

Wenham Board of Selectmen
Meeting of Tuesday, September 15, 2009 ~ 7 PM
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

Sept. 22, 2009

Present: Selectmen Larry Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary; Paul Weaver Town Counsel (8:10 PM)

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

7:04 Pm –With a quorum present, Mr. Swartz opened the meeting and identified the agenda.

**STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Swartz announced the following:

Hamilton/Wenham Aging Info Expo - Saturday October 3, 2009 at the Buker School
Hazardous Waste Day -Saturday September 19, 2009 at the Iron Rail

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

Department Head Meeting Series – Police Department
Regional ECO Update

Present; Police Chief Ken Walsh; Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins; Attorney Joseph McGowan, Essex County Sheriff Department

Sheriff Cousins was invited to speak about the proposed new Regional Dispatch Center which would be located in Middleton near the jail. He briefly reviewed the history, and he recognized Chief Walsh for his participation in the project. Sheriff Cousins reviewed in detail the past, present and future timeline regarding the ECO and then took questions from the Board.

Mr. Swartz questioned when the BOS would be voting officially to participate; Mr. Cousins responded that they are moving forward as quick as possible and will keep the towns informed.

Ms. Davis questioned the overlap of service and what can be done with the current equipment. Sheriff Cousins responded that there will be the need for a back-up system/location.

Mr. Clemenzi questioned how Wenham will participate and what authorization/control they will have. Sheriff Cousins stated that the Chief's will continually participate in recommendations or bringing forward suggestions.

Mr. Clemenzi asked how the center will keep technology up to date. Sheriff Cousins responded that the money that came from the State will be there on an annual basis to advance and replace within the budget.

A contingency plan is within the budget regarding issues of liability and operational issues, including ongoing updates and maintenance of equipment.

Sherriff Cousins reiterated that the residents of local communities will still get the same level of public safety and personalized service. He confirmed that he will be supervising the day to day operations and take responsibility for the Center

Chief Walsh reiterated that it has always been his concern that Wenham be not lost in this system and that the level of service be maintained and confirmed that he believes this will work for Wenham.

The board thanked the Sheriff for taking the time to visit our meeting and noted his approval of our new police station and renovated town hall.

Chief Walsh then took the microphone after Sheriff Cousins and his staff left.

The discussion continued regarding the benefits of the Regional Dispatch including the potential effect on the FY 2011 budget.

Chief Walsh went on to say that the Wenham Police Department is doing very well and recognized the Officers for their team work as the key to a successful department. He reviewed various aspects of the department including a "plate reader" unit mounted on the cruiser which tells the officer if the plate registration/operator has outstanding issues. The Department is trying different models.

Chief Walsh informed the Selectmen that since the law passed to legalize marijuana, there have been complaints and problems with people using marijuana around children at Pingree Park and other locations.

There was a discussion regarding the department's equipment including the condition and mileage of the current cruisers; Chief Walsh said that the department will need new vehicles due to high mileage and noted that the program of automatic replacement had been stopped some years ago in favor of a lease program which also had been put on hold.

Chief Walsh reviewed the department stats.

He talked about the future of the department and informed the BOS that he would like to go to the National FBI Academy saying it is fully funded from federal Government, but noted that this is a ten week course.

He informed the Selectmen that taser guns are being considered and will be explored carefully.

Chief Walsh will attend a BOS meeting next month as a follow up and to discuss budget issues.

Regarding the requests for charity rides through town, Chief Walsh noted that Officer Sgt Toby has reviewed these requests and authorized them.

Chief Walsh confirmed the motorcycle is no longer on the road.

OLD BUSINESS

October 13, 2009 Special Town Meeting (STM)

Close Warrant

Review potential warrant articles and begin selection process

Mr. Chelgren stated that no additional petitions have been received.

Ms. Davis made a motion to close the Warrant for the October 13, 2009 STM as it relates to citizen's petitions. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Swartz reviewed the timeline of the STM.

The Selectmen discussed the potential articles for the warrant, including the need for a second STM in November.

Mr. Chelgren identified two article requests from the School Committee to establish a stabilization fund for capital projects and a Capital Override for replacement of the Cutler school boiler. With the State's 40 to 49% aid, Wenham's share is approximately \$200,000-\$300,000. There is a meeting regarding this issue on September 24th. This involves a ballot question.

Ms. Davis recommended deferring action to the next BOS meeting on September 22, 2009 with Mr. Swartz noting that it will be on either the October STM or the November/December STM. Mr. Chelgren added that this delay may add a week to the ballot vote date.

It was a concern that the Finance Committee is given the most time possible to consider these articles.

It was agreed to put an article on the STM warrant making FY10 Budget Adjustments to reduce the article 2 expenditure regarding health insurance for DOR certification.

Worker's Compensation

Mr. Chelgren stated that MIIA, Wenham's insurance provider has notified the town that the policy is missing the Town's adoption of Chapter 152 section 159 to extend workman's compensation to elected employees e.g. Town Clerk, Tree Warden.

Ms. Davis made a motion to place the Workman's Compensation Article on the STM Warrant for October 13, 2009.

The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Weaver left the meeting at 9:09 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Breast Cancer Fundraising Motorcycle Run – September 20, 2009

Ms. Davis made a motion to grant permission to go through Wenham. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

North Shore Tour De Cure – May 22, 2010

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to approve the North Shore Tour De Cure as requested subject to approval by the Police Chief. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

The Police Department will be asked to review this request and make a recommendation to the BOS.

Silver Star Banner Day – May 1, 2010

Ms. Davis identified a request for Wenham to adopt a proclamation to declare May 1, 2010 as Silver Star day to remember and honor our wounded and ill service members.

Ms. Davis made a motion to declare May 1, 2009 as Silver Star Banner Day. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

Recreation Department – Use of un-used Iron Rail Space

There is a small space available at the Iron Rail building on the first floor that the Recreation Department is interested in using. This will be presented at the BOS meeting of September 29, 2009.

Ms. Davis referred the BOS to a letter in their packet regarding a diseased tree on larch Row that a resident has requested be considered for removal. The Town Administrator will follow up with the DPW Director and the Tree Warden.

Ms. Davis suggested the BOS go forward with a long range master plan with goals and objectives to clarify operational questions and for the BOS to establish priorities and a mission/vision statement for Wenham, and it was agreed to dedicate the 4th Tuesday off camera “retreat” style meeting to this discussion.

REPORTS

Mr. Chelgren reported that the Ride of Champions has asked to use the Car Barn Lot for a refreshment tent, and Porta potties. The ZBA has approved this request. The BOS agreed.

Mr. Chelgren said that the Fire Department informed the Selectmen that the location of the Boot Collection at the Route 97 Traffic light was not as safe nor as lucrative a location as Main Street which had been used in prior years.

Mr. Chelgren reported that thirty-nine parking stickers were sold for the Pleasant Pond Beach. This was down by half from last year; the delayed planning and the rainy weather were considered as possible reasons.

Mr. Swartz reported on a regional meeting for BOS chairman noting that the Rail Trail was discussed . He stated that Topsfield has built a portion of the trail at its own cost, and Mr. Swartz recommended that the BOS follow up on the costs being covered by the State. Mr. Clemenzi reported that the money for funding this has been frozen. Wenham Rail Trail Committee is following up on this.

MINUTES

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the following BOS meeting minutes with minor edits; March 17, 2009; March 31, 2009; May 12, 2009; May 19, 2009; June 2, 2009; June 16, 2009; June 23, 2009; July 7, 2009; July 14, 2009; July 21, 2009; August 4, 2009; August 25, 2009. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

9:33 PM – Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by
Catherine Tinsley