

MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN DECEMBER 17, 2009

Present: John Kennan, Dana Barrette, Randal Hunt, Linell Grundman, Jim Pierce

George Dunham, Douglas Lapp, SACAT, Sandwich Enterprise, Paul Tilton, Richard Augustine, Jason Viveros, Joshua Glaser, Robert Black

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Barrette moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2009. Mr. Hunt seconded. Unanimous.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. No night meetings are scheduled next week due to Christmas and New Year's holidays. The next Board meeting is January 7.
2. The tax rate was certified yesterday.
3. Veronica Mooney resigned from the Finance Committee for personal reasons. Interested volunteers can send letters of interest to Moderator Jan Teehan at Town Hall by January 19.
4. Cable negotiations are continuing. The biggest hold up is the Town's desire to separate out the funding for the capital equipment and not make it a percentage of the revenue. To our advantage, lower Cape towns were able to negotiate the capital separately. A joint conference call with the other negotiating towns will be held in January and continued conversations with Comcast in late January/February.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ms. Grundman and Mr. Pierce attended the School Committee meeting last night and reported that the principals and cafeteria worker supervisors took a "0" for the upcoming year.
2. On Saturday, January 23, from 1:00 – 5:00 at the Bourne VFW is hosting a Veteran Appreciation Day with various state and local veterans groups and organizations.
3. Ms. Grundman asked about the water conservation article in the Cape Cod Times. Mr. Dunham said approximately 2.2 million dollars was approved Cape-wide for embayment and marsh projects.

PUBLIC FORUM

1. Richard Augustine read a statement regarding union negotiations.
2. Firefighters Jason Vivieros, Joshua Glaser, and Robert Black were present on behalf of the Sandwich Firefighters and read a statement regarding salary and public safety issues. They stated that above all, public safety is their #1 priority and that they be given the funding to do their job safely and efficiently.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr. Dunham said the School Safety Group met today with the Superintendent and all the school principals. Since there has been turnover at the school, the group appreciated the opportunity to get everyone together. Lt. Guillemette has taken over the reigns in place of Jim Lehane.
2. Mr. Lapp reported that the Roberti Farm bid specs are available and approximately twelve have gone out. Tomorrow is a site visit/tour of the property. Bids are due mid-January.
3. Assessor Madlon Jenkins has submitted her resignation from the Board of Assessors. Ms. Jenkins is currently a municipal employee in Bristol County and cannot belong to two retirement systems. She can, however, resign which would take her out of Barnstable County retirement, have the Selectmen appointment her to the position, then run for the seat in May. She would then put her Barnstable County Retirement into the Bristol county system. **Mr. Barrette moved to appoint Madlon Jenkins to the Sandwich Board of Assessors term to expire annual town election 2010. Mr. Hunt seconded. Unanimous.**
4. Municipalities are being allowed, under a local option legislation, to extend the time for mailing fiscal year 2010 actual tax bills for up to 30 days. Mr. Childs does not feel it will be necessary but just in case. **Mr. Barrette moved the Town of Sandwich accept Chapter 183 of the Acts of 2009 to extend the time for mailing the actual tax bills for fiscal year 2010 until January 30, 2010. Mr. Hunt seconded. Unanimous.**

DPW DIRECTOR/TOWN ENGINEERING – PAUL TILTON

Mr. Tilton updated the Board on the Exit 2/Route 130 design plan. He presented two options and noted that the decision on which options depends on construction date, funding, and permitting. He explained that many years ago the Town did a land swap with DEM. The land in question could be used as part of the ramp design; however, it has recently been discovered it does not appear DEM ever recorded the swap. If this is the case, permitting could be an issue. Next the plan goes to the 75% design phase and the Town waits for an answer from the State. Mr. Tilton submitted a letter to Mass. Highway to have them include a study of the Service Road as part of the design. Mr. Tilton, in response to Mr. Hunt's question about the signage, said they are looking into ladder signs for that area. Mr. Dunham further explained he is working with his contacts to settle the land swap issue since his most recent discussion with DEM was stating the town needs to go back to Town Meeting. Mr. Tilton said the project is fully funded by the State.

Second, the Cotuit/Harlow/South Sandwich Road intersection is another state project and is #1 on the list for Cape Cod projects. Three options are being considered 1) round-about, re-alignment, or signal. The next step will be a public hearing then the 25% design phase. This is considered a high frequency accident intersection.

Finally, Mr. Tilton discussed solid waste issues. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee he sits on consists of all 15 cape towns excluding Bourne to look at solid waste options. The Town's contract with SEMASS is up in 2015 and the Committee is looking at all the options including Bourne. No matter what happens it is anticipated the cost will at least double. Mr. Tilton said one way to decrease cost is to increase recycling. The Town has the possibility in a better market to generate revenue from the recycling. Another program being looked at is pay-as-you-throw where residents purchase bags at local stores and dispose of their trash by the bag. This system encourages less trash and more recycling. It has the potential to save up to \$150,000. The Board encouraged Mr. Tilton to get quotes on the pay-as-you throw program by the end of January. Mr. Pannorfi has expressed an interest in researching this type of program and Mr. Tilton welcomed the assistance. Ms. Grundman also asked for a report from Duxbury on it since Mr. Tilton mentioned it has been a successful program there. Ms. Grundman also asked about encouraging private haulers to require recycling. Thought also has to be given on whether the Board wants to capture the total cost. Currently we bring in about half through stickers, commercial stickers and recycling. Mr. Hunt noted that the pay-as-you-throw company should have an education component to it. Mr. Hunt also asked about the co-mingling recycling at the landfill. Mr. Tilton said it has increased the amount of recycling. Mr. Tilton responding to Mr. Pierce said the reason plastic grocery bags cannot be included in the recycling stream because it causes problems with the conveyor belts at the recycling centers.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Resumes are due for the Police Chief position by January 30. BadgeQuest has been hired to help with the search process and assessment center. Typically it takes 4-6 months to replace someone at this level. The Chief has submitted his retirement date as January 8. It is Mr. Dunham's recommendation to hire from the outside for the interim chief. He felt this was the fairest way. In speaking with other communities, Massachusetts Municipal consultant and BadgeQuest, Mr. Dunham recommends hiring Robert Pomeroy who is retired and served as the Plymouth Chief of Police for 16 years. Mr. Dunham said this is not reflection on in-house candidates or a reflection on others. Mr. Pomeroy will not be part of the selection process for the new Chief. As part of the chief selection process, BadgeQuest will take a survey of the Board of Selectmen and police department members which can be anonymous. Mr. Dunham discussed the eligibility qualifications. Mr. Dunham will have the consultant come in to discuss the process. **Mr. Barrette moved to authorize the Town Manager to appoint an interim Police Chief. Mr. Hunt seconded. Unanimous.**
2. Mr. Dunham briefly discussed the impact of union negotiations on the budget and that all unions including the teachers will be up in 2010.

3. Long Range Plan. Mr. Dunham presented the final draft of the Long Range Plan, including the Executive Summary and Introduction. The Board agreed it was ready to post on the website.
4. Mr. Dunham advised the Board that the ADA compliance issue and the HVAC system at the Golf Course were not included in the draft CIPC capital cost estimate report. All agreed this must be included in the report. The gas company has agreed to assist the Town with the installation of gas to the clubhouse; however, there is a \$300,000 difference between what was appropriated and the bid for the work.
5. Mr. Lapp gave an update on the Golf Business Plan. Several suggestions have been implemented from the plan, 1) the new website is done; 2) the Golf Committee is looking into the signage issue; 3) The Committee is also looking at the food and beverage issue. They are seeking a legal opinion on the Town holding its own liquor license; as well as a quote on liquor liability insurance; 4) Looking at use of land including the Recreation Department working cooperatively with the course to hold recreation programs there.

PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Augustine spoke about contract negotiations.

CORRESPONDENCE/STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Mr. Kennan wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.
2. Ms. Grundman remarked on comments made during the first public forum and noted that the Selectmen highly respect town employees and realized it is stressful during budget season but that everyone is appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT

9:10 p.m. Mr. Barrette moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining and reconvening for the purpose of adjournment only. Mr. Hunt seconded. Mr. Barrette, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Grundman, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Kennan so moved. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Coggeshall