

Board of Selectmen Meeting September 3, 2013
Present: Babson, Searle, Gibbs, Tsagaris, McCauley
Also Present: Larsen, Connolly, Robinson

Warrants: #2014-006 in the amount of \$2,385,541.61 and #2014-007 in the amount of \$6,042,959.49.

The meeting called to order at 6:30pm. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the acquisition of real property.

Ms. Babson announced that on September 11, there will be annual 911 observances taking place at Fire Station Headquarters at 9:30am. Ms. Babson noted a tragic fire at 1 Durant Road, and gave details on how to make a donation to a fund set up for the Daniel Family.

2. Citizen Speak

None

Ms. Babson reviewed changes that were made to tonight's agenda.

3. Executive Directors Update

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2013 and August 27, 2013 Board of Selectmen's Meetings.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the gift of \$10,000 from the Foundation for Metro West for the purpose of student internships and to be supervised by the Wellesley Youth Commission.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve gifts to the council on aging from:

Babson BedShelf FME program in the amount of \$144.98,

Clair D. Wilson in the amount of \$100.00, and

Wellesley-Weston Lifetime Learning in the amount of \$75.00

Mr. Larsen reviewed a request from Fire Chief, Rick DeLorie, for secondary educational compensation for firefighter, Timothy Millian.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the request from Fire Chief, Richard DeLorie, to approve the secondary educational compensation, (B.S. Maritime Engineering) for firefighter, Timothy Millian.

Mr. Larsen announced that Meghan Jop, current Planning Director, would be filling the vacant position in the Selectmen's Office as the new Deputy Director. Mr. Larsen briefly reviewed Ms. Jop's background, and noted that they will ensure a smooth transition for a new Planning Director, when a replacement is found.

4. All-alcohol license application – Justine's Table, 978 Worcester Street

Ms. Babson opened the public hearing and accepted a motion to continue the matter to September 23, 2013 at 8:30pm on agreement from the applicant and the Board.

The Board voted (5-0) to continue the all-alcohol license application for Justine's table located at 978 Worcester Street until September 23, 2013 at 8:30pm.

5. FY15 budget guidelines

Sheryl Strother, Finance Director, joined the Board. Mr. Larsen noted that this is the budget the town will seek approval for next spring. Mr. Larsen began by reviewing where we stand from an overall financial standpoint, followed by the pension changes reflected in the January 1, 2013 valuation, and quickly briefed the Board on the status of free cash. Mr. Larsen discussed the FY15 budget scenarios and noted that these scenarios were slightly refined than what was discussed in June. Mr. Larsen reviewed the timeline for the guidelines and concluded by reviewing other key dates including the opening of the Warrant on September 23, and the September 27th deadline for warrant submissions.

6. Project of Significant Impact, Tolles-Parsons Senior Center – Transportation Study

Ms. Babson noted that the Board will be looking at traffic and safety for this portion of the PSI process and will make recommendations to the Planning Board.

Ms. Tsagaris recused herself as Selectmen from voting on the project since she is the chair of the Tolles-Parsons Center Committee.

Matt King, Permanent Building Committee, Chair, Kien Ho, BETA Traffic Consultant, Richard Thuma, Owner's Project Manager, and Robbie Burgess of Howard Stein Hudson & Associates, joined the Board.

Mr. King presented the highlights of the presentations and quickly briefed the Board on changes to parking and the crosswalk signalization. Mr. King summarized that they have captured the need for parking for the Center onsite without need for on street parking. Mr. King asked the Board for approval of traffic and parking elements as required under PSI process.

Mr. Burgess presented the Tolles-Parsons Center Transportation Study. Mr. Burgess discussed the study process and overview, including traffic study area, sidewalks, parking and the Washington Street pedestrian signal.

Mr. Ho presented the Town's peer review of the transportation study and provided a summary of his findings. Mr. Ho noted that they are in agreement with the parking analysis and parking data, however they had one comment regarding the egress as they feel the left and right turn lane is unnecessary.

Mr. McCauley noted he was concerned about the different signalizations and feels it will lead to driver confusion. He questioned whether the signal in front of St. Paul's should be upgraded to the level of the signal at the new crosswalk. Ms. Tsagaris noted that during drop off and dismissal there is a crossing guard and the peak times for St. Paul's and the Senior Center are different.

Father Arthur McKay of 502 Washington Street approached the Board. Mr. McKay is the temporary pastor at St. Paul's School and Church. Mr. McKay discussed four points:

1. Father McKay noted that he tried to form a committee when first learned of this action and noted that the parishioners have not had enough time to review the first study or any of the new additions.

