

Board of Selectmen – March 19, 2013

Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley

Also present: Larsen, Connolly, Robinson

Call to order: 7:00pm.

Warrants approved: #2013-037 in the amount of \$5,495,516.98

Minutes approved: none

Ms. Tsagaris announced the League of Women's Voters upcoming precinct meetings schedule as well as the Annual Town Meeting Schedule.

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Larsen distributed the Town Wide Financial Plan to the Board. Mr. Larsen noted the electronic version of the Advisory book would be up on the website by Tuesday. Mr. Larsen reviewed a petition from Neil Glick on River Street which has been signed by a number of residents who feel that River Street has a serious safety problem. The Traffic Committee will take responsibility for reviewing that request. Mr. Larsen noted a CV License Application, an All Alcohol License Application and a Wine and Malt License Application will need to be considered in the near future. The Board decided to meet on April 11 to discuss the outstanding CV and All Alcohol applications.

3. Policy Regarding Use of Information Technology Resources

Tom D'Orazio, NIS Director, joined the Board. Mr. D'Orazio discussed the new Bring Your Own Device Policy. Mr. D'Orazio gave a quick recap of the Town's security policy first introduced 10 years ago. The NIS department merged the updated security policy with the Bring Your Own Device Policy creating a single document. He would like the Selectmen to endorse the policy. Mr. D'Orazio reviewed some of the key tenants of the policy which includes unacceptable/acceptable use of the Town's internet, computers, and devices, the lack of confidentiality in emails, email do's and don'ts etc. Mr. D'Orazio stressed that there is no privacy on the Town's network or any device. In 1988 there were 40 users and 3 PC's today there are over 400 uses and 250 devices not counting the unattached devices. Mr. D'Orazio noted that the policy will go through changes over the next few months. Mr. Larsen reviewed some content restrictions employees have on the town's network. All new employees will receive the policy from the Human Resources Department.

4. April 30, 2013 Primary Election Warrant

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the warrant for the Special State Primary on Tuesday April 30, 2013 for the office of Senator in Congress and further to relocate the polling place to Precinct H from the Isaac Sprague School, 401 School Street, to the Wellesley High school located at 50 Rice Street.

Mr. Larsen noted this is being done so early so the Town has enough time to notify residents of the change in polling place.

5. Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety – Public Hearing

At 7:30 pm Ms. Tsagaris opened the hearing on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety. Chief Cunningham, Deputy Chief Pilecki, Dave Hickey, Town Engineer and Mike Regan, Traffic Engineer from VHB joined the Board. In light of bike accident last August and the completion of the investigation the Town has begun to research additional steps it might take in safeguarding pedestrians and bicyclists in Wellesley. Deputy Chief Pilecki reviewed the relevant bylaws and data in terms of accident history in Wellesley as it relates to pedestrian and bicyclist matters. Mr. Hickey reviewed recent actions taken within the town in relation to pedestrian matters and previewed some further actions the town might undertake. He also previewed some upcoming capital projects that will impact pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Mr. Regan presented alternative accommodations for pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Mr. Regan also gave examples of what other communities have implemented in regards to safety and highlighted options for consideration going forward.

Mr. McCauley suggested talking to recreational bike users for their input on bike safety, routes etc. in Wellesley.

Bruce Franco, 6 Wellesley Avenue, approached the Board. Mr. Franco feels that sharp curbs, car doors opening, trash in the roads, trailers, trucks and potholes are major issues for bicyclists. Mr. Franco gave some suggestions on how to rectify these issues. He feels shared lane markings (sharrows) and signs are a good solution.

Mark Hagan, 11 Upland Road, Natick, approached the Board. Mr. Hagan asked if Wellesley had a map of the most bicycle traveled roads in Wellesley. He also asked where the problems are occurring.

Mr. Ethan Fleming of Brighton, MA approached the Board. Mr. Fleming bikes through Wellesley and is apprehensive about bicycle riding through the town. He is concerned with the lack of education of adults in regards to bike safety.

Matt Kressy, 29 Pickerel Road, approached the Board. Mr. Kressy feels that managing expectations of motorists in regard to bike safety is important. He also voiced that shared lane markings (sharrows) are very important to let motorists know cyclist have the right to be on roads.

John Merrill, 255 Weston Road, approached the Board. Mr. Merrill applauded the recent improvements on Weston Road. He feels people do not look at the pedestrian signals on Weston Road and discussed the safety problems he has witnessed on Weston Road.

Mr. Tim Hurst, 3 Middlesex Street, approached the Board. He discussed the safety issue at the intersection of Bacon Street and 135. Mr. Hurst also listed some of the traffic concerns he has in regards to the Fuller Brook Path and Grove Street.

Angus McQuilken, 1 Riverdale Road, approached the Board. He would like to make Wellesley a bicycle friendly community. Although shared marked lanes (sharrows) are better than nothing he feels safer riding on a street with designated bike lanes. He feels the biggest priority is creating a safe way to get from one side of town to the other.

