

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, February 6, 2017, 6:15 p.m.
Town Office Building
240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095

MINUTES

Present: Susan C. Bunnell, Chairman, Board of Selectmen (BOS), (presiding); Robert W. Russell, Selectman; Robert J. Boilard, Selectman; Nick Breault, Town Administrator; Herta Dane, Human Resources Coordinator.

Executive Session

At 6:15 p.m. Chairman Susan Bunnell declared that the Board of Selectmen would hold an executive session for the following purposes:

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to enter into executive session per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (2) to discuss strategy with respect to non-union negotiations; per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Board of Selectmen as the Chair so declared; and per M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a) (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board of Selectmen as the Chair so declared; and that the Board shall reconvene in open session following the conclusion of the executive session. The motion was approved with each Selectman voting affirmatively in a roll call vote. (Bunnell, aye; Russell, aye; Boilard, aye.) Motion approved 3-0.

Pledge of Allegiance

The BOS returned from executive session. S. Bunnell welcomed the audience in attendance and asked all to join her in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. In accordance with M.G.L. 30 (A), § 20 (e), she then announced that the meeting was being recorded by Wilbraham Public Access and asked if there was anyone else present was recording. No one came forward.

Stoughton Smead, Chairman, Community Preservation Committee (CPC): CPC Applications Updates; Town Input

The Board welcomed Stoughton Smead, Chairman of the CPC, and he opened the session by informing the BOS that they had completed a number of site walks over the weekend. Namely, they visited the Minnechaug School tennis courts and the Country Club of Wilbraham (CCoW). S. Smead explained that there hadn't been any formal decisions, deliberation, or voting, but he should be able to make recommendations to the Finance Committee by March 1st. The CPC needs to further review all the applications and receive input from the Town Attorney.

S. Smead then introduced the idea of an anticipation list of possible future projects that would be developed by the BOS. The BOS discussed the most effective methods for developing and researching sites for this list. This topic led into a discussion of the "pocket park" on Manchonis Road. S. Smead said the park is mostly used for "after dark commerce", and was described as a nuisance.

S. Smead also brought up the area across from the Red Robin, which he said used to be a beautiful mill pond. It has turned into a swamp due to a broken drainage conduit and an invasion of phragmites, a tall reed-like plant. He said that Ed Miga (Director of the Department of Public Works) maintains that this is a state responsibility because the majority of the water that flows onto the property is runoff from the state highway. He referenced the success of the Bruer Pond project and suggested the potential of this area for a future park.

S. Bunnell then switched topics back to the tennis courts proposal submitted to the CPC. She explained that she had a conversation with the Chair of the Hampden CPC, who stated that Hampden intends to pay their fair share for the project, subject to approval of the CPC monies at their Annual Town Meeting. S. Smead described how the CPA regulations allow for towns to repair facilities outside their borders. N. Breault reminded the audience that the CPC must evaluate all of its proposals, and has yet to do any actual deliberation. He also informed the BOS that members of the CCoW Board of Directors were present. The CCoW would like to have some direct conversation with the Board of Selectmen. President Ed Prystupa, Office Manager Tammie Menard and Treasurer Michael Pandolfi greeted the BOS. They expressed that they would like to make renovations to their historical building. They want to get the roof replaced and repair the porch. After reviewing the quotes and specifics of various construction options, they intend to go with a slate roof. They also reminded the BOS that the CPC would only be used to replace the roof, and not be used for continued maintenance of the building. S. Bunnell acknowledged the question of the historical accuracy of using slate rather than cedar, but stated that this issue is at the mercy of the Historical Commission. The CCoW Board members informed the BOS that the Historical Committee had already approved this decision.

Materials Referenced: Letter from Marpal Realty concerning Boston Road wetland; Grant Opportunity Summary from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; Letter from the Town Clerk concerning Article 51: the park on Manchonis Road

Town Administrator's Report

N. Breault began by explaining that the walkthrough for Memorial School was postponed because of scheduling issues. He then let the board know the he received a notice from Mass Lottery, stating a request to put Keno To-Go in Big Y Express on Stony Hill and Boston Road. The Board has a month to formulate a response. In terms of the coming BOS schedule, there is a meeting on the 13th, a meeting with Finance on the 15th, no meeting on the 20th, but a meeting on the 27th. There is a liquor license transfer hearing next week in response to the transfer of ownership for Wilbraham Mobile and its change of manager.

Board of Selectmen Updates

R. Russell said was contacted by a couple people in the By-Law Committee, questioning why he and R. Boilard were not present at the public forum. Discussion ensued regarding the rules the BOS needs to follow with regards to having a quorum of the BOS present at a meeting when the BOS is not posted in advance. It was noted that the Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for the 15th and the BOS is posted as attending that meeting.

S. Bunnell gave an update regarding the opioid meeting she attended, presented by Dr. Ruth Potee which contained a significant amount of valuable and impactful information. They have access to the PowerPoint from the meeting and she intends to put it up on the Town's website. R. Russell agreed with her about the value of the presentation and encouraged people to look up Dr. Potee on YouTube.

S. Bunnell attended the the Wilbraham Public Access Chili Fest, and said there were a lot of people there and indicated it was a success. She also reported the Fire Department won the competition for the best chili.

Citizens Open Forum

No comments.

Request for Incremental Use of Vacation Time

This request was made by a member of the police department.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to approve the request of the police union, NEPBA Local 120, to allow the use of vacation time in increments no less than 30 minutes, as outlined in a Memorandum of Agreement, and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign said Agreement. Motion approved 3-0.

Senior Center Space RFP

There were no updates, and it was tabled.

Re-cap of By-Law Committee Meeting of January 31, and Discussion of Proposed By-Law Changes

N. Breault explained that the meeting was primarily a chance for the BOS to discuss any impressions they have about the proposed by-law changes. He stated that the By-Law Committee (BLC) didn't formally have an appointment with the BOS, but noted that they had a quorum present. He also said that he has been sending emails out to the board about the chicken by-law, because there have been comments submitted in opposition to what is being presented in that by-law. He then asked the BOS if they had any by-laws they wanted to see promoted. The BOS then invited the members of the BLC present up – Chairman Sergeant Ed Lennon, John Broderick and Dave Sanders.

The BOS began with a brief review of the protocol for the presence of a quorum at a meeting. Since the committee was not posted for this meeting it was agreed that Sgt. Lennon would speak on behalf of the BLC; and that they would have an opportunity to come back and meet with the BOS when they were posted to do so on the agenda.

Sgt. Lennon then reviewed their meeting about the Chicken By-Law. The comments they received were in respect to the allowance of roosters, the number of chickens allowed, and whether permitting would be required. He reported that the BLC decided that the permitting aspects would create unnecessary administrative hoops and that opinion was developed with input from the Building Inspector, Health Inspector and head of the Planning Department. He explained that there will be another meeting about the by-law the following week.

Sgt. Lennon described the continuance of the meeting, which addressed the Pawn Shop and Second Hand Dealer By-Law. As most residents had attended to hear about the chicken by-law, the meeting was not well attended, but will be broadcast on Public Access. They have reached out to affected businesses. He described how a recent major change to the by-law is that nonprofit thrift shops will be exempted. He also informed the BOS that they have redrafted the Parks and Recreation by-law. S. Bunnell explained that it needed redrafting due to an oversight with regard to the town owned golf course. Other issues to be addressed in this revision include definitions and descriptions that were no longer accurate. The by-laws needed cleaning up overall.

S. Bunnell then briefly recapped some other issues that were brought up at the Chicken By-Law meeting. She informed the audience that Beverly Litchfield, the Town Clerk, has encouraged citizens with suggestions to communicate those through her. Sgt. Lennon then informed the BOS that they spoke with John Pearsall in Planning and Lance Trevallion in Building/Zoning Enforcement and they suggested that something be added saying that the by-law is specifically in reference to non-commercial chicken raising. He also described a small exception – when a farm is less than five acres in size a town cannot make a by-law that restricts their raising of chickens.

Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting: Deadline for Submission and Board of Selectmen Proposals

S. Bunnell noted that the Annual Town Meeting is May 15. R. Russell offered that this topic had been discussed at previous meetings. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to approve the deadline for the submission of all warrant articles by March 1, 2017. Motion approved 3-0.

Fire Chief Contract

Chairman Bunnell stated that they successfully negotiated the contract with Dave Bourcier. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to approve the execution of a contract with David Bourcier for the position of Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director for the period of January 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Motion approved 3-0.

Resignation Notice, Public Health Nurse

S. Bunnell explained that the BOS received a resignation notice from Lee Giglietti, but they will not be accepting it at this time, because she had agreed to continue to fill the role until a replacement is found. N. Breault notified the BOS and audience that the Town is in good shape as far as reporting requirements are concerned. A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to authorize the hiring of a Public Health Nurse. Motion approved 3-0.

Vacation Benefits Memo

Chairman Bunnell stated that they have reviewed the memo. N. Breault explained that the memo is a clarification of a personnel policy that is already in place. N. Breault will send the memo to employees.

Farmers Market Application: Shady Pine Farm, New Braintree, MA

A motion was made.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and (Boilard) to approve the Farmers Market application from Shady Pine Farm, New Braintree, MA. Approved 3-0.

Minutes of Meetings

N. Breault reported that minutes are being worked on, and there will be some on the next agenda.

Having no further business, S. Bunnell called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Made (Russell) and seconded (Boilard) to adjourn. Motion approved 3-0.

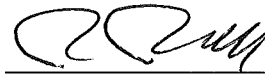
The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



Nick Breault, Town Administrator



Susan C. Bunnell, Chairman



Robert W. Russell, Selectman



Robert J. Boilard, Selectman

