

Board of Selectmen – December 8, 2010

Present: Babson, Tsagaris, Searle, Dugan, Gibbs

Also present: Larsen, Ketchen, Connolly, Robinson

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Warrants approved: None.

### **Announcements by the Chair:**

Luminary Night was a huge success. Over a 1000 families participated and they made over \$30,000 dollars which is a 30% increase from last year.

League of Women Voters put together a Wellesley handbook. This book is available at the Town Clerks office for \$10.00.

Special Town Meeting is finished, Chair, Babson thanked Terri Tsagaris for her hard work with the Middle School Building Committee.

### **Citizens Speak**

None

### **Executive Directors Update**

Mr. Larsen spoke about the list of licenses in town that will renew as of Jan 1, 2011 unless the Board had any objections. There were no objections.

Mr. Larsen also stated that he met with Whole Foods representatives about their upcoming need to request a zoning change. They would like to change from a General Residence A to a business zone in order to be able to sell merchandise under an overhang in front of their store. This would also allow them to have a farmers market in the same area which is their intention. They also have intentions to make a pedestrian improvement on a small piece of the aqueduct going into Hunnewell Field. Mr. Larsen will meet with Whole Foods next week regarding this issue.

### **Tax Classification Hearing Continued**

Ms. Gibbs welcomed the assessors/chief assessor and asked for introductions. Present were Donna McCabe, Chief Assessor, Deborah Carpenter, David Livingston, Steve Mahoney.

This is a continuation of the November 29, 2010 Tax Classification Hearing. The hearing was held to allow public comment prior to a decision by the board about how to distribute the Town's tax levy by means of a single or split/dual tax rate. This issue was opened for discussion again. Ms. Gibbs noted a letter from Maura O'Brien of the Chamber of Commerce in favor of retaining the single tax rate.

The Board voted to adopt a residential factor of 1.0 for the purposes of determining the fiscal 2011 tax rate.

### **Audit Committee**

Ms. Babson welcomed Rusty Kellogg, Chairman of the Audit Committee to the audit for FY2010 and also to discuss the management letter. Mr. Kellogg introduced the auditors and Audit Committee members. In attendance were Alan Korpi, Stacy Braatz, Jim Sullivan, Todd Jurczyk, and Michael Nelligan. Mr. Kellogg briefly described the purpose of the Audit Committee. He also talked about the Town's agreement with Powers and Sullivan and the fact that we are in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 3 year fixed fee

(\$93,000) agreement. The committee met with various town departments and Powers and Sullivan throughout the year.

Mr. Kellogg gave a short summary of the following four reports: CAFR, Reports on Federal Award Program, Wellesley Contributory Retirement System Auditor, & Management Letter. There was only one issue this year and it was regarding the School Department. There was a failure to transmit teacher retirement plan contributions on a timely basis. A new system has been put in place to make sure this does not happen again and the Treasurer's Office now wires the money directly to pension fund. There was also follow-up on past audit issues: Implementation of GASB #54 and Water Department Funds. Mr. Larsen noted that the CAFR has lots of information regarding the finances of the Town. He also noted an OPEB asset which was accruing on balance sheet. It was noted that Wellesley is 1 of only 3 communities funding this liability.

### **Town Meeting 2011**

Mr. Connolly asked Board to approve four dates for the upcoming Town Meeting:

1. Call Annual Town Election – Tuesday, March 11, 2011
2. Start of Annual Town Meeting – Monday, March 28, 2011
3. Open Town Meeting Warrant – Wednesday, December 8, 2010
4. Close Warrant – Friday, January 7, 2011

The Board voted to call the 2011 Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting and to further set the following dates:

- Call the Annual Town Election - Tuesday, March 1, 2011;
- Start of Annual Town Meeting - Monday, March 28, 2011, 7:30 PM at the Wellesley Middle School;
- Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant - Wednesday, December 8, 2010;
- Close the Annual Town Meeting warrant - Friday, January 7, 2011 at 5:00 PM.

Mr. Connolly stated that he spoke with Advisory regarding setting their Advisory Public Hearing for February 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Projects & Other Updates**

*Middle School* – Ms. Tsagaris reported that the Special Town Meeting appropriate \$1.75 million dollars for enrollment accommodations.

*Fuller Brook* – Ms. Babson reported that the third set of Public Hearings will occur next week. Recommendations will be presented Wednesday.

*St. James* – Ms. Gibbs reported that a presentation was made to CPC by members of the Saint James Committee to give a sense of the Town's need for recreational space set out in Comprehensive Plan. They are scheduled to make a presentation to Advisory on January 8, 2011.

*High School Construction* – Ms. Babson put up a slide of the High School construction with a white tarp completely covering the structure to keep the inside at 40 degrees to allow the materials to dry.

*Public Transportation* – Ms. Gibbs reported that a transit study survey will be conducted. The survey will be up on the Town's website and hard copies will be available at Town Hall and Main Library.

*Sustainability* – Mr. Ketchen reported that the Sustainable Energy Committee continues to meet to develop strategy for outreach to residents and commercial neighbors. Next week Molly Fairchild and Suzy Littlefield will present a proposal regarding the Stretch Energy Code.

Ms. Babson stated that the Board would go into Executive Session for the purpose of:

1. Discussions regarding strategy for collective bargaining
2. Discussion regarding real estate matters as they pertain to the site where the Wellesley Community Center is located (219 Washington Street).

Members polled - All yes.