

Minutes Approved: December 8, 2014

**Board of Selectmen Meeting: November 24, 2014**

**Present: Searle, Gibbs, Tsagaris, McCauley, Murphy**

**Also Present: Larsen, Jop,**

**Announcements:** Ms. Searle reviewed the details of the walk-in flu clinic at the Wellesley Health Department. She also noted that Sunday, December 7 is the Holiday Stroll festivities followed by the Tree lighting ceremony as well as the details of the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot.

**1. Citizen Speak**

None

**2. Executive Directors Update**

Minutes

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs, the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014 Board of Selectmen Meeting.**

Aqueduct Access Agreement

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs, the Board voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen Chair to sign the Access Agreement between the Town of Wellesley and Wellesley College dated November 24, 2014 to allow Wellesley College access upon and use of the Cochituate Aqueduct to perform certain environmental remediation work.**

Gifts

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs, the Board voted to approve gifts donated to the DPW in the amount of \$350.00 from the Garden Club of Wellesley and \$186 from Carole Epstein for Tulips and Daffodils to be planted at Clock Tower Park.**

Certify Purchase of Cochituate Aqueduct

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs, the Board voted to certify that the land transaction described in Motions 1 and 2 of Article 10 of the 2013 Special Town Meeting to acquire the remaining 5.59 acres of the Cochituate Aqueduct and to then deed an 11,000 square foot parcel of land to Bike Realty LLC is finalized and recorded at the Norfolk Country Registry of Deeds.**

## Town Hall Holiday Schedule

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs, the Board voted to approve the change in the Town Hall Holiday Schedule which would allow the Town Hall to remain open for a full working day on December 24, 2014 and December 31, 2014 and remain closed all day on December 26, 2014.**

Mr. Larsen noted that the Town has recently become the owner of record of the 900 Worcester Street property today. He thanked Attorney Goodhue and Attorney Robinson for all of their work on this matter.

Mr. Larsen noted that he and Chief Cunningham have sent a letter to MA DOT to request the intersection of Bacon Street and Route 135 be studied as there was a recent bicycle accident in this location. The traffic committee felt MA DOT needed to take the lead in either signalization or making improvements for the safety of the public.

### **3. Selectmen's FY16 Capital Budget**

James Ryan, Budget Analyst joined the Board. Mr. Larsen noted that Mr. Ryan had put together all of the capital submissions from all of the departments. Mr. Ryan reviewed capital for various departments including, IT, Police, and the Council on Aging. He reviewed changes from the prior year. The Board asked questions regarding the presentation.

### **4. Tax Classification Hearing**

Board of Assessors Members, Steve Mahoney, Chair, Arthur Garrity, David Chapin and Donna McCabe, the Town's Chief Assessor joined the Board. Ms. Searle opened the Tax Classification Hearing. Ms. Gibbs noted that the Tax Classification is held each year to receive public input regarding whether or not all classes of property should be taxed at the same or different rates. The Selectmen must decide if the Town will move to a split or a dual tax rate. Ms. Gibbs further reviewed the agenda of the hearing. Ms. Gibbs asked that any Board member having ownership in any commercial real estate please disclose that fact. The Board of Assessors presented historical perspective of tax classification in town, Tax Classification Options, and a comparison of tax classifications in relations to other Towns.

Lemonia Fotiadis of 34 Redwing Road approached the Board. Ms. Fotiadis asked if other than the increase in the taxes if there are any other negative impacts to the business with a dual rate. She expressed that she feels \$800 savings for homeowners is a significant amount, and that if business want to remain in Wellesley they should be obligated to pay their taxes regardless of the amount. Mr. Mahoney noted that one of

the impacts to business if a dual tax rate was adopted is that the values of businesses would go down due to the expenses going up.

Ms. Gibbs noted that the Board received comments from Maura O'Brien, President of the Wellesley Chamber of Commerce expressing the Chamber's support for retaining the single tax rate again this year. The Board of Selectmen shared their views on whether to continue with a single or dual tax rate.

Ms. Gibbs announced the closing of the Public Hearing

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to adopt a residential factor of 1.0 for the purposes of determining the fiscal 2015 tax rate.**

Ms. McCabe noted that this does not set the tax rate, and the Town must still go to the Department of Revenue for the rate to be approved.

## **5. National Grid Petition – Redwing Road**

Ms. Searle noted this is a continuation of the previous Public Hearing. Dennis Regan and Sue Scarcella from National Grid, joined the Board. Mr. Regan reviewed National Grid's request. Ms. Searle noted that residents on Redwing Road have voiced safety concerns at previous hearings. Ms. Searle reviewed the opinion of the Town Engineer on the safety and reliability of National Grid gas mains and installation and noted that the experience has been favorable. Ms. Scarcella addressed the safety concerns of the residents. Mr. McCauley noted his view on the unfavorable maintenance of the gas infrastructure in Town.

Peter Rich, 14 Redwing Road, approached the Board. Mr. Rich noted that there is no safety risk now but once the line is put in there is a safety risk. He noted that they have a petition signed by various neighbors against the installation of this new gas line.

Pamela Jerskey, 15 Redwing Road requested to see if the board could find out if there is any ongoing maintenance of the transmission line behind there houses. Ms. Searle noted they would look into it.

Dr. Harris Holstein, 52 Redwing Road approached the Board. He noted everyone on South Side of Redwing Road signed the petition. He noted that every year they receive bulletins from Algonquin gas warning of gas safety. He noted the installation of this new line would create a fault. He noted the safest thing to do is to do nothing.

Lemonia Fotiadis of 34 Redwing Road approached the Board. She noted that she would like the choice of being able to install a gas line in her house. She noted she is the closest house to the back of the transmission line and she is not concerned with the installation of National Grid pipe as technology is better now than it was 40 years ago. She noted other neighbors would like the option in the future.

Ms. Jerskey asked how much disruption to the street will be entailed by neighbors. Mr. Regan noted public works director will dictate how much disruption is allowed and noted that the police will be there to guide neighbors.

Ms. Searle closed the public hearing.

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs the Board voted (4-1) to deny the petition from National Grid to install and maintain approximately 510 feet more or less of 4 inch gas main in Redwing Road, Wellesley. From the existing 4 inch gas main at Bluebird Road, westerly to Oriole Road to service houses #26 and #30.**

**6. Change in Manager – Amarin**

Veerayod Aramthip, Amarin Manager, approached the board. Mr. Veerayod Aramthip reviewed his experience.

**Upon a motion made by Ms. Tsagaris and seconded by Ms. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to approve request from Amarin II Inc, d/b/a Amarin II, dated September 26, 2014 for a Change in Manager from Kraisor Punturaumporn to Veerayod Aramthip.**

**7. Old Business/New Business**

Ms. Tsagaris noted that last Monday the planning board decided it would hear the Tolles-Parsons Center reapplication for PSI. The first hearing will be December 1, 2014 at 7 pm.

Ms. Tsagaris thanked the DPW and MLP for all the work they have done putting up holiday lights and decorations in Town at no cost.

**8. Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Estate**

North 40

See executive session minutes

**The Board of Selectmen's meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm**