

Board of Selectmen – October 15, 2012  
Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley  
Also present: Larsen, Connolly

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.  
Warrants approved: #2013-14 in the amount of \$1,031,583.68 and #2013-15 in the amount of \$419,726.84  
Minutes approved: None

### **1. Citizen Speak**

None.

### **2. Executive Director's Update**

Mr. Larsen noted that a request was received from Arlene Shultz, the Chair of the Cultural Council to appoint Hollis Welch Sullivan as a member of the Council.

**The Board voted 5-0 to approve the request of Arlene Shultz to appoint Hollis Welch Sullivan as a member of the Council for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2015.**

Mr. Larsen asked the board to approve a One-Day special license for the Babson College Commercialization Competition Event.

**The Board voted 5-0 to approve a One Day Special License for Babson College in accordance with their request dated October 9, 2012.**

Mr. Larsen presented the Board with a proclamation recognizing Stephen Mills Anthos advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout, Troop 185..

Mr. Larsen asked the Board to accept two gifts on the behalf of the town.

**The Board voted 5-0 to approve the donation of \$12,000 to the Council on Aging from the Almira N. Simons Trust for the purpose of funding transportation for persons in the Town of Wellesley, age 60 and older.**

**The Board voted 5-0 to approve the donation of a \$200 red maple tree to the Department of Public Works by the 2011-2012 Fifth Grade Class at Bates School.**

Mr. Larsen the reviewed the request by the Human Resources Board to change the current Holiday Schedule such that Town Hall would close for a full day on Christmas Eve and be open for a full day on New Year's Event.

**The Board voted 5-0 to approve the request to change the Town's holiday schedule as recommended in a letter from Human Resources Chair dated October 1, 2012.**

### **3. Sustainable Energy Update**

Ms. Searle reviewed where the Town stands against the goals set by Town Meeting several years ago, which called for a 20% emissions reduction by municipal government by 2013 and a 10% reduction town-wide. As of September 7, the Town is at an 11% reduction on the municipal goal and at 8% on the Town-Wide goal. Ms. Searle presented slides detailing a breakdown of current reductions. Ms. Searle also gave a brief overview of the Vampire Energy Program currently being rolled out in the elementary schools.

### **4. SMMA Update**

Ms. Searle gave a brief synopsis of a meeting held by the Advisory Committee, School Committee and the Board of Selectmen and SMMA. SMMA gave a preview of the database they have developed for the Town on the conditions of the various school buildings and how they have prioritized the work that needs to be done. Each building was rated in different categories and prioritized the schools based on these ratings. SMMA estimated the cost for doing all of the proposed work would cost approximately \$86 million in current dollars. A school facilities task force is being formed whose short-term goals will be to determine if any appropriation is to be sought at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

## **5. Marathon Application Process**

Ms Tsagaris noted that Wellesley will receive 20 invitational entries from the BAA for the 2013 Boston Marathon. The Selectmen are soliciting applications from charities that would like to benefit from some number of these waivers. Applications should be submitted by Friday, November 2, at 12:00 pm. Charities chosen will be notified on or before Nov. 16, at which time the runners' lottery process will begin.

## **6. FY14 Budget Guidelines**

Ms. Tsagaris noted that she, Ms. Gibbs, and Mr. Larsen have met with representatives of several departments over the past few weeks to receive feedback on the proposed FY14 budget guidelines. Mr. Larsen reviewed where the discussion of guidelines currently stands. The figures previously reviewed suggest the possibility of balancing the FY14 budget with approximately \$2.5 million of Free Cash. Achieving this result will require restraint by all Board in terms of wage and expense increases. The proposed guidelines allow for previously negotiated wage increases and a 1% cost of living adjustment in instances of unsettled contracts and for non-union employees.

