

Board of Selectmen – January 22, 2013
Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley
Also present: Larsen, Connolly (Robinson was absent)

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
Warrants approved: #29 in the amount of \$2,884,225.94

1. Citizen Speak

Chris Anne Banks questioned the status of the new signal at the intersection of Washington Street and Glen Road. Specifically, she believes the wait time is excessively long for motorists making a left turn from Glen onto Washington, particularly at late hours when there is little traffic..

Mr. Connolly noted the Town has not yet taken ownership of the signal from National Development and Town officials are working with representatives of National Development to resolve outstanding issues with the signal.

2. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Larsen noted the death of Bill Miller, Fire Department Mechanic, and expressed the Town's condolences to Mr. Miller's family.

The Board voted (5-0) to accept the following gifts to the Council on Aging:

In loving memory of Andrew Fenton:

- \$1,000 Dillmeier Glass Company
- \$100 from Deanna Peterson
- \$100 from Mr. & Mrs. George E. Bentley
- \$50 from the family of Peter Minelli
- \$50 from Mr. & Mrs. James O'Connell
- \$25 from Joan M. Clowes

General Donations:

- \$100 from Gail Hanson
- \$1,000 from Mr. Frank C. Genovese in the name of his late wife C. Eleanor Genovese to be used specifically for the purpose of subsidizing and/or paying in full the cost of fitness/health programs offered by the Wellesley Council on Aging.

3. Cochituate Aqueduct Land Acquisition

Ms. Gibbs noted this agenda item has been deferred until January 28th.

4. 2013 Annual Town Meeting

Ms. Tsagaris led a review of the Warrant for the 2013 Annual Town Election.

Article 21 – Library Branch Maintenance – there has been no change to the draft of this article.

Article 33 – Marijuana Dispensaries – there have been no substantive changes.

Article 36 – Alcohol in Town Buildings – the language is consistent with that suggested by the Library Trustees.

Ms. Babson noted it has been agreed with Chief Cunningham that we will remove the request for authorization to seek special legislation to permanently appoint Police officers. Rather, we will work with other towns to seek general legislation to this effect.

In response to a question from Mr. McCauley, Ms. Tsagaris noted that the COLA base increase is to be moved under Article 6.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the Warrant for the 2013 Annual Town Election and further that Tuesday, March 5, 2013 from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm is the date and time for said election (Note: Sprague School will remain the Precinct H polling place for this election), and further, to approve the Warrant for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting.

The Board discussed the status of the following articles:

Article 21 – Library Branch Maintenance: The Board discussed the potential timing of further discussion with the Library Trustees on this matter. Ms. Gibbs noted the Trustees have been asked to consider making a \$50,000 annual contribution toward the cost of branch maintenance. Ms. Searle and Ms. Babson asked how the Board would respond to questions that are likely to be raised at Town Meeting, e.g., what will happen if Town Meeting votes for or against funding the maintenance of the Branches.

Article 25 - Acceptance of Gifts of Land: Ms. Babson noted she would be prepared to review this matter at the Board's next meeting.

Article 32 - Marijuana Dispensaries: Mr. McCauley noted that following meetings with the staff, Town Counsel and Ms. Tsagaris, it has been determined that the proper way to proceed is to seek a moratorium against marijuana dispensaries in Wellesley. This is attributable to the level of uncertainty regarding the timing and content of the anticipated State regulations. The proposed moratorium would extend until June 30, 2014. The Board discussed the relative roles of the Selectmen and Planning Board on this matter.

Article 33 – Public Consumption of Marijuana: Mr. McCauley noted Chief Cunningham believes it is important that the Town's Police Regulations clearly prohibit the public consumption of marijuana. The language of the proposed Bylaw change is consistent with the "model bylaw" approved by the Attorney General.

Article 39 – Amendment to Application and Permit Fees: Ms. Babson said the intention is to amend the Bylaw language regarding the permit fee for a Takeout Food license, such that the Selectmen could make periodic changes to such fee levels, perhaps following the holding of a public hearing. Mr. McCauley noted the Planning Board recently did something similar to this.

Article 36 – Alcohol in Town Buildings: Ms. Gibbs noted that the proposed language developed by the Library Trustees has been circulated to the Board. In response to a question from Ms. Searle, Ms. Gibbs noted the Trustees have reached out to the School Committee and other boards to seek their input on this matter. This matter is to be discussed further at a future meeting with the Trustees. Ms. Searle asked if we have reached out to other communities to determine how they handle this issue. Ms. Gibbs noted the Trustees have polled other libraries, but the Selectmen will need to similarly query other communities. The Board questioned whether there is any pertinent precedent in the Town's regulations pertaining to One Day licenses, and whether the Town's insurance carrier has been consulted.

The Board discussed the schedule for resolution of other matters prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

5. Massachusetts Municipal Association Annual Meeting – Proposed Resolutions

Ms. Tsagaris reviewed the four proposed resolutions to be considered at the Mass. Municipal Association Annual Meeting on Saturday January 26th. Mr. Larsen and members of the Board disagree with Resolution C as they do not believe it adequately reflects the need to fund the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability, i.e., it is illogical to mandate the prefunding of pension but not OPEB.

The Board voted (5-0) to support Resolutions A, B and D and to not support Resolution C.

Projects and Other Updates

- Tolles-Parsons Center – Ms. Tsagaris noted the progress being made by the Review Committee. Ms. Tsagaris and Ms. Gibbs met with the PBC to discuss the potential need for an appropriation of further design funds. The report of the Review Committee is due by mid-February. Additional design funds may also be needed for the design of the additional parking adjacent to the Police Station. Ms. Tsagaris believes this appropriation could approximate \$25,000.
- Wellesley Square Initiative – Ms. Searle noted the status of banners to be installed in the Square to celebrate the anniversary of the Library. The Library Trustees will be funding the cost of the banners and the MLP will be funding the cost of the brackets.
- Advisory Committee Update – Ms. Tsagaris noted the Advisory Committee’s public hearing is scheduled for February 6th.
- Fuller Brook Park – None.
- 900 Worcester Street – None.
- Regional Matters – None.
- Sustainability – Ms. Searle noted the legislation regarding the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which would allow the MLP communities to access up to 80% of the funds they contribute for such purposes. She will draft a letter expressing support for such legislation for the Board’s consideration. Mr. McCauley continues to abstain on this matter, because of his work with renewal energy developers.
- School Facilities Task Force – Ms. Searle noted the results of the recent meeting with the PBC. Ms. Babson asked when the Selectmen will be asked to vote on the proposal. A further discussion of this will be held on February 4th. Mr. Larsen noted the Board needs to review the proposed plan for the renovation of the Town Clerk’s and Treasurer’s offices and the Building Department.
- Hill Branch Chimney – In response to a question from Ms. Babson, Ms. Gibbs noted the CPC has not yet determined what portion of the cost of the chimney repair they will support.

Old Business/New Business

Ms. Tsagaris noted the dates of the League of Women Voters’ Precinct Meetings (Sunday afternoon March 24th and Thursday evening March 28th).

At 8:30 the meeting was adjourned.