend TBL - Increase Membership of Historical Commission
Article 42	Amend TBL - Preparation and/or retail sale of food
Article 49	Appoint Fire Engineer
Article 50	Authorize MLP Payment as estimated receipt

Other Post Employment Benefits Liability (OPEB) Funding

Based on a February 2006 actuarial study, Wellesley's unfunded OPEB liability is approximately \$93 million. The Town has been paying its share of medical insurance cost for retirees as they are incurred. In an effort to begin proactively addressing the Town's accrued liability for retiree medical insurance costs, the Selectmen initiated an OPEB funding program by budgeting \$600,000 for FY 2007. The plan calls for increasing the funding by \$600,000 each successive year until reaching a \$3,000,000 appropriation in 2011 and to continue at that level until the liability is fully funded. Articles 29 (Accept MGL Chapter 32B, Section 18) and 30 (Request Special Legislation for OPEB Funding) were also passed to help address the OPEB liability.

FY07 Budget Process and Override

The Board of Selectmen approved three override questions to be placed on the ballot for the Special Election held on May 16, 2006. The first question was for a \$3,158,618 general operating override. The second question was \$45,043 for funding Sunday hours at the RDF. The third question was \$75,603 for funding the branch libraries for one year. Voters approved the general override question, while the other two questions failed.

Town-Wide Financial Plan

The Board of Selectmen presented the Town-wide Financial Plan for the second year based on the requirements of Town Bylaw Article 19.16, which was amended during the 2004 Annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen views the Financial Plan as an important tool in forecasting the Town's long term financial needs.

Bond Ratings

In June 2006, Standard & Poors and Moody's both reaffirmed the Town's AAA bond rating. This rating, in part, reflects the Town's large and affluent tax base, high wealth levels and housing values, strong voter support for local services through operating overrides and capital expenditures, moderate debt position, and fully funded pension system.

Local Cable Television Studio

In May 2006, the Board of Selectmen entered into an agreement with the Wellesley Cable Access Corporation to provide PEG (public, educational and government) Access programming for Wellesley beginning July 1, 2006. Having taken over from Comcast, the Corporation will provide the scheduling, operating, programming for the PEG Access channels, operate the PEG Access studio and manage the annual funding provided by Comcast.

Town Website

In January 2006, the Town converted to a new web address, www.wellesleyma.gov. The website will be a valuable information resource for the Town and its residents.

Scholarships

The Board of Selectmen has announced that for the 2006/07 academic year, it was able to give 33 students financial assistance through scholarship funds administered by the Board.

Seventeen students attending various colleges received scholarship awards totaling \$14,000 from the War Memorial Scholarship Fund. The award winners were Christina Zani, Cameron Nazeri, Alina Hicks, Christopher Caterine, Katherine Briggs, Gregory Arpino, Monique Czulewicz, Amoli Pandya, Moira Lix, Dakota Ryan, Eric Campbell, Nicole Gobiell, Paul Allen, Emmy Thelander, Phoebe Pott-Heyman, Katherine Fields and the Named Award Winner, Stephen Aimola.

Persons wishing to contribute to the War Memorial Scholarship Fund may send a check payable to War Memorial Fund, Selectmen's Office, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482.

The Selectmen also have the responsibility and privilege of selecting the Town Scholars who attend Wellesley College and who will receive tuition grants. Town Scholars selected for the 2006/2007 academic year are Alida Johnson, Alexandra C. Larschan, Shabnam Sharbatoghlie, Tina Tam, Stephanie White, and Stepheny Xiang, Claire Davis, Prachee M. Gujarathi, Adriana Kosmo, Diane C. Seol, Lauren & Jessica Tom.

Town Scholars to Babson College are also chosen by the Board of Selectmen. This year Luis Restrepo, Cassandra Fradera, Jeffrey J. Petersen and Sarah Hughes have been granted awards toward tuition.

Timothy Archibald was chosen to receive the Seldon and Nellie Brown Scholarship for Wesleyan University.

Applications for next year's scholarships will be available in the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall in the fall for a February 2, 2007 application deadline.