The Board discussed how the guidelines will be communicated to the Schools and the other Town Departments, i.e., will they be described as a "bright line" or a loose target.. Mr. Larsen suggested we communicate the guideline with the clear expectation that each Board will be required to submit a budget that complies with the guideline and to also keep the Selectmen apprised of what services cannot be afforded by a guideline budget. He also noted the need for mid-course check-ins to assess where each Board stands throughout the process, in order to avoid a situation where the Selectmen are surprised with a significant shortfall late in the budget process. Ms. Searle noted it is important that the Selectmen not lose control of the decision as to whether an override is required.

Mr. McCauley questioned the status of enrollment projections and the Town's workers compensation program. Mr. Larsen committed to give the Board a further briefing on workers compensation in the near future.

Ms. Searle questioned whether the School Committee would include funds in their budget for their FY14 wage settlement. Mr. Larsen noted the issue has been discussed with the School Committee, but no firm decision has been made. Mr. Larsen noted there will be an executive session involving the School Committee and the Selectmen in the next several weeks to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and this meeting will be a logical time to discuss whether such a provision is included in the School budget.

Ms. Babson noted that with the new school leadership and improved transparency it is critical we take particular care to work collaboratively with them throughout the budget process. She also noted that the other Town Boards are making hard decisions to meet budget guidelines, and it is critical they continue to feel they are being treated fairly and comparably. Ms. Gibbs also noted the need for parity in the treatment of all Boards, in light of the likely need for an override in FY15.

Ms. Tsagaris noted the goal will be to vote the guidelines at next week's meeting.

## 7. Project and Other Updates

- **High School** – Ms. Babson gave an update on the High School parking, including a recommendation that the current prohibition against parking on Washington Street before 7:00 AM remain in place after the High School is completed, to afford Town officials the opportunity to assess the impact of the resumption of on-site parking. Mr. Larsen noted that that traffic and parking patterns will not be impacted by the resumption of on-site parking at the High School, but also by the reopening of the Rockland Street bridge and the resumption of employee parking on-site at Whole Foods. Ms. Babson also briefly reviewed other changes forthcoming with respect to High School parking.
- **Tolles-Parsons Center** – The Planning Committee is continuing to solicit input from various committees/boards in town and they have received good feedback. They are working on a timeline and developing plans for an advisory committee.
- **Fuller Brook Park** – Ms. Babson reminded everyone of the upcoming public hearings which will provide information on the status of the Fuller Brook Project, for which the plans are currently at the 60% stage of completion.
- **900 Worcester Street** – Mr. McCauley gave a brief update on the subcommittee plans. He indicated that a survey on the need for a swimming pool facility will be sent to residents in the near future.

## 8. Old/New Business

Mr. Larsen noted a memo received from Laurie Lizak regarding Brian Allen who is no longer on the Retirement Board. Mr. Larsen thanked Mr. Allen for his service to the town and welcomed Charlie Cahill as a new member of the Board.

**At 8:22 the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.**

Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen – October 15, 2012 8:22 p.m.

Present: Searle, Tsagaris, Gibbs, Babson, McCauley, Also present: Larsen, Connolly, Robinson

Mr. Robinson updated the Board on the status of the neighbors' appeals of permits relating to the CVS project at 987 Worcester Street. Counsel for the neighbors has suggested a potential settlement agreement involving CVS funding of traffic mitigation measures to be undertaken prior to completion of the project. The PSI permit for this project provides for CVS to fund traffic mitigation measures in the event a post-project traffic study determines that various traffic impact thresholds have been exceeded.

The proposed mitigation measures include the installation of 3 speed feedback indicator systems on Beechwood and Shirley Roads. The Board discussed the merits of the neighbors' settlement proposal and the Selectmen's authority to agree to such a settlement, in light of the Planning Board's role under the Town's PSI process. It was also noted that, while the speed feedback indicators are primarily intended to address speed issues, the issues on Beechwood Road are more related to traffic volume and cut-through traffic.

The Board concluded it would be inappropriate to agree to the neighbors' settlement proposal. As a result, Mr. Robinson committed to continue discussions with Meghan Jop, Planning Director and Mr. Larsen to determine if there might be some resolution that would be acceptable to the Planning Board and the neighbors.

At 8:55 the meeting was adjourned.