

Monday, September 22, 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 was Hans Larsen, Executive Director. Terrance J. Connolly, Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel, were absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following warrants were executed #10 in the amount of \$3,336,511.68 and #11 in the amount of \$4,104,482.59.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Executive Director's Update

World of Wellesley Diversity Celebration

Mr. Larsen read the Proclamation for the 18th Anniversary of the World of Wellesley Diversity Celebration. The Board signed the Proclamation.

Approval of Minutes

Warshaw moved, Searle, seconded and the Board voted (5- 0) to approve the minutes of August 25, 2008 and September 8, 2008.

4. Special One Day Licenses – Babson College

Peter Russo, Director of Purchasing, John Jackson, Director of Public Safety and Jonathan Moll, General Counsel for Babson appeared before the Board.

The Executive Director noted the planned events requested on the application. There are other events in the planning stage, for which an application will be submitted at a later date.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to approve One Day Special Licenses to Babson College for the list of events for the 2008-2009 academic year dated August 6, 2008.

3. Town-wide Financial Plan Outlook

Sheryl Strother, Finance Director appeared before the Board. She introduced the new Budget Analyst, Terri Duggan and gave a summary of her background. Ms. Duggan will begin on October 1st.

Ms. Strother noted that she met with Advisory last week to discuss the operating results. The 2008 operating results were favorable to budget however she is not overly confident about the projected receipts for FY10. She will meet with our financial advisor from First Southwest this week. She hopes the Board will support the idea of no override given the magnitude of the High School project to be considered at the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Strother went over the revenue projections and went through the potential unknowns. She is actively considering whether we might fund additional school classroom needs within the existing High School, which is the subject of the 2nd Special Town Meeting, using Free Cash to avoid a second debt exclusion question. Regarding the FY10 operating budget guidelines, she currently sees no compelling reason to deviate from the Town Wide Financial Plan, as presented at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

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The Executive Director recapped some of her points for the Board and feels the Town should make every effort to close the budget gap to avoid an operating override next spring. Projections for FY09 are not yet available.

Rusty Kellogg, Advisory Chair noted that Advisory has been talking in general terms of what Advisory's guidelines should be. The base starting point is the Town Wide Financial Plan. Advisory's objective is to avoid an override if possible.

Ms. Searle questioned the impact of energy costs so far. Mr. Larsen said Ruth Berdell the School Business Manager has locked in heating cost prices thru forward purchase contracts. Ms. Searle noted that the present economic conditions could impact the 2010 budget.

5. Special Town Meeting

Suzi Littlefield, School Committee Chair came before the Board to give an update on the need for the additional warrant article. Additional classrooms will be needed in the existing High School pending completion of the new High School. The School Committee had been intending to present this article under the original motion, however based on feedback from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) they are asking for a second Special Town Meeting.

The original plan called for modular classrooms, however they realized the site is too small to accommodate construction of the new High School and additional modulars. The revised plan is for ten interior classrooms, five of which will be created through renovation of an existing lecture hall. They intend to create these classrooms in time for the start of the 2009/2010 school year, and then reassess the need for the additional five.

They would like to keep the motion as broad as possible in case of any changes in the emerging plan and Mr. Larsen suggested leaving the draft language open for a few more days in case of any changes in the language.

The School Committee is meeting tomorrow night and would like the language to be kept open. The Board could sign the Warrant on Friday morning.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) to call a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 20, 2008, at 9:00 p.m. at the Wellesley Middle School.

6. Selectmen FY10 Capital Budget – Preliminary Discussion

Mr. Larsen reviewed the Selectmen's most recent Five Year Capital Budget proposal and noted some additional projects that warrant the Board's consideration. These include installation of the sidewalk on Rt. 16 near the Hunnewell Estate to the South Natick line, resurfacing of Washington Street, and resurfacing and lighting improvements to the Town Hall parking area. Mr. Larsen will schedule a walk-thru of the proposed Rt. 16 sidewalk, and he will await further input from the Board.

7. FY09 Salary Increases for Police Chief and Fire Chiefs

Mr. Dugan has met with both Chiefs over the past few months and after reviewing comments and input from the Board, the performance and achievements for both Chiefs for FY08 has been judged to be extraordinary.

Fire Chief Rooney's salary is \$117,000 and Police Chief Terrance Cunningham's salary with education reimbursement and holiday pay is \$157,000.

Dugan moved, Searle seconded and the Board voted (5-0) a 3.5% increase for both Chiefs for FY09.

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Old Business/New Business

- **Naming Policy Update** – Town Counsel and Ms. Searle are working on a draft and will have a report for the Board's next meeting.
- **Fire Chief Search** – Mr. Larsen reported that we are proceeding with the search effort with MRI Consultants and will have a date next week when they can come before the Board to solicit the Board's input for requirements for the next Fire Chief. Ms. Warshaw said they will be sending material to the Board regarding qualities to look for in a good Fire Chief.
- **Sprague Fields** – Mr. Dugan reported that Fields #1 and #4 have been sodded and will be ready for use in the spring, and he asked residents to please stay off the field until the spring so the grass can grow. The two artificial surface fields are complete and in use. The fields east of the roadway are being worked on and will be completed by October 10th, including the areas to be paved.
- **Senior Center Study** – Ms. Warshaw said that this past week the Focus Group meetings were held and valuable information emerged from those meetings. They have interviewed several architectural firms to perform the feasibility study and will make a decision next week.
- **Original Town Hall** – Mr. Mills said that tomorrow they will receive quotes from sub-contractors for the demolition of certain parts of the building. Town Counsel has opined favorably regarding the Town's ability to use CPC funds for the smaller scope project.
- **SBC** – Ms. Babson gave several dates of upcoming meetings and symposiums. They are actively working with MSBA this week to provide them with more information. She showed slides on the layout of the new high school building, which consisted of floor plans and a site picture.
- Mr. Larsen gave an update on Abbott and Forest Street. He will be meeting with the owners to determine which plantings will be removed from the right-of-way. The Town Engineer's office will be marking out the geometry of the roadway changes according to BETA's plan.

The next meeting dates for the Board will be Tuesday, October 7 due to Wellesley Club on Monday the 6th, and Friday, Sept. 26th at 7:30 a.m. to approve the Warrant.

The Board was polled all aye to adjourn and to go into Executive Session for the purpose of consideration of the acquisition of real property.

Executive Session

An Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room of the 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 was Hans Larsen, Executive Director.

Mr. Larsen reported that Bill Donovan, the owner of the Dunkin Donuts franchise on Rt. 9, has proposed that the Town acquire the remaining portion of the Cochituate Aqueduct behind the Dunkin Donuts and then lease approximately one quarter of an acre of that land to Mr. Donovan to accommodate additional

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parking and queuing space for the drive-through lane. Presumably, this would improve public safety by reducing the incidence of cars queuing on Rt. 9. The Board discussed the proposal and asked Mr. Larsen to investigate whether this would impact the quoted sale price for the property.

The Board was polled all aye to adjourn.