

Feb. 23, 2010

Wenham Board of Selectmen
Meeting of Tuesday, January 19, 2010 ~ 7 PM
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

With a quorum present, Mr. Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present: Selectmen Larry Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary

Also Present; Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Public Information: Agenda

Abbreviations used:

BOS – Board of Selectmen

**WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA
STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Swartz announced he would be taking the agenda out of order to address items before the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM

MIIA Property & Casualty and Workers Comp. Insurance - 2 Year Guarantee/Rates

Ms. Davis reviewed that the town received a proposal from MIIA, the town's insurance company for a two year contract. The first year there will be no increase in rates and the second year, the rates will not increase more than 2 ½ %. Ms. Davis stated that this offer was made to many communities, not just Wenham. The Board took no action and deferred the vote to the February 2nd meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Clean Energy Choice Grant – Hiring of Sue Patroliia as Consultant

Mr. Chelgren reported that Wenham received a check for \$4,903.19 from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Clean Energy Choice Grant. The money will be combined with the Town of Hamilton's grant to hire a Green Consultant, Sue Patroliia, a Wenham resident.

Ms. Davis made a motion to confirm the vote to hire Sue Patroliia under the Clean Energy Grant in conjunction with Hamilton. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote

Mr. Chelgren stated that the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for environmental cleanup projects will be announced in mid February.

Unsung Heroine Nomination

Mr. Chelgren reported that Wenham is being asked to nominate an Unsung Heroine. The Deadline to submit nominations is February 26th. This will be posted on the Town's web site for public recommendations; the BOS will address this at their February 9th meeting.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

National Grid – Utility Pole Public Hearing

7:15 PM Mr. Swartz read the legal ad to install two utility poles on Main Street and opened the hearing.

Present: Peter Glynn, National Grid

Mr. Glynn explained that National Grid guy wires on Main Street are currently supported by two trees on the cemetery property. The trees are dead and will be removed. National Grid is requesting to install two poles in place of the trees.

Mr. Chelgren informed the Board that the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the poles be not installed on cemetery property is requesting these poles be relocated closer to the street and away from the stone wall or preferably across Main Street.

Mr. Chelgren will work with Public Works Director Bill Tyack and National Grid to locate the poles across the street from the Cemetery. Mr. Glynn told the Board fiberglass poles are available.

There was no public comment.

There has been no response from abutters, e.g. the Sports Stop.

The hearing was continued to the February 2, 2010 BOS meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Liquor License (LL) Review – On-Going

Present: Emma Roberts of The Exchange, Wenham Tea House; Barbara Locke, Wenham Village Improvement Society (WVIS)

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that over the past two years, the town has made two attempts to modify the Liquor License from serving of all alcohol with meals in a restaurant of less than 50 seats to include a package store at the same location; this was reviewed and rejected by the State citing this action would merge two licenses creating a new type of license not provided by the State and was vetoed by the Governor. Wenham currently has four licenses, but only one is active.

The BOS is considering the request to allow package stores in Wenham. Mr. Chelgren stated that Legal Counsel was sought, and Counsel is recommending that this is brought to the Annual Town Meeting as a Home Rule Petition.

The Exchange is requesting to sell bottles of wine and understands that they will not then be able to serve alcohol in the restaurant.

Mr. Chelgren stated that the four existing licenses will be eliminated and replaced with four package store licenses, noting the Board will need to determine restrictions.

The BOS talked about scheduling a hearing to modify the LL or waiting for Town Meeting and noted many concerns with proceeding before Town Meeting.

Bill Lepard, 15 Monument Street, questioned if the LL is transferable with new management or sale of the restaurant. Mr. Chelgren responded that it is not. The License comes back to the Board for consideration. This will be on the next meeting agenda for consideration of content and language for a liquor store license. Ms. Locke stressed the importance of this license related to the survival of the Tea House.

Sign Policy – On Going Discussion

Mr. Chelgren said that the BOS has a draft copy of a sign policy for review. He reported that other communities in the area that regulate right of way or town owned land do not have standard procedures and consider sign requests on an individual basis.

Ms. Davis suggested a public hearing regarding a sign policy. The Board deferred action to the next televised meeting.

Mr. Chelgren reminded the Board that a policy can be changed as needed to meet the need of the town.

Mr. Chelgren said that Hugh Collins is working on the placement of the War Memorial on the Town Hall site and is requesting that the Selectmen give input of the intended aesthetics of the Town Hall site.

MINUTES - January 12, 2010

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of January 12, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Executive Session (ES)

Ms. Davis made a motion to enter into ES for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and to return to open session for the purpose of adjournment. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by Roll Call Vote.

8:40 PM – The Selectmen returned to open session

Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley