

Monday, December 8, 2008

This regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held this evening in the Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall. In attendance were: 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, Christopher J. Ketchen, Senior Deputy Director and Albert S. Robinson, Town Counsel. Gregory B. Mills, Chair, was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following warrants were executed #21 in the amount of \$2,035,351.30 and #22 in the amount of \$5,842,795.52.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

Ms. Searle encouraged everyone to vote in the Special Election on December 9, 2008.

2. Executive Director's Update

Dugan moved, Warshaw seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the minutes of November 24, 2008.

Mr. Larsen explained that the recent decline in the value of the Town's pension assets would likely require a resumption of funding by the Town. He noted that David Kornwitz, Chair of the Retirement Board would meet with the Selectmen on December 15th to review the situation, and that a \$1 million funding placeholder had been added to the preliminary FY10 budget.

3. Wellesley High School Project

Ms. Babson provided a summary of the diligence on the High School project in advance of Tuesday's Special Election regarding the High School debt exclusion and encouraged voters to answer the ballot question affirmatively.

4. Call 2009 Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Larsen reviewed the timetable for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting.

Dugan moved, Warshaw moved to call the Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Wellesley Middle School commencing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2009

5. Senior Center Feasibility Study

Gayle Thieme, Director of the Council on Aging joined the Board. Ms. Warshaw summarized the status of the Senior Center Feasibility Study including needs assessment, facility requirements, site options, and preliminary concept developed by Sterling & Associates. Ms. Thieme summarized her views on the project.

Ms. Babson questioned whether Ms. Thieme could envision more people participating in activities at a new center and whether consideration had been given to using the center for municipal meetings. Ms. Thieme noted that other communities that have invested in a senior center facility have experienced a significant increase in participation. Mr. Larsen stated other municipal purposes are being considered, but also noted that in certain communities (e.g., Marshfield), grant funds have been received with a stipulation that the facility not be used for any purpose other than as a senior center for a specified number of years. Ms. Warshaw summarized the favorable feedback received during last week's review of the preliminary concept the past week's.

Ms. Warshaw summarized the next steps for the Senior Study Feasibility Study.

Monday, December 8, 2008

6. Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) – Plan Amendments

In order to mitigate the impact of the new Rate-Saver health insurance plans on certain retirees, Mr. Larsen recommended that the HRA Plan document be amended to encompass the participation of retirees who are enrolled in the Town's Rate-Saver health insurance plans.

Dugan moved, Warshaw seconded and the Board voted (4-0) to approve the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Plan as Amended and Restated effective January 1, 2009.

Old Business/ New Business

Mr. Larsen reviewed potential traffic-related safety issues associated with the proposed childcare facility at 4 Great Plain Avenue. Mr. Robinson summarized statutory protections afforded to childcare facilities and the regulations adopted by the Town in response to these statutory protections. The Board discussed the matter and requested Mr. Larsen to work with Kien Ho (the Town's traffic consultant) and Police Chief Terry Cunningham to draft a letter to the ZBA expressing the Board's concerns in this regard.

Mr. Larsen introduced Chris Ketchen, the Town's new Senior Deputy Manager. He reviewed Mr. Ketchen's credentials and his initial responsibilities. The Board welcomed Mr. Ketchen back to the Town's employ.

7. FY10 Operating Budget

Mr. Larsen reviewed the Selectmen's preliminary FY10 operating budget request. He noted the Board's initial budget review conducted on Saturday, December 6th and reviewed variances vs. the prior year's budget. The Board questioned specific line items and confirmed their desire to meet with Michael Grant, Building Inspector, Gayle Thieme, COA Director and Maura Renzella, Youth Director, to discuss initiatives in their respective areas.

Old Business/ New Business, continued

Ms. Babson reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Saturday event involving reactivation of the Solar Panels at the High School.

At 9:45 the Board was polled all aye to adjourn.