

Board of Selectmen – January 03, 2011
Present: Babson, Tsagaris, Searle, Dugan, Gibbs
Also present: Larsen, Ketchen, Robinson

The Chairman gave details on the following town-wide activities:

- Luminary Night celebration
- New Temple Beth Elohim opening
- Community outpouring of support on the death of Steve Wasik, Wellesley Cheese Shop Owner
- Salvation Army's ringing of the bells at Roche Brothers, specifically the new all time high goal reached in donations
- Praise for town workers for pulling together to help with storm cleanup

Executive Directors Report

Moved to approve minutes of the December 13, 2010 and December 20, 2010 meetings of the Board of Selectmen.

Moved to accept gifts of tulip bulbs from Carol Epstein in the amount of \$164 and the Wellesley Hills Garden Club in the amount of \$350.

Mr. Larsen noted that the warrant would close Friday January 5, 2011.

Tree Preservation & Protection Bylaw

Ms. Searle opened by welcoming attendees and giving a brief overview of the Tree Preservation & Protection Bylaw. Attendees were Meghan Jop – Planning Board Director, Don McCauly – Planning Board Chair and Michael Grant – Building Inspector.

The intent of the bylaw is to preserve trees which impact the public and trees which provide screening to neighbors. Builders will need to submit their intent to cut down trees and have to show they plan on replanting trees or donate to a tree bank if approved. Investigations would be conducted by the Building Department.

The Building Inspector stated that while his department will have to enforce this new bylaw, which he is in favor of, it will put a great burden on his already over burdened department. He also noted that there are new building codes being released which will create an increased work load.

Building Department FY12 Budget

Although the amount of permits issued has gone up, revenue has gone down for FY10 as the permit fees were lower. FY11 Budget is \$400,978. The request for FY12 is \$406,619, which is a 1.41% increase. The reason for this increase is that the incremental mileage reimbursements

will expand due to escalated work with the new regulations and anticipated work regarding the Sheet Metal/Tree preservation and 1% wage increases.

State Legislative Delegation

The Board welcomed forward Representative Alice Peisch and State Senator Cynthia Creem as well as members of the School Committee. The legislators described the position of the Commonwealth to the Board. The Board and the School Committee asked questions as well as residents. The legislators reported that State revenues are slightly higher but not as high as they were in 2008. Wellesley is expected to see a 5-10 percent reduction in State aid for fiscal year 2012. Combined with the fact the State probably will not see much more in the way of federal stimulus funds, aid will be lower. In addition to Chapter 70 aid, the state's circuit-breaker reimbursement, which traditionally pays back 70 percent of what the Town spends on certain state-mandated special education costs would likely remain at around 40 percent for FY12—the same as FY11. Unless the revenues for this year are much higher than what is being talked about, that number will not be going up. Some residents voiced their concerns. The comments were mostly aimed at supporting the schools and their needs.

Boston Marathon Waivers

We are working with the Boston Athletic Association to receive additional benefits to the Town for our support with the Boston Marathon each year. The Town has had discussions with Guy Morse, BAA Director, on how to offset burdens. This year the Town will receive 20 Waivers which allows runners to enter the marathon with a number without qualifying or winning a lottery. These cannot be sold. Numbers will be awarded to specific runners who commit to raising a certain amount of funds to a designated charitable purpose. A policy for awarding waivers was discussed. The Charities designated for this year are Miles for Miracles and The Fund for Wellesley. A minimum donation of \$2,500 must be met. A commitment letter will be required to be coordinated directly with charities. Mr. Larsen gave a brief background on Miles for Miracles.

Moved to approve the distribution of marathon numbers to the various organizations prescribed in the proposal presented to the Board by Ms. Tsagaris and Ms. Gibbs.

Town-Wide Financial Plan

Mr. Larsen presented an overview of the Town-Wide Financial Plan to the Board and gave details along with a slide show regarding the process. He also described FY11 statistics and the \$4 million deficit for FY12. The Board discussed and provided comments on the plan which will be included in the Advisory Book and will be presented before Town Meeting.

Project and Other Updates

- ***Advisory Committee Update*** - Ms. Babson mentioned that the Advisory Committee had issued a memo to the School Committee regarding budget guideline expectations.
- ***Fuller Brook Park*** – Ms. Babson stated that the consultant would be making a presentation to the Advisory Committee and Community Preservation Committee on January 19, 2011. A final number for the planning and permitting phase is being prepared in advance of Annual Town Meeting.
- ***St. James*** – Ms. Gibbs stated that there was an upcoming meeting on Thursday in the Great Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 PM.