

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Meeting of Tuesday, March 02, 2010 ~ 7pm  
Selectmen Meeting Room, Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

APPROVED BY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
AT THEIR MEETING OF

March 16, 2010

With a quorum present, Mr. Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Selectmen present: Lawrence Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary

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

Abbreviations used:

BOS – Board of Selectmen

Public information:

Agenda

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION BY GUESTS OR STAFF

Storm Review

Mr. Swartz reminded residents to update their contact information to receive the reverse 911 informational calls and encouraged people to register cell phone numbers.

Present: Fire Chief Bob Blanchard; Police Chief Ken Walsh

Chief Blanchard began by saying the informational reverse 911 calls reached about 70 % of the residents.

He reviewed the responses made by the Fire department with power outages, flooded homes, trees down throughout Hamilton and Wenham. He commended the departments for their work saying 50 homes were attended to with sump pumps, emergencies, and generators.

He recognized the dispatchers for their work, taking the initial calls and fielding the emergencies.

Chief Blanchard also informed the Board that Friday afternoon the Fire department responded to a house fire and was able to save the structure with mutual aid from Beverly and Hamilton.

The Electrical Inspector, Bob Brown was recognized for his work between the two towns, noting he is also a fire fighter.

Chief Walsh thanked the BOS and Town Administrator for checking in with the Police and Fire Departments. He thanked all the officers and firefighters for their work, but cautioned that this emergency was on a small scale. He went on to say if the storm had continued or if the temperature had been lower, this would have been a true disaster. He echoed the outstanding job by the dispatchers.

He reiterated that residents need to be self sufficient in these cases and listed items that residents should have on hand including major items such as 3 days worth of water, food, batteries, medicine, transistor radio, first aid kits, etc. This list will be released to the public and posted on the web site.

Mr. Swartz reminded residents not to drive beyond barricades. He also said National Grid is not always aware of power losses and that residents should report a power loss; he recommended leaving an outside light on so when power is on, officials will know where power has been restored.

Trudy Reed was recognized for her efforts in assisting with checking on elderly residents.

Ms. Davis recommended that Wenham allow for extra trash pickup for storm refuse, including branches, spoiled food, carpets, etc.

Chief Blanchard updated the BOS saying the town just received additional funds from reimbursements as collected from the company contracted by the town.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Liquor License – The Exchange

Present: Barbara Locke, President of Wenham Village Improvement Society (WVIS); Ben Tymann, Attorney  
Mr. Tymann identified he is representing the WVIS and the Exchange, on a volunteer basis. He reported that a proposal has been put together in an efficient way to bring a resolution in the spirit of the way it was approved by Town Meeting.

He reviewed the process of the Ad Hoc Committee and stated he has spoken with Senator Tarr's Office and with Special Town Counsel, and the ABCC president.

He reviewed the recommendation for the BOS to move forward with the licensing process and read the warrant Article 13(not the motion) approved at Town Meeting, and discussed his understanding and interpretation to sell malt and wine not to be drunk on the premises.

He also talked about the language in the license that was refused by the ABCC.

And he offered an amendment to the language to keep four licenses with one of those as a package store license and further noted that the BOS is the licensing authority and has control over alcohol licensing and has the power to make this a non transfer able license with business hours and retail space size restrictions.

Ms. Locke spoke in support of the license, saying it is a way to preserve the Tea House by increasing sales, reiterating that only bottled wine will be sold. The WVIS is willing to put restrictions in the lease of the Tea House.

Mr. Swartz said he is in support of bringing this to Town Meeting citing that town meeting approved a liquor license tethered to a restaurant and this opens the possibility to open a free standing liquor store.

Mr. Tymann explained the timeline and how the Tea House will benefit from earlier action than the Annual Town Meeting in May, saying the formal legislature session ends in July and time will be lost.

Mr. Clemenzi said he agreed that the spirit of the Town Meeting vote supports the amended language.

Mr. Swartz opened the meeting to the public.

***Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to accept this motion and move it forward. Ms. Davis seconded. Discussion followed. The motion carried by majority vote with Mr. Swartz voting in the negative.***

Mr. Tymann was thanked for his personal time and service.

### Sign Policy (Car Barn Lot)

Ms. Davis addressed the sign policy issue saying that there will be a permit application for non-profits to place signs. The Town Administrator's office will be the administrator of the applications.

She reviewed that the request should be submitted two weeks in advance including the name of organization, contact information, the size