

Board of Selectmen – October 22, 2012

Present: Searle, Tsagaris, Gibbs, Babson (McCauley was absent)

Also present: Larsen (Connolly and Robinson were absent)

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

Warrants approved: #16 in the amount of \$3,704,568.58

Minutes approved: None

The Chairman announced the last day of the Farmer's Market at the Whole Foods parking lot will be this Thursday from 2-6.

Absentee ballots are still available in the Town Clerk's office and the new precincts are detailed on the Town's web site.

Information on how charities can apply to participate in the Town's Boston Marathon waiver program is available on the Town's web site. The last date to submit applications is November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

1. **Citizen Speak**

None.

2. **Executive Director's Update**

Mr. Larsen noted prior meetings between representatives of the Town and MassDOT District 6 to discuss various roadway issues. These meetings led to the resurfacing for Rte 135 from Central Street to the Natick town line. Helmut Ernst, the previous District 6 Director and Walter Heller, the current Acting Director of District 6 have both asked the Town of Wellesley to assume ownership of that section of Rt. 135, which would include responsibility for snow removal and road maintenance. The Town has significant concerns in this regard, particularly given the potential environmental risks. In addition the Town is concerned about the joints on the Rt. 135 concrete deck which could bleed through the top coat, thereby necessitating a full-depth reconstruction of the road, which would be very expensive. Another meeting with MassDOT representatives will likely be held later this month to further discuss these issues.

Mr. Larsen noted the Town is encountering difficulties in obtaining reimbursement of eligible High School costs from the Massachusetts School Building Authority. This project is one of the first projects to be processed under the MSBA's new reimbursement process. Some of the reimbursement has been delayed by the MSBA's establishment of new budget format requirements, which require restatement of the budget for the Wellesley High School project. Following numerous meetings and phone calls with MSBA officials we now have a revised Project Funding Agreement (PFA) and two project Budget Revision Requests (BRRs) to be signed by the District (MSBA's term for the Town). Once these documents are fully processed, we expect to see funds released.

3. **Board to Sign November 6, 2012 Election Warrant**

**The Board voted (4-0) to approve the November 6, 2012 State Election Warrant. Polls will be open from 6:30am to 8:00pm.**

4. **Police Department Appointment**

Chief Cunningham, Lt. Pilecki, Lt. Cleary and Sgt. Renzella appeared before the Board. Chief Cunningham presented the candidate's background. Mr. Griffin answered questions from the Board and introduced his family.

**The Board voted (4-0) to approve to make a conditional offer of employment to William Griffin Jr. as a police officer for the Town of Wellesley Police Department, contingent on passing a physical**

**examination, a physical abilities test and a psychological examination, and successfully completing the Police Academy, his employment to commence November 26, 2012.**

**5. FY14 Budget Guidelines**

The Board discussed the draft letter to all town boards and committees regarding the FY14 Budget Guidelines. The draft letter expresses the guidelines in the form of wage increase and expense increase percentages. The draft letter will be reworked and circulated to the full Board for review.

The free cash certification letter has been received and the free cash tracking is slightly above the most recent predictions. Ms. Babson and Ms. Strother will work on the reserve policy and bring it back to the Board to finalize.

The draft Mobile Food Vendors Rules & Regulations will be discussed at the next meeting.

**6. School Facilities Task Force**

Ms. Searle summarized the joint meeting with the School Committee and Advisory Committee. It was decided to form a task force for the long term and short term facilities issues associated with the schools as identified by the SMMA study. They will be looking at short term issues initially knowing that a long term plan will be needed for the bulk of the work to be done. The School Department has asked a number of people to serve on the short term committee to develop a strategic plan as the long term plan cannot be put in place until the strategic plan is developed. The decision of whether the Selectmen will provide one or two Selectmen to this committee will be discussed next week when there is more clarity on what the specific charges will be on the large group.

**Projects and Other Updates**

**Wellesley High School** – Ms. Babson provided an update on High School parking.

**Tolles-Parsons Center** - The Planning Committee will meet again Thursday to update the draft charge to the committee and finalize Membership and its Charge. The Charge will be circulated to the Board for comments and approval by mid-November.

**Wellesley Square Initiative** - The Holiday Stroll will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Selectmen will discuss free parking for the holiday season at next week's meeting. The merchants would also like to confirm the Selectmen have no issues with music again in the Square during the holiday season. More work is being done to confirm that additional holiday lights will be available this holiday season.

There has been damage to the private building on Central Street from the hanging of banners across the street. There are plans to install new poles in order to hang banners. However, the poles will not be delivered in time for installation prior to the holiday season.

There will be 140 holiday wreaths placed on light posts which will be purchased by the merchants.

**Fuller Brook Park** - There was an article in the Townsman last week regarding the status of the project. The plans are 60% complete. There will be two public meetings this week to show the plans.

**900 Worcester Street** - There will be a meeting on the Parallel Process next week and this topic will be discussed at the next Selectmen's Meeting.

**Old Business/ New Business**

None.

**At 8:15 the Board was polled all aye to adjourn.**