

Monday, January 12, 2009

This regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall. In attendance were: Gregory B. Mills, Chair, Barbara D. Searle, Vice Chair, Owen H. Dugan, Secretary, Harriet S. Warshaw and Katherine L. Babson, Jr.. Also in attendance were Hans Larsen, Executive Director, Christopher J. Ketchen, Senior Deputy Director, Terrance Connolly, Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following warrants were executed #27 in the amount of \$2,006,765.64 and #28 in the amount of \$22,607.22.

1. Citizen Speak

Chairman Mills invited members of the public forward to speak on a non-agenda item. Mr. Robert Seacrest spoke in support of the candidacy of Deputy Fire Chief Rick Delorie for the position of Fire Chief. The Board thanked Mr. Seacrest for his comments.

2. Executive Director's Update

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Dugan moved, Ms. Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, January 5, 2009.

Upcoming Schedule

Mr. Larsen briefed the Board on upcoming calendar events and other items. He reminded the Board that there would be no meeting on Monday, January 19, 2009 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Board members will be attending the annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast on that day. Other items on the calendar included the upcoming Advisory Committee meeting presentation on the budget as well as a meeting to review the High School Traffic Study – both on January 21st. The next Selectmen's meeting will be Wednesday, January 28, 2009 unless there is a need to meet before that time.

Panera Bread Application Anticipated

Mr. Larsen notified the Board that Panera Bread was expected to apply for a Common Victualler license to operate a business at the Linden Square development. He encouraged Board members to visit the Panera location on Route 9 in Natick, which is comparable in size to the one contemplated in Wellesley.

3. FY2010 Budget Update

Mr. Larsen presented the Board with an outline of the projected FY2010 deficit to-date.

<u>FY2010 Projected Deficit Calculation</u>	<u>B/(W)</u>
As projected at 2008 ATM	\$ (2,726,311)
<u>Revenues</u>	
New growth	\$ 569,208
State aid	\$ (981,835)
Local revenue	\$ (1,111,135)
<u>Expenses</u>	

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Health Insurance/Benefits	\$	1,139,400
Workers' comp	\$	546,094
Cash capital	\$	63,873

Departmental budgets at guideline

School @ 3%	\$	1,958,787
Other Boards @ 1%	\$	530,444

Subtotal if at Guideline \$ (11,475)

Items to be addressed

Departmental budgets vs. guideline		
School	\$	(643,137)
Other Boards	\$	(126,633)
Street Lights	\$	(129,535)
Increased Reserve fund (Advisory)	\$	(25,000)
Retirement Contribution	\$	(866,000)

Current status \$ (1,801,780)

Board members discussed some of the factors that influence the deficit as well as some questions surrounding assumptions around the school budget, health insurance and state aid.

Ms. Babson suggested the Board discuss taking a position against the possibility of an override based on the information available to date. Ms. Warshaw stated her feeling that the Board needs to have a full understanding of what the required cuts would mean to services in each department. Ms. Searle, Mr. Dugan, and Chairman Mills further expressed their feelings that an override was not palatable.

Mr. Larsen reminded the Board members that the outlook for FY2011 looks much worse because the \$1.8 million shortfall this year is based on several million dollars of positive revenue and cost savings that will not reoccur next year. The Board indicated an openness to begin discussions with the other Boards on bold realignment of work processes and staffing. The Board agreed to bring-up the idea of a budget-working group at the Inter-Board meeting on Thursday.

4. Draft 2009 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Connolly walked the members through the draft version of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. As they read the list of articles, the Board members assigned a lead member for each article sponsored by the Selectmen. The Board also discussed the possibility of taking a position on the non-Selectmen sponsored articles.

Old Business/ New Business

- **Fire Chief Search**

Mr. Larsen indicated that the process has identified 4 finalists for review at the Assessment Center.

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- **Wellesley High School Building Committee**

Ms. Babson reported that the School Building Committee filed the PSI application. An article will be appearing in the *Wellesley Townsman* describing the permitting process. She also reported on the first meeting of the High School Historical Preservation Task Force.

- **27 Washington Street**

No update.

- **Senior Center Study**

Ms. Warshaw indicated that a public meeting was held last week and there appears to be very strong support for the project among the neighbors. She reported that there was also some concern about the availability of parking at the site. She mentioned that there would be further public forums taking place in the coming week.

At 9:37 the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations strategy.