

Board of Selectmen Meeting: June 29, 2015
Present: Searle, Gibbs, Murphy, Freiman, Morgan
Also Present: Larsen, Jop,
Minutes Approved: July 20, 2015

Warrants: 2015-050 in the amount of \$1,416,568.43; 2015-051 in the amount of \$4,760,401.06

Ms. Searle opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Citizen Speak

None

2. Executive Directors Update

Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015, June 11, 2015 and the June 18, 2015 Board of Selectmen's meetings.

Gifts

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the donation of \$400 to the Park & Tree Dept., for a Kousa Dogwood Tree to be planted at Perrin Park.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the donation of \$300 from the House and Garden Club for annual flowers to be planted at Central Park.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the donation of \$250 from The Wellesley Gardner's Guild for annual flowers and spring flowering bulbs at the Clock in the Square.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the donation of \$171 for annual flowers to be planted at the traffic island at Cleveland Rd and Weston Rd.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the donation of \$300 from the Wellesley Youth Lacrosse to install a Gravel Pad at Sprague Field to place their equipments storage box on.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to accept the following Gifts to the Council on Aging:

\$27 from Joanne Kmiec
\$25 from Catherine Pukatch
\$100 from Shani Kumarasena MD
\$80 from Williams B. Duane
\$2500 from the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club
\$500 from the Village Churchwomen

Purple Heart Proclamation

Mr. Larsen noted Wellesley will become a Purple Heart Community and August 7 would be recognized as Purple Heart Day. Mr. Larsen read the Purple Heart Proclamation. The Board signed the proclamation.

Other Update Items

Mr. Larsen noted there are no year-end financial transfers this year.

Mr. Larsen noted the Selectmen's Office studied town hall hours for 22 communities with summer hours and Wellesley was one of 3 communities that did not have modified hours in the summer. He briefly reviewed the modified Town Hall Hours.

3. Distributed Antennae System Update

Jeffrey Baker from American Tower, Katy Gibson, MLP Board Member, Debra Healy, Dick Joyce, Jim Verner, and Kevin Sullivan of the MLP joined the Board. Ms. Gibson noted the light plant held their first public hearing on this topic in 2011. She explained the new DAS system as well as giving a brief overview of the American Tower Company who will be supplying the DAS systems. Ms. Gibson noted American Tower executed an agreement with a major cell phone carrier and they hope to complete fiber installment by the end of July. Mr. Baker reviewed information regarding the network and cellular reception improvements that will be realized as a result of the DAS system.

4. Comcast License Renewal

Mr. Murphy noted Comcast is one of two cable providers in Wellesley and their license is up for renewal as of Wednesday, June 30th. The town entered into negotiations a year ago with Comcast and a handshake deal was made in April. In the last two weeks Comcast has come back and said they cannot honor the agreement and will now need to renegotiate. He reviewed Comcast's reasons. He noted the Town has been advised to issue a preliminary denial.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs The Board of Selectmen voted (5-0) that, in its role as statutory Issuing Authority for the Town of Wellesley, is hereby issuing a preliminary assessment of denial of Comcast of Massachusetts I's cable television renewal proposal to the Town of Wellesley, dated February 27, 2015. The Board of Selectmen will also issue a written statement of reasons, in accordance with 207 CMR 3.06(3), detailing the reasons for its preliminary assessment of denial.

Mr. Larsen noted this is procedural matter with Comcast and there will be no change in service to Comcast customers.

5. School Security Liaison

Mr. Morgan gave a brief update on the status of the School Security project. He noted there was a motion approved by the 2015 ATM to move ahead with feasibility and bidding on a package of capital improvements for enhancing school security. Although the motion was passed at Town Meeting, there was controversy regarding both the process and the scope of the project, leading to 3 of the Selectmen voting against it. The PBC and School Committee are moving forward with this project. They have tentatively adjusted the scope which appears to address many concerns. Mr. Morgan wanted to identify a Selectman to be a point person on this project in order to resolve issues before the project comes forward at the Special Town Meeting for funding. The Board was supportive of having a liaison and Jack Morgan was nominated to assume that role. Ms. Searle noted that this has been an inclusive process

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to appoint Jack Morgan as School Security Liaison.

6. National Grid Petition – Redwing Road

At 7:15 pm Ms. Searle opened the public hearing for a National Grid Petition on Redwing Road.

