

Monday, January 14, 2008

This regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall. In attendance were: Owen H. Dugan, Chair, Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Secretary, David J. Himmelberger and. Also in attendance were Hans Larsen, Executive Director, Terrance J. Connolly, Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel. Harriet S. Warshaw, Vice Chair arrived at 7:10. Harriet S. Warshaw was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following Warrants was executed: #29 in the amount of \$2,585,684.97.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Larsen reviewed the warrant for the February 5th Presidential Primary.

Babson moved, Mills seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the election warrant for the Presidential Primary to be held on Tuesday, February 5th, 2008.

Mr. Larsen noted Mr. Robinson's conflict in the matter of C.E. Holman Limited Partnership v. Wellesley Board of Assessors, and reviewed the request to appoint a Special Counsel.

Babson moved, Mills seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to appoint Anthony M. Ambriano as Special Counsel in the matter of C.E. Holman Limited Partnership v. Wellesley Board of Assessors.

Mr. Larsen reviewed the Recycles Paper! Campaign proclamation request.

Babson moved, Mills seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to adopt the resolution in support of the Recycles Paper! Campaign.

Ms. Babson requested the staff to ensure the schools are being enlisted into this campaign.

3. Consolidated FY09 Town-Wide Budget

Sheryl Strother, the Town's Finance Director joined the Board and reviewed the initial rollup of the FY09 Town-wide budget, which reflects a deficit of \$6.3m. Ms. Strother highlighted the variances from the projected FY09 Sources & Uses as presented at the 2007 Annual Town Meeting, and noted the principal budget line items where significant additional information or work is required. The Board questioned the plans for reducing the budget. Mr. Larsen noted the recent Advisory memo to all Boards requesting them to reprioritize their capital requests, the Inter-Board meeting planned for January 31, and reiterated the budget areas requiring further work.

4. Review Warrant for 2008 Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Larsen reviewed the warrant for the 2008 Annual Town Meeting. The Board discussed a number of changes with regard to specific Articles and the ordering of the Warrant Articles. Noting the additional work required, Mr. Larsen suggested the Board convene a meeting later in the week to finalize the Warrant. The Board agreed to meet at 7:45 AM Thursday morning.

Noting that Town Hall was closed today as a result of the snowstorm, Mr. Larsen indicated that the deadline for submission of nomination papers in connection with the upcoming Town Election had been extended by 24 hours. The Board also discussed and agreed assignments with regard to Selectmen-sponsored Town Meeting Articles.

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Old/New Business

Ms. Babson provided an update on the activities of the School Building Committee, including Steve Gagosian's article in the latest Townsman regarding the condition of the High School, and the Green Charrette held on January 12th.

Mr. Mills provided an update on the activities of the Sprague Field Task Force, including the development of recommendations to the School Committee and the funding approach for the proposed work. The Task Force is recommending elements of a Master Plan for the Sprague Field Complex, no varsity football games be played at Sprague Field, and no permanent fencing, scoreboards or stands, in order to preserve the open nature of the field. Mr. Himmelberger commended the Task Force for their work and Mr. Mills committed that the Master Plan will be available on the Task Force's website

Mr. Dugan reminded viewers of the upcoming Martin Luther King Breakfast and Wellesley Club meeting.

At 9:30 the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to comply with the provisions of a general or special law.