

Monday, August 04, 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, Harriet S. Warshaw and Katherine L. Babson, Jr.. 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 #2 in the amount of \$5,816.34, #3 in the amount of \$1,304,564.04 and #4 in the amount of \$2,845,618.75.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Executive Director's Update

The Executive Director noted that we are proceeding with implementation of the MUNIS permitting module within the Building Department and hope to have it put into operation by the first of the year. This is one outcome of the Executive Education program held at Babson.

Terry Connolly is working on the implementation of the GovQA software application, which will allow residents to make inquiries to Town Hall. The software will allow us to route the question to the appropriate person and track its status within the system. Terry will demo this software application for the Board later in September. We are also coordinating with the DPW and other departments regarding their potential use of the application.

September 16, 2008 Primary Warrant to be Signed

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the September 16, 2008 State Primary Warrant.

Election Worker Appointments

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the Elections Officers as noted on the memorandum from the Town Clerk dated July 16, 2008, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

Police Department Appointments

Chief Terrence Cunningham, Deputy Chief William Brooks, Matthew Farwell and Frank J. Masiello appeared before Board. Chief Cunningham introduced the candidates and gave their background information.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve the appointment as Police Officers of Frank J. Masiello, 367 American Blvd., Ashland, MA contingent upon completion of the Field-Training Program and physical/psychological testing and Matthew G. Farwell, 803 Central Street, Stoughton, MA contingent upon successful completion of the Police Academy, Field-Training Program and physical/ psychological testing.

Bethel Road Discontinuance

Harriet Warshaw recused herself from this agenda item, as she is an active member of the Temple.

Steve Langer representing Temple Beth Elohim appeared before the Board and gave background on the Bethel Road Discontinuance. They are in the final steps of the Temple Beth Elohim project in terms of Town's involvement and is requesting the Board to sign the discontinuance order and plan.

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Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve and sign the Order of Discontinuance of a portion of Bethel Road as voted under Motion 1 of Article 23 of the Warrant for the 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

3. Reconstruction of Weston Road - Update

Steve Fader, Town Engineer and Kien Ho, BETA Engineering joined the Board to give an update on the Weston Road Reconstruction project.

Mr. Fader summarized the last public meeting on June 11th in which they received input on the 25% plans from residents. They are taking into consideration the concerns raised, especially regarding the speed of the vehicles and public safety. He went over upcoming meeting dates. The Department of Public Works is hoping they will have this project out to bid this winter, with work to begin in 2009.

The Board commended Mr. Fader on his work with the neighbors and in addressing their concerns and thanked him for providing the update.

4. Common Victualler All Alcohol License – The Falls Grille, 11-13 Washington Street

Larry Shind, Esq., Ana Fill, Traffic Engineer, VHB, and Robert Walsh, Sr. appeared before the Board to discuss Mr. Walsh's pending CV license application.

Mr. Shind noted that at their last meeting with the Board they were asked to review the parking plan and to provide the Board with more details. Mr. Walsh reviewed the additional parking arrangements they have negotiated. There will be 3 additional sites for employees to park from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily, which will make the 7 spaces directly behind the restaurant available to patrons. There will also be 47 spaces for patrons at 27 Mica Lane from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The original proposal for valet parking has been eliminated.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5 –0) to approve a Common Victualler/All-Alcohol Beverages License for The Falls Grille, LLC, d/b/a The Falls Grille at 11-13 Washington Street. Further to name Robert A. Walsh, Sr. as manager of record.

Old Business/New Business

Fire Chief Search

Mr. Larsen gave an update on the coordination of the search effort. He and Ms. Warshaw are meeting with a representative of a consulting firm (MRI) on Wednesday to discuss how they might assist the Town in this regard.

Wellesley High School Building Committee

Ms. Babson said they have a tentative agreement with the MSBA to move forward with a 280,000 sq. ft all new high school to cost no more than \$110,000,000. They anticipate the MSBA Board will approve the town to move forward to a schematic design this Friday, which is a very significant step.

Ms. Babson reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. They expect to present the project at the STM October 20th & 21st for ratification by Town Meeting. This will be followed by a Town-wide vote on a debt exclusion on December 9th.

There will be public meetings scheduled regarding what green elements are being considered by the SBC.

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Sprague Fields

Mr. Mills noted that the field work is proceeding on schedule.

Senior Center Study

Ms. Warshaw said the Senior Study Group is meeting this Thursday. The group is actively studying the need for a senior center. They have been interviewing town department heads and will be talking with residents for their input.

At the request of the Advisory Committee they will be reporting back to them on the results of their work. They will also be interviewing architects regarding the feasibility study of the American Legion site.

Original Town Hall

The RFP for the Town deconstruction and preservation work was issued on July 23rd, and on August 7th there will be a bidders meeting at the site. Bids are due on August 21st with the work hopefully to begin October 1st and to be completed in December.

The License Agreement is presently being worked on and a draft should be sent to the Club this week with discussion to follow.

Chamber of Commerce Request

Ms. Searle brought to the Boards attention a request from the Chamber of Commerce to consider a free parking time period during the "Mom's Day Out" in the Square on Tuesday, September 16th. The event is to encourage shopping in the square and the Chamber would like the Board to waive parking meter fees from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date.

The lost revenue for the parking meters would be approximately \$350 and the lost parking fines approximately \$300/\$400, for a total of approximately \$700. It was presumed that the commuters would already be in the designated parking areas by 10 a.m. and therefore, no commuter parking revenue would be lost.

Ms. Warshaw and Mr. Dugan felt that in the spirit of collaboration the Board should support this request. Ms. Babson thought it was a great idea and asked if there were any other negative impacts. Ms. Warshaw was apprehensive about other commercial districts e.g. Lower Falls requesting the same consideration.

The Board was unanimous in its support for this request and will proceed with this request for free parking during those hours along the indicated portion of Washington Street. The Board thought this was an excellent way to support the Chamber of Commerce.

At 9:30, the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to consider strategies for Collective Bargaining.