

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

**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. and Harriet S. Warshaw. Also in attendance were Hans Larsen, Executive Director, Terrance J. 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 #52 in the amount of \$7,450,409.09.**

The Chairman gave his congratulations to the Celtics for their championship and especially to Ray Allen and Danny Ainge, General Manager both of whom live in Wellesley.

**1. Citizen Speak**

Joan Gaughan, 12 Laurel Terrace, wrote a letter to the Selectmen a year ago and did not get a response regarding the walkway on Rt. 16 from the Hunnewell Estate to the South Natick line. She feels there is very little grooming done and it is not safe for walkers or bikers. She would like the Board to look into repairing it and feels it would be very easy to fix, as the surface is gravel not blacktop.

**2. Executive Director's Update**

**Approval of Minutes**

**Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of June 16, 2008.**

**Fire Department FY08 Budget Deficit**

Deputy Chief Rick DeLorie appeared before the Board to ask for its support in a request to the Advisory Committee for a \$55,000 reserve fund transfer to cover an anticipated FY08 budget deficit. The request is due in part to the recent resignation of two individuals and the pending appeal of one individual's disability retirement application. The Fire Department has incurred overtime costs to backfill many of the shifts expected to be filled by these individuals, which has increased the Department's personal services costs. Deputy Chief DeLorie respectfully asked the Board to support this reserve fund transfer request.

**Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to request a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$55,000 to the Fire Department's FY08 Personal Services Budget.**

**3. KeySpan/National Grid Petition**

The Chairman opened the public hearing on the KeySpan/National Grid Petition at 7:45 p.m.

Steve Fader, Town Engineer, Mike Pakstis, DPW Director, and National Grid representatives Harold Cooper, Permit Representative, Al Schuler, Construction Manager, and Mike Bruno, Community Relations, appeared before the Board.

Mr. Cooper gave a brief overview of the project

Mr. Larsen gave a summary of the project. There have been ongoing discussions between the Engineering Department and National Grid regarding this project and in particular what obligation National Grid would have regarding the restoration of the street. The town has recently reached an agreement with National Grid, whereby National Grid will pay the town a sufficient amount of monies to resurface the entire section of roadway that is to be impacted by the project. Mr. Fader concurred with Mr. Larsen's summary.

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

The Board asked questions regarding the start and completion dates of the project, traffic management plans, police details and the size of the trench and main.

Mr. Fader noted that he and employees of Water & Sewer and representatives of National Grid visited each household and explained the project to them.

Hans went over the work schedule, which will start in the summer of 2008, stop during the winter months and begin again in the spring of 2009 and will resurface the street under the direction of the DPW, with all work to be completed in the summer of 2009.

**Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 5000 feet, more or less of 16 inch gas main in Cedar Street, Wellesley, from the existing regulator take station in Cedar Street South Easterly to the new proposed regulator station in the intersection of Worcester Street @ Cedar Street. And to replace the existing 8 inch distribution main in Cedar Street. Further it is agreed that National Grid will backfill, compact and provide binder flush in kind to Cedar Street. In addition National Grid will pay to the Town of Wellesley \$103,600 to perform the final restoration of Cedar Street including all inspections required by law.**

The Chairman closed the public hearing on the Petition from KeySpan/National Grid at 8:05 p.m.

#### **4. Abbott Road/Forest Street Intersection**

Chief of Police Terrence Cunningham, Steve Fader, Town Engineer, Mike Pakstis, DPW Director and Kien Ho, BETA Engineering appeared before the Board.

Mr. Larsen explained the background of the issue and presented slides showing aerial views of the intersection. Residents of the property adjacent to the intersection approached the Selectmen with safety concerns about vehicles rounding this corner at high speeds. Following discussions involving the Selectmen's Office, DPW Director, Town Engineer, Police Department and the BETA Group, it was decided that safety at that intersection could be improved by geometric changes to shorten the radius of the corner and slow down traffic. Accordingly, Town staff installed pylons as a temporary means to accomplish the geometric changes, until a more permanent solution could be evaluated.

The Town is now proposing to remove the pylons and accomplish the same geometric adjustment with either granite curbing or Cape Cod berm, which would be more in keeping with the aesthetics of the area. The cost would be approximately \$3,300, which would be absorbed in the Parking & Traffic budget.

The Board asked questions to clarify the improvements of the intersection

The Chairman opened up the floor for questions:

Marla Robinson, 33 Windsor Road, noted that buses have a difficult time making the left turn from Forest Street onto Abbott Road. She thinks the Town should take a look at doing a traffic study for the whole road. She asked why all residents of the area did not receive a letter regarding tonight's meeting.

Mr. Larsen explained that the office used a 750 ft. range from the island for sending abutters letters.

Bob Lamoureux, 7 Lincoln Road, said any help would be an improvement. He supports the curb extension, but feels the island should be shaved back.

Dan Kasper, 90 Abbott Road, agreed with Ms. Robinson's remarks. The aerial slide is not accurate and feels that the bigger issue is that Abbott Road needs a traffic calming study. The project is not ready for prime time.

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

Laurie Cochran, 161 Forest Street, said she did not receive a letter. This meeting is the first time she has heard of this project. She applauds that the pylons are being taken down, but has concerns regarding the turn being made tighter. She has witnessed buses having to back up and proceed forward before they can make the turn.

