

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

~Approved 8.30.2011~

8-30-11

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday, August 16, 2011 ~ 7 pm
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

With a quorum present, Ms. Martins called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Selectmen Present: Molly Martins, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Patrick Wilson, Secretary
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations used:

BOS Board of Selectmen

DPW Department of Public Works

MGL Massachusetts General Law

Public Information

Agenda

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC

Bruce Blanchard, Friend Court respectfully asked that the BOS reconsider their policy and take the Building Committee out of the equation for the War Memorial design.

Ms. Davis, Cherry Street concurred.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wenham Day – August 27, 2011

Mr. Wilson announced Wenham Day is August 27th. The Fire Department and Wenham Museum have open houses, and there is a craft fair on the lawn of town hall. Local businesses are also open.

Ms. Davis, Adeline Cole Ad Hoc Memorial Committee, announced the unveiling and dedication of the Adeline Cole Memorial is at 10:30 am August 27th. The memorial is located on the lawn of the Tea House.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Process Committee Charge (Draft) Review and Discussion

Mr. Chelgren referred the BOS to their meeting packet identifying a proposed Charge for the Budget Process Committee, which is a revision of the first Charge.

He reviewed that at the joint meeting on July 12th the Hamilton and Wenham BOS asked that Hamilton's Town Manager Michael Lombardo, School Superintendent Peter Gray, and Wenham Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren, work together on a new charge that meets the intent of the Boards and Committees.

The Hamilton Selectmen reviewed this at their meeting last night and although they are in agreement to accept the revised charge, they held the formal vote for the joint meeting.

The School Committee is scheduled to take this up at their first meeting in September.

It was the consensus of the Selectmen to accept the revised Charge and to hold their vote until the joint meeting.

Mr. Chelgren announced an open seat on the Budget Process Committee for a Wenham resident; he was authorized to advertise this immediately.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

Mr. Wilson made a motion to appoint Jerome Hunsaker for a 3 year term on the Conservation Commission, and Jack Hauck for a 3 year term to the Historic District Commission. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Present: Melanie Dorio, (new) Chair of WISSH (Wenham Issues of Social Service Help)

Ms. Dorio spoke briefly about the services provided by WISSH to help qualified residents with emergency financial needs up to \$500 for bills (medical, utilities) and food, etc. There is a dedicated confidential line through Town Hall for residents to call.

Pat Purdy was recognized and thanked for her service as Chair.

Amy Wienmen was brought forward for appointment to the WISSH Committee; inadvertently, no vote was taken.

4th Annual Breast Cancer Motorcycle Run – Sept 18, 2011

Mr. Clemenzi acknowledged a request from Susan Bishop, President for *Cure for Cleavage*, to allow the *Breast Cancer Motorcycle Fundraiser* to go through Wenham on September 19, 2011. He confirmed the Police Department has reviewed this request.

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to accept and approve their request to travel through Wenham. Mr. Wilson seconded and noted that the rain date is September 25th. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Hamilton Wenham Cultural Council – Volunteer Search

Mr. Wilson acknowledged a letter from the Cultural Council asking for volunteers.

They are particularly interested in finding someone to take on the position of Treasurer; other volunteers are needed to assist with other administrative needs. Anyone interested can contact the Council.

Mr. Chelgren reviewed the Council offers funding for art and social events to bring cultural awareness to the town.

Outreach Coordinator Resignation - Geraldine Morenski

The BOS acknowledged a letter of resignation from Council on Aging Outreach Coordinator, Gerry Morenski. She was recognized for her service to the town.

It was clarified that the Town advertises for open Board/ Committee positions in the local paper and on the town's web site; residents should send in a letter of interest to the Town Administrator's office.

Open Meeting Law (OML) Violation

Mr. Chelgren stated the WBOS received an OML violation notice from the Attorney General's Office regarding the BOS June 10, 2011 retreat. The violation claimed that the agenda was not specific, did not list the War Memorial discussion, and the meeting room was not set up for the public to hear the meeting discussions or participate.