2. Father McKay noted that if enough people make the decision to park on Washington Street, during a funeral, then they will be forced to double park. Mr. McKay questioned if a possible mitigation for those who may not take advantage of Site 2 may be evaluated.
3. Father McKay suggested that the pedestrian hybrid beacon light may be troublesome for those that are visually impaired. He noted that going from one type of intersection to another can cause visual memory problem and questioned how changes to the lighting may be made after the project is approved.
4. Father McKay noted two issues not addressed in the study. First he mentioned that there are 100-200 children who come on Wednesday afternoons at 1pm for religious education and second that there is an afterschool program in which parents come between 3-4pm to pick up their children and often wait on Washington Street.

Abigail Sule, 33 Atwood Street, approached the Board. Ms. Sule expressed her concerns with driver's who might be making the difficult left hand turn into the Senior Center when crossing traffic as well as parking issues. She does not believe that all left hand turns have been covered in either study and noted then when she pushes the pedestrian light at St. Paul's, cars stop only 50% of the time.

Mary Bowers, Precinct D, approached the Board. Ms. Bowers questioned if Atwood Street was used for pick/up drop off of school children.

The Board followed up on information heard during the meeting. Ms. Babson reviewed the Selectmen's role in this process and suggested asking what revisions will be made in regards to use of parking lot.

Ms. Tsagaris noted that arrangements can be made between the church and Tolles-Parsons Center in regards to parking for large funerals.

Ms. Babson noted that they will continue this hearing in order to reflect on some of the comments heard tonight.

7. Retail sale of beer & wine

Mr. McCauley reviewed the Citizens Petition for the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores and noted that the Board will come to a decision of whether or not they are in favor of this article and whether they will sponsor the article. Ms. Tsagaris reviewed the questions the Board needed to answer in order to go forward.

The Board discussed the article and focused on what limits should be imposed. The Board agreed to limit the article to beer and wine only and to restrict the sales of beer and wine to grocery stores and specialty food stores. The Board concluded that they will sponsor this article and noted that a committee would be appropriate to define a grocery and specialty food stores and to set a cap on licenses. They discussed possible committee members. Ms. Babson noted it might be possible to accelerate this and get it done in time for spring. The Board will discuss this further on September 16.

8. Wetlands funds authorization

Ms. Babson reviewed the request form the Wetlands Protection Committee, which was previously discussed at the August 5, 2013, Board of Selectmen Meeting. Previously, the Board decided that Ms. Babson would discuss the request with the Wetlands Committee in order ask additional questions. Ms.

Babson updated the board on the results of this discussion. Ms. Babson noted that this will free up the Wetlands Director from doing the meeting minutes.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve FY13, FY14 and FY15 budgets of the Wetland Protection Fund to the Wetlands Protection Committee.

Projects and other updates

Tolles Parsons Center – Ms. Tsagaris noted that the Design Review Board filing will be on September 13.

Wellesley Community Development- Ms. Searle noted the upcoming meetings and reviewed the agenda for the next two meetings

Advisory Committee update – Ms. Babson noted that orientation for new members have started.

Fuller Brook Park – Ms. Babson noted that they have one more session before the Wetlands Protection Committee before they receive the order of conditions. They will appear before the Zoning Board of Appeals in the next few weeks.

Regional matters/transportation – Ms. Gibbs noted that they have been gathering public input on the development part of the planned bus route, commuter hours, and possible drop off and pick up locations. They have met with colleges and will meet with property owners for input. Ms. Gibbs listed dates of scheduled public forums and noted that the Board will be fully updated at their next meeting.

Sustainability – Ms. Gibbs noted that they will meet to discuss potential plans and initiatives for the current year including an expansion of their mandate. There is a possibility they will bring article to the December Special Town Meeting to amend the bylaw.

School facilities – Ms. Searle noted that the the School Facilities Committee has decided to recommend a proposal for renovations at Fiske and Schofield. They will possibly ask for study money for conceptual plans for Hardy, Hunnewell, and Upham. They will go through the SMMA studies of other schools to review the recommendations and costs in order to have a better idea of what to expect for the future. They will consider asking for money for a study on the middle school. This will be further discussed at the joint meeting of the BOS and School Committee on September 23.

Town-wide facilities capital projects- Ms. Searle noted that they are continuing the interview process. They will meet with the architect's project manager and following that interview will decide on making an offer to the architectural firm. PBC will be interviewing security consultants this week. Joe McDonough, Deputy Chief Pilecki, Sgt. Spencer and Superintendent Lussier will also participate in the security consultant interviews.

Old business/new business

Ms. Babson noted that there will be an inter-board meeting in the Great Hall to discuss guidelines to talk about various items on September 4. Mr. Babson noted that the RFP for town counsel services has been disseminated, and is available on the town website.

The Selectmen's meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.

Documents presented:

- FY15 Budget Guidelines, 9/3/2013

- Tolles-Parsons Center Transportation Study
- Pedestrian crossing site plan