Kevin Donnelly, 123 Abbott Road, believes the pylons are knocked down daily because cars can't make the turn. He suggested removing the island.

Roberts Francis, 165 Forest Street, has a problem with the pylons and would like any efforts to reduce the speed in general.

Vyto Simas, 169 Forest Street, is in support of the project and believes the left turn issue should be rectified. He was notified by mail.

Richard Baum, 184 Abbott Road, feels this enhances the value of 164 Forest Street at his expense. Speed on Abbott Road is much worse further down Abbott Road.

Alex Marx, 164 Forest Street, is the homeowner who requested the extended curb. He has small children and he explained his concerns regarding his request for the extended curb. He took exception to Mr. Baum's remarks regarding this request being for his property's enhancement. He is most concerned for the safety of his family.

Melissa Marx, 164 Forest Street, is very concerned about her safety when she takes her children out for a walk. She can't see when she comes out of either curb cut. The new curb cut has a transformer in her line of vision when she pulls out. She appreciated the Board hearing her concerns.

Caren Parker, 134 Abbott Road, considers the extended curb won't have the same results as the pylons. We need a more comprehensive look to solve the problem, not create a new one.

The Chairman remarked that the Board would need to further study the island issue and ask BETA to come back to the Board with a revised plan.

Bob Lamoureux, 7 Lincoln Road, would like the color of the pylons changed if they are being kept.

Dan Kasper believes the broader issue is the need for traffic calming on these two roads. The Town needs to take a more comprehensive look at the problem.

Laurie Cochran, 161 Forest Street, would like the Board to consider speed bumps.

Chief Cunningham provided background on the Police Department's work with Babson on traffic calming and Babson's work with its students regarding their driving practices in Wellesley and in the Babson neighborhoods.

The Chairman said this issue would be taken up again during the summer and that the neighbors would be notified of the meeting date and time. Mr. Larsen noted the tentative summer meeting dates.

#### Executive Directors Report-continued

The following appointments were approved.

#### Board of Health – Tobacco Compliance Officer

***Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 -0 ) to appoint Terry Donahue as Tobacco Compliance Officer for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.***

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

Kepes Panel Sub-Committee

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Robert H. Murphy, George Roman, Salvatore Defazio, III, Dante R. DeGruttola and Joel Slocum to the Kepes Panel Sub-Committee for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Fire Engineers

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Owen H. Dugan, Gregory B. Mills, Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Harriet S. Warshaw and Barbara D. Searle as Fire Engineers for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Chief Engineer/Forest Warden

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Kevin Rooney as Chief Engineer of the Fire Department/Forest Warden for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Town Counsel

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Albert S. Robinson as Town Counsel for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Labor Counsel

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Morgan, Brown and Joy as Labor Counsel for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Wellesley Cable Access Corporation

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Herbert Glück to the Wellesley Cable Access Corporation for a three year term to expire June 30, 2011.*

Youth Commission

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Daniel H. Vogel, M. D. to the Wellesley Youth Commission for a three year term to expire June 30, 2011.*

Council on Aging

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Janet Beyer, Eleanor F. Sullivan, Linda Cohen Cross and Sister Alice McCourt to the Council on Aging for a three year term to expire June 30, 2011. And to appoint John Schuler, to fill the unexpired term of Lorraine Tolman for a term to expire June 30, 2010*

MLP Board

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Thomas E. Peisch as a member of MLP Board for a three year term to expire June 30, 2011.*

Wellesley Housing Development Corporation

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Dona Kemp to the Wellesley Housing Development Corporation for a three year term to expire June 30, 2011.*

**Monday, June 23, 2008**

Special Police Officers

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint Special Police Officers Sue Webb, Frank Urbani, Richard Leach, Richard Howard, and Terrence O'Connor for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Campus Special Police Officers

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to appoint the Campus Police Officers for Babson College, Wellesley College and Dana Hall Scholl per the request from Deputy Chief Brooks in his memo dated June 5, 2008, for a one year term to expire June 30, 2009.*

Approve Gifts to Council on Aging

*Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 - 0) to approve the following gifts to the Council on Aging: Friends of Wellesley Senior Neighbors \$800, The Village Churchwomen (for transportation) \$500, and Josephine A. Ferrari \$50.*

Old/New Business

**Fire Chief Search**

Ms. Warshaw gave a brief update of the Fire Chief Search. Mr. Larsen, Susan Hurwitz and Ms. Warshaw met and discussed the process for the search using several outside consultants. She will come back to the Board shortly with a recommendation.

**School Building Committee**

Ms. Babson noted that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has asked the Town to consider another renovation alternative. The SBC is completely committed to working collaboratively with the MSBA. Ms. Babson reviewed the proposed renovation option, which would cost less than the previously proposed new construction option. The details will be worked out with the MSBA. A newsletter was sent out today to inform people of these developments.

**Original Town Hall**

The Town has provided two drafts to the Wellesley Country Club. One is a draft RFP for a deconstruction/preservation contractor and the other is a draft licensing agreement between the town and the WCC for access to the site.

**Weston Road**

The Town Engineer has received considerable feedback following presentation of the 25% plans earlier in June. On September 9<sup>th</sup> there will be another opportunity for public input prior to finalization of the 75% plans.

**At 9:25 the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session for the purposes of purchase & exchange or lease of real property.**