Brad Neighbors, 75 Curve Street, approached the Board. Mr. Neighbors walks by the Weston Road/Linden Street intersection every morning and witnesses people breaking the law there. He feels this intersection is very misleading. He suggested adding speed bumps to slow people down. He would

like people to lobby more effectively to effect bike safety change and feels that education and signage really improve safety.

Hans Fischmann, 84 Pleasant Street, approached the Board. Mr. Fishman does not feel safe riding in Wellesley. A goal he sees is Wellesley becoming a more a bike/walk friendly town and looking for ways to connect to bicycle routes in other communities.

Jim Koch, 101 Parker Road, approached the Board. Mr. Koch feels that Weston Road is an accident waiting to happen. Mr. Koch is fearful of riding through this area since granite curbs were installed.

Lee Toma, a non-resident who commutes through Wellesley approached the Board. Mr. Toma is the Chair of the Town of Milton Bike Committee which faces similar challenges to Wellesley. Mr. Toma strongly encouraged the town to form a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mr. Toma discussed different avenues his group has taken and how similar options may help in Wellesley. He noted that enforcement is very important.

Bob Jenney, 35 Parker Road, approached the Board. Mr. Jenney stressed the importance of forming an Advisory Committee which consists of lifelong cyclists who understand the nuances of cycling and residents who understand the streets.

Sophia Kressy, 29 Pickerel Road, approached the Board. Ms. Kressy commutes across town and feels the roads in Wellesley are dangerous as she has had close calls on her bicycle with vehicles. She feels sharrows would be helpful.

Spiros Motsenigos the brother of the late Alexander Motsenigos approached the Board. Mr. Motsenigos expressed his appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, Police Department, and the community. He asked that the Board not give up and see it through. He feels this will create a context for healthier people to live here now and in the future.

The Board was questioned on what their next steps would be. Ms. Tsagaris responded that further discussion would be needed and the public would be notified.

Ms. Tsagaris closed the hearing at 8:24pm.

6. 2013 Annual Town Meeting

FY13 Budget Adjustments (Article 7)

Article 8

Mr. Larsen mentioned 2 initial adjustments that need to be made. The Council on Aging is not agreeing to the idea of a transition to the Metrowest RTA they would like to continue with their current vendor or replace under the existing model. This will add \$25,000 to the budget.

Mr. Larsen also noted they will eliminate \$22,000+ from the budget related to additional utility cost for the Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) occupancy at the old MLP/DPW building.

Tolles-Parsons Center (Article 18)

Mr. Tsagaris presented slides which detailed the preliminary estimates for construction. Ms. Tsagaris briefly reviewed what they will be requesting at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. The request is for additional funds for design, permitting, and the creation of construction documents in the amount of

\$165,300. The preliminary estimate for full constructions costs are \$7,097,632 assuming a 2014 construction date. Ms. Tsagaris reviewed the reasons for additional funds. **The Board voted (5-0) to support the request to Town Meeting for an additional \$165,300 of design funds under Article 18.**

Hills Branch Library Chimney Repair (Article 20)

Ms. Gibbs noted that the current estimate is \$260,000 for the restoration of chimney and North facing wall. The actual construction cost is \$193,700. There are discrepancies between Weston Sampson and historical consultant's estimates which they will discuss with the Permanent Building Committee (PBC). The plan is to request the funding for design through construction at the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Gibbs noted that they will have to wait until Thursday for the final cost and vote on this Article at their next meeting.

Cochituate Aqueduct Acquisition (Article 22)

Ms. Babson updated the Board on the Status of the Cochituate Aqueduct Acquisition. Over 100 meeting notices were sent out to homes and businesses surrounding the aqueduct. Four residents attended the meeting. Ms. Babson also noted that they will have to conduct a land swap as the Cochituate Aqueduct is considered to be parkland and is protected under Article 97 of the Massachusetts State Constitution. This transfer will need to be voted on by the state legislature.

Zoning Articles 27-31

Ms. Tsagaris announced they will be moving these items to next week.

Projects and Other Updates

- Wellesley Square Initiative – Ms. Searle reviewed the discussions from the recent Merchants meeting. Mike Pakstis & Dave Hickey attended and updated the merchants on the plans for Washington Street.
- Advisory Committee Update – Ms. Tsagaris updated the Board on the topics of Advisory's next meeting.
- Fuller Brook Park – Ms. Babson noted that all of the documents for permitting have been submitted. At their next meeting they will discuss phasing of the project and costs.
- Sustainability – Ms. Searle noted the Power to Save Campaign has begun and gave a brief summary of the program. More information is available on the Town's website.

At 9:55pm the Board was polled all aye to go into executive session for purposes of discussion of strategy with respect to collective bargaining and acquisition of real property.

Documents Presented: Tolles-Parsons Center Slides, Pedestrian & Bicyclist Safety Presentation,