

Monday, February 23, 2009

This regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall. In attendance were: Gregory B. Mills, Chair, Barbara D. Searle, Vice Chair, Owen H. Dugan., Secretary, Katherine L. Babson, Jr. arrived for the vote on Agenda Item #4 and left the meeting after the vote on Agenda Item #7 and Harriet S. Warshaw. Also in attendance were Hans Larsen, Executive Director, Christopher J. Ketchen, Senior Deputy Director, Terrance Connolly, Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following warrants were executed #33 in the amount of \$2,968,619.10, #34 in the amount of \$2,607,652.93 and #35 in the amount of \$1,037,624.00.

1. **Citizen Speak**

None.

2. **Executive Director's Update**

Mr. Larsen presented the Board members with Minutes from its February 2, 2009 meeting.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009 meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Larsen reminded the Board members of the upcoming schedule, including the pending consideration of a Common Victuallar's license for Panera Bread at its March 17, 2009 meeting.

3. **Fire Chief Appointment**

Mr. Larsen briefed the Board and those present on the selection process and the development of the employment agreement for Richard A. DeLorie. Ms. Warshaw also spoke to Deputy Chief DeLorie's qualifications and expressed her excitement about his appointment.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to appoint Richard A. DeLorie as Chief Fire Engineer for a period commencing February 24, 2009 to June 30, 2012.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the employment agreement with Richard A. DeLorie for a period beginning February 24, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

Fire Chief Kevin Rooney expressed his pleasure that leadership of the Fire Department will be left in the capable hands of Deputy Chief DeLorie. Deputy Chief DeLorie made a brief statement of appreciation to Chief Rooney and the Board of Selectmen. He also recognized members of his family who were in attendance.

4. **Police Officer Appointments**

Board Member Katherine L. Babson, Jr. entered the meeting.

Deputy Chief William Brooks introduced Evan S. Rosenberg and Conor P. Ashe who, in turn, introduced their respective family members in the audience. Deputy Chief Brooks briefed the Board on the hiring process as well as the backgrounds of both men.

Mr. Mills invited both Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Ashe to describe their backgrounds and interest in being Wellesley Police Officers, which they did.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the appointment as Police Officers of Evan S. Rosenberg of Wellesley and Conor P. Ashe of Millis contingent upon successful completion of the Police Academy, Field-Training Program and physical/psychological testing .

5. Audit Committee

Mr. Mills invited forward Mr. Brian Boyce, chairman of the Town's Audit Committee. Mr. Boyce introduced James Powers and Michael Nelligan of the accounting firm Powers and Sullivan as well as Finance Director Sheryl Strother. The Board was briefed on the FY2008 annual audit report and copies of the Management Letter and a review of the Federal awards program. Mr. Boyce also noted the Town's receipt of a Certificate of Achievement for financial reporting from the Government Finance Officer's Association.

Mr. Boyce noted that there were three comments in the auditor's Management Letter, none of which rose to the level of a significant deficiency or material weakness. It was observed that the Management Letter was significantly shorter than in years past and much less substantial than those published for other cities and towns. Some discussion ensued regarding the recommendation of a method of fraud assessment as a means of bolstering internal controls. It was recognized that this recommendation did not arise out of a particular concern in the Town of Wellesley, merely a recommendation that is generally included in most municipal audit reports.

6. Communication from Member of the Public – Vincent Juliani

Mr. Mills recognized former Selectman Vincent Juliani. Mr. Juliani commended the Board for appointing Rick DeLorie to the Fire Chief's position. He also took the opportunity to praise Harriet Warshaw for her years of service as a member of the Board.

7. Traffic Study – High School Project

Ms. Babson excused herself to join the applicant team during discussion of this agenda item. Ms. Babson was joined by Mr. Kien Ho from BETA Group, Mr. Wayne Keefner from SMMA, Mr. Matt King from the Permanent Building Committee and Ms. Liz Peart from Howard/Stein Hudson.

Mr. Larsen gave a presentation on the current proposed traffic design for the High School parking lot. Mr. Ho also addressed some of the more technical elements of the proposed traffic pattern in contrast to other alternatives that were considered. Members of the panel took questions from the members of the Board.

Mr. Larsen presented several slides related to the sidewalk needs, advocating that the applicant address safety issues identified by the Town Engineer. He concluded his presentation with the following recommendations:

- Effect those sight line improvements not requiring land takings
 - Clifford and Smith, Paine and Rice, Paine and Forest
- Install pedestrian signal at main crosswalk from High School to Hunnewell Field
- Address sidewalk safety issues in a manner acceptable to the Town Engineer
- Require School administration to assign sufficient resources to ensure safe and efficient on-site traffic circulation, consistent with the plan
- Make best reasonable efforts to increase bus utilization
- Post-project traffic study (Fall 2013 based on current schedule)

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The public was invited to make comments. Eight citizens came forward to speak about various elements of the proposal. Mr. Mills, Ms. Warshaw, Ms. Searle and Mr. Dugan all agreed that the traffic analysis was done professionally and commended the work of staff as well as the engineering consultants.

Mr. Dugan moved, Ms. Searle seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the Wellesley High School PSI traffic study as being professionally prepared and that it adequately addresses the traffic and pedestrian safety impacts. Further, to forward to the Planning Board all recommendations agreed to by BETA Group, Howard/Stein Hudson and SMMA.

The Board took a brief pause in its consideration of other agenda items to allow the room to be cleared after the traffic study discussion had concluded. Ms. Babson left the meeting.

8. Town-Wide Financial Plan

Mr. Larsen reported that the latest FY2010 projection shows a \$631,000 deficit while FY2011 is projected to be \$967,000. He walked the Board members through the various assumptions that underlie the numbers in the plan. He reminded the Board members that the Town's legislative delegation (i.e. Senator Brown, Senator Creem and Representative Peisch) would be joining the Board on Monday, March 2nd. The possibility was raised that a Special Town Meeting might be appropriate in order to adopt a local option meals tax in anticipation of favorable action from the legislature. Mr. Ketchen recommended that the individual Board members consider this topic over the course of the next week and to be prepared to take action at the next meeting.

Mr. Mills and Mr. Larsen discussed several other potential formats for the financial projections in the Town-Wide Financial Plan. The Board members agreed to keep the traditional two percent spread between Town and School departments while also agreeing to plan for a balanced budget in FY2011. Other planning assumptions were also discussed among the membership.

9. Old Business/ New Business

No updates were offered.

At 10:12 p.m. the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to non-union personnel and collective bargaining.