Dennis Regan, John Hammond and Sue Costello of National Grid joined the Board. Mr. Regan gave a brief recap of his April 27th request to install a 4" gas main on Redwing Road. Ms. Searle noted this petition was denied the first time it came before the Board. She noted the concerns raised were by several neighbors who did not want a new gas main in front of their house with an existing Algonquin transmission line located in back of their homes. Ms. Jop reviewed a conversation she had with Peter Kerrigan of Algonquin Gas regarding the safety and maintenance of the transmission line in back of the Redwing Road homes. They currently inspect the line both internally and externally every 7 years as well as conduct weekly flyovers as well as other safety protocols. National Grid briefly reviewed their inspection protocols.

Todd Cason of 26 Redwing Road approached the Board. Mr. Cason distributed a document to the Board. He noted he looked at information on the safety of gas. He noted there are 2.4 million miles of gas line in the country. He compared the risks of gas to risks that we take every day. He noted the risk of gas is exceedingly small in comparison.

Dr. Harris Holstein of 22 Redwing Road approached the Board. He has lived in Wellesley since 1956. He noted his deed did not show any gas line. He noted the first meeting was postponed as the Board had no knowledge of the gas transmission line. He noted National Grid failed to show up for the second meeting. He reviewed a safety pamphlet from the Algonquin Gas Company. He noted that he does not want to be put in a risky situation.

Parikshit Gandhi of 30 Redwing Road approached the Board. He noted he is in favor of the gas line. He noted he invests in the gas and oil sector for his business. He noted Liberty Mutual refuses to insure his home with an oil tank in the basement.

Peter Rich of 14 Redwing Road approached the Board. He noted this is not an economic issue but a safety issue. He is disappointed that National Grid was starting marking out work in the road prior to the start of this meeting.

Ahmed Shiven of 19 Redwing Road approached the Board. He noted that he is in favor of the pipeline. He noted that he is a plastics engineer and that there are almost no risks as leaks come from joints, and the proposed construction with plastic has no joints.

Lemonia Fotiadis of 34 Redwing Road approached the Board. She noted the current homeowner as well as the new developer wants gas. She noted that she spoke with other neighbors and many were in favor. She noted that the first two houses on Redwing have gas. She noted with the change in technology she feels that gas is much safer today. She hopes the Board bases its decision on safety today not those of the 1950's and 1960's.

Ms. Jop noted prior to rehearing the proposal for the gas installation, she reached out to the residents of Redwing Road to see if they would be in favor or against the installation of this gas main. Ms. Jop reviewed the answers and noted that the majority of neighbors were in favor of the line.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to approve the request from National Grid to install and maintain approximately 510 feet more or less of 4 inch gas main in Redwing Road. From the existing 4 inch gas main at Bluebird Road westerly to Oriole Road to service houses #26 and #30.

6. Common Victualler's License - Yogurtology, 552 Washington Street

Peter Samarian, co-owner, of Classic Restaurant Concepts, joined the Board. He noted that they would like to do a self service yogurt shop. He briefly reviewed the operations and setup of the restaurant. Ms. Jop noted this business is replacing an existing ice-cream parlor therefore there is no change in use and the applicant is not required to conduct a traffic study. They plan to open the first week in August.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Gibbs the Board voted (5-0) to approve the Common Victualler's License request dated June 1, 2015 for Yogurtology located at 552 Washington Street and naming Peter Samarian as manager of record.

8. School Facilities Committee Update

Mr. Morgan noted that an ad hoc committee was formed at the request of the Moderator to look at the way facility maintenance projects are run and to consider ways to improve operations. Representatives from PBC, the Selectmen, and School Committee as well as the staff working for PBC, FMD and School Department are on the ad hoc committee. He noted they are dealing with the question of improvement under the current governmental structure, not the proposed structure recommended by the Town Government Study Committee. He noted the committee will only come forward with recommendations if the recommendations reflect consensus amongst all parties. He asked the Board how they would like to see projects that are under control of the Selectmen's managed. Mr. Morgan asked for a reasonable number of projects to be managed by FMD and to have the PBC and their board be involved at a higher amount than the current \$100,000. The Board discussed employee vs. volunteer Board involvement.

9. Vote Officers

Upon a motion made by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Mr. Morgan the Board voted (5-0) to nominate Dave Murphy as Chair for the next fiscal year.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Gibbs and seconded by Mr. Morgan the Board to nominate Marjorie Freiman as Vice Chair for the next fiscal year.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Morgan the Board voted (5-0) to nominate Ellen Gibbs as Secretary for the next fiscal year.

10. Old Business/New Business

Ms. Jop reviewed a note from the Town Clerk regarding Town Elections. Ms. Nagle suggested that March 8, 2016 be the Town Election date due to the Presidential Primary scheduled for March 1, 2016. The Board noted they would take this topic up at a later date.

11. Executive Session Contemplated

At 9:05 pm the Board was polled all aye to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

At 9:15 pm the meeting was adjourned.