

Board of Selectmen – December 19, 2011
Present: Babson, Tsagaris, Searle, Dugan, Gibbs
Also present: Larsen, Ketchen, Connolly, Robinson

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.
Warrants approved: #2012-24 in the amount of \$5,979,653.91
Citizen speak: None
Minutes approved: None.
Business:

1. Executive Session

At 6:30 p.m. the Board voted all “yes” to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to Real Estate matters.

At 7:32 p.m. the executive session concluded and the Board reconvened in public session.

2. Citizen Speak

No citizens appeared to speak on a non-agenda item.

3. Executive Directors Update

The Board voted unanimously to authorize an extension of the liquor license on New Year’s Eve for Blue Ginger to their normal business hours from 12 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The Board voted unanimously to accept a gift from The Fund for Wellesley to the Council on Aging in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the position of Coordinator for the Volunteer Drivers Program.

Ms. Searle re-opened the Tax Classification hearing from the prior meeting and Ms. Gibbs reported that the Town’s values have been certified by the Department of Revenue. Each Board member confirmed that they do not own commercial property in Wellesley.

The Board voted to adopt a residential factor of 1.0 for the purposes of determining the fiscal 2012 tax rate.

4. Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan Amendments

Mr. Larsen briefed the Board on changes to the HRA plans resulting from collective bargaining settlements and other provisions. A memorandum from Town Treasurer Marc Waldman was presented to the Board to renew the HRA plan through 2014.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan, as amended and presented to the Selectmen by the Treasurer in his memorandum dated December 15, 2011, said plan to be effective January 1, 2012 and expiring December 31, 2014.

5. School Superintendent Search

School Committee members K.C. Kato and Ilissa Povich came forward to provide an update on the search for a new Superintendent of Schools. The process goals and plans were discussed during the presentation.

6. Public Transportation Study & Recommendations

Mr. Ketchen, Michael Zehner (Assistant Planning Director), Molly Fairchild (Sustainable Energy Coordinator) and Frank DeMasi (Wellesley's MAPC Representative) came before the Board to recommend that the Selectmen approve joining the Metrowest Regional Transit Authority and the establishment of a Transportation Analysis Group. The recommendations had been made in a September 14, 2011 report by the Public Transportation Working Group and endorsed by the School Committee, Sustainable Energy Committee, Planning Board and Council on Aging.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Public Transportation Working Group as presented in their report published on September 14, 2011, and further, to authorize the chair to sign a letter to the Commonwealth's Secretary of Transportation and the Chair of the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority's Advisory Board, requesting membership in the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.

Projects and Other Updates

Wellesley High School – Ms. Babson reported that the current plan is to transfer the ownership of the new building to the Town on January 5th.

Wellesley Square Initiative – Ms. Searle reported that a new meeting with tenants and land owners would be scheduled in the new year.

Fuller Brook Park – Ms. Babson reported that the planning process is moving forward.

Sustainability – Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator, came before the Board to report that the Massachusetts Horticultural Society have agreed to take over the process for establishing a Farmer's Market in Wellesley on the Gravestar property (located next to Whole Foods).

The Board voted unanimously to authorize the chair to sign a letter to Gravestar expressing support for a Wellesley Farmer's Market as a project of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Old Business/New Business

Ms. Tsagaris reported that the renovation of the Wellesley Middle School project has been completed within budget.

Ms. Tsagaris reported on the progress of the Hills Branch chimney project. The chimney has deteriorated much more than had been originally anticipated. Therefore, additional funds are needed to stabilize the chimney for the winter and additional funds need to be appropriated to complete the work in the spring.

The Board voted unanimously to forward a request to the Advisory Committee for a transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws to fund unforeseen expenditures for the Hills Branch Chimney.

At 9:07 p.m. the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of real property.