The Attorney General office issued a letter August 4, 2011 that they are satisfied with the Town's response and the file is considered closed unless they see further action on this item.

Ms. Martins stressed the importance of staying in compliance with the OML.

Library Construction Fund – Authorization to buy painting supplies

Mr. Wilson referred to a memorandum to the BOS from the Town Administrator that a permanent part time painter has been hired to stain and perform minor siding repairs on the library building. The cost of material and equipment is not to exceed \$3,500. The Town Administrator is proposing this amount is taken from the Library Construction Fund citing some of the work is for repairs to shingles from faulty installation.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the request to pay out of the construction fund an amount not to exceed \$3500 for necessary work as listed in the memo at the library. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Grounds Maintenance – Revolving fund

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that in the spring the towns of Hamilton and Wenham along with the School Committee started a new grounds maintenance program. The cost to Wenham is about \$13,000-\$15,000. This is expended directly out of the DPW budget to the Regional School District, and is reimbursed through a cost accounting billing process. In order for the town to recapture these funds back to the DPW, MGL allows the BOS start the process to create a revolving fund when new revenue is realized; this will be brought to Town Meeting for authorization each year as a warrant article.

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to establish a revolving fund process under terms as described in the letter before the Board. Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

School Street – Request to consider closing School Street

Present: Paul Weaver, Town Counsel

The BOS identified this is a citizen request to close the (Perkins Street) end of School Street.

This is a town street that runs aside the Buker School / playground between Arbor Street and Perkins Street.

Mr. Chelgren reported that the Police and Fire Chiefs have concerns if the street is closed access will be limited and this may delay the emergency response time. It is their recommendation to not close School Street.

These written comments are part of the minutes.

Mr. Weaver explained that according to MGL Chapter 81, the BOS have the power to alter or relocate a street, but Town Meeting has the power to close or un-layout a street. It is not clear how to close half a road.

The BOS supported that interested parents work with the Police Department to create safety measures and traffic calming. The DPW does not recommend speed bumps.

The BOS will take this under consideration but noted their concern of setting precedence and asked for more details and that the Police and Fire Chiefs address this at a future BOS meeting.

Michelle Bailey, Remington Road stated her concern that children are accustomed to the street being closed during the day and regularly cross the street to get to the playground, and that when the street is open, a car can veer into the playground. She also cited that cars parked along the Perkins Street e.g. for baseball games, make it difficult to see a child that may be running across the street.

The BOS will discuss this at the second meeting in September.

Page Sostek, Perkins Street stated that she is opposed to having School Street closed. She identified that they live on Perkins Street across from School Street and drivers can be careless when they back up to turn around (when the street is closed) usually in her driveway.

She also observed that cars turning onto School Street force through traffic to slow down.

Ms. Sostek reminded residents that there are other playgrounds in town that do not have a street running through it.

REPORTS

Town Administrator

Scott Whitaker has been hired as a part-time painter to work throughout the year, saving on contracted labor. This is for interior and exterior painting at a significant savings of about 50% compared to contracted services.

The Fire Department is seeking to fill a part time position of 8 hours a week for a Fire Department maintenance person.

The BOS will continue their retreat on Tuesday, August 23, 2011 at 7:30 am.

The BOS will meet jointly with Hamilton August 23rd at 7 PM in the library.

A regular BOS meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2011.

In September, the Selectmen will resume their regular meeting schedule the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Chair

September is National Senior Center month; a celebration is planned for September 16th at the Community House.

MINUTES - August 2, 2011

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 2, 2011 as written. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (ES)

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion at 7:55 pm that the BOS enter into ES according to MGL Chapter 39, section 23A and 23B (3) To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and (6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, if such discussions may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body and a person, firm or corporation and that the BOS return to open session for the sole purpose of adjourning.

Mr. Wilson seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Selectmen returned to open session at 9:43 pm

Mr. Wilson made a motion at 9:43 pm to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley