

Board of Selectmen – August 30, 2010
Present: Babson, Tsagaris, Searle, Dugan, Gibbs
Also present: Larsen, Ketchen, Connolly, Robinson

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
Warrants approved: 2011-006 (\$2,598,492.43); 2011-007 (\$150,352.20);
2011-008 (\$3,581,943.52); 2011-009 (\$2,042,049.67)

Citizen speak: None
Minutes approved: July 19, 2010; August 2, 2010; August 23, 2010
Business:

Ms. Babson cited a recent editorial in the *Wellesley Townsman* commending the Board of Selectmen for timely updates to minutes on the Town's website.

1. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Larsen informed the Board that the Council on Aging had been relocated from its offices at the Wellesley Community Center (WCC) to the Town Hall. The relocation was precipitated by findings of a Health Department inspection. Mr. Larsen stated the expectation that staff would return to the WCC once mitigation work was complete, hopefully within the next week or two.

Ms. Searle briefed the Board on a request from the Chamber of Commerce to suspend parking meter enforcement on September 21st in an effort to support the annual "Mom's Day Out" event. The Board voted to approve the request of the Chamber of Commerce for free parking in Wellesley Square on September 21, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Mr. Larsen informed the Board and the public that the Town would be holding a national Patriots Day Memorial Observance on Saturday, September 11th beginning at 9:45 a.m. at Fire Department Headquarters.

The Board voted to approve the recommendation to grant secondary incentive pay for Officer Christopher Connelly, in accordance with a memorandum from Chief Terrence M. Cunningham dated August 10, 2010.

Mr. Larsen announced that on September 25, 2010 the US Drug Enforcement Administration would conduct its National Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative. Prescription drugs can be dropped-off at the Wellesley Police Station.

2. Council on Aging Volunteer Driving Program

Gayle Thieme and Barbara Peacock-Coady came before the Board to describe a proposal for a volunteer driving program. They described myriad needs of the senior community with respect to access to social, familial and healthcare destinations. Ms. Tsagaris and Ms. Peacock-Coady described some of the limitations of the program, how the drivers would be dispatched and what the anticipated lead time would be. The estimated cost of the program remains elusive, but the bulk of the work would be performed by volunteers. However, the proposal is still in the early stages. Mr. Robinson also discussed appropriate insurance coverage and potential areas of liability exposure. Ms. Searle inquired about potential funding sources, in response to which Ms. Thieme described various grant programs.

3. Update on Discussions with Community Center Regarding Senior Center

Ms. Tsagaris updated the Board on continuing discussions with the Wellesley Community Center (WCC). She indicated that many of the options that the WCC officials have put forward do not provide sufficient space and/or functionality to accommodate program and staff needs. She also discussed the option of a complete re-build of the facility, though the Town is concerned about the cost. Further discussions are pending, and Ms. Tsagaris expressed a hope that resolution to the outstanding issues could be achieved.

WCC President Stephen Peretti came forward to thank the Board of Selectmen for their openness during the preceding discussions.

4. Deputy Fire Chief Proposal

Mr. Larsen recounted the history of a number of Board initiatives relating to the Fire Department, including the decommissioning of the Town's copper wire call box network. He further described the move to a radio call box network as well as the removal of residential call boxes, altogether. With respect to commercial sectors, installation of radio transmitters is the preferred technology, thus allowing the Town to cease maintenance of the wire network.

As a result of the change in strategy, a position formerly tasked with wire-based maintenance has been eliminated from the Municipal Light Plant. However, a need exists to bring in personnel to manage the transition of commercial customers. It is the recommendation of the Fire Chief that a second Deputy Fire Chief be hired to fill this need for a period of approximately 18 months. Mr. Larsen also described issues related to personnel classification and the need to benchmark progress toward successful completion of the conversion.

Ms. Searle also pointed-out that there is an important revenue component to the call box program, and thus it is important for the Town to focus on retaining commercial call box customers.

The Board voted to approve the proposal of Fire Chief Richard Delorie to create the position of Deputy Fire Chief of Fire Protection.

5. Alcohol Regulation Violations

Mr. Larsen stated that a need existed to hold a regulatory hearing regarding an alleged violation of certain alcohol regulation violations at the Italo-American Club. Mr. Larsen inquired of the Board as to the manner in which they wished to hold such a hearing.

Mr. Robinson recommended that the Board preside over the hearing, instead of delegating the responsibility to Mr. Larsen. Each Board member voiced their agreement.

The Board voted to convene a hearing to consider whether to modify, suspend or revoke an alcohol license upon finding any alcohol regulation violations.

6. Project and Other Updates

Wellesley High School – Ms. Babson reported on a parking session held to prepare for the opening of school. Focus will be given in the coming weeks to any issues that may arise with drop-off locations and traffic patterns.

Wellesley Middle School – Ms. Tsagaris reported that several expansion and renovation options are being considered to increase available space and utilization of classrooms in anticipation of approaching enrollment bubble. The possibility was also raised that expansion and/or renovations may take place in phases. All options will continue to be evaluated and the Committee is awaiting updated enrollment projections.

27 Washington Street – Mr. Larsen contacted the State to inquire about the possibility of obtaining stimulus funds to improve the roadway. A meeting with Town/State officials and representatives from National Development will take place soon.

Senior Center – Update provided earlier in the meeting.

DCR Bridge – No update.

Advisory Committee Update – No update.

Fuller Brook Path – Ms. Babson stated that a memo has been sent to Town Meeting members to obtain contact information in order to communicate project updates to them. Interested residents were encouraged to subscribe to the Town website for updates. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 15th and Thursday September 16th.

St. James Committee – Ms. Babson stated that an appraisal of the property would be available in the coming weeks. A meeting is being scheduled between the Committee and the Town's consultant (GALE Associates) to evaluate a proposed recreational plan for the site.

Public Transportation Study – No update.

Regional Matters – Mr. Dugan indicated that there are several meetings of regional organizations in the coming weeks.

Sustainability – Mr. Ketchen informed the Board that he, together with Municipal Light Plant Business Manager, Debra Healy, and Cheryl Daebritz from the Human Resources Department have extended an offer to Molly Fairchild to be the Town's first Sustainability Coordinator. Ms. Fairchild subsequently accepted the Town's offer and is expected to start the Tuesday after Labor Day.

At 8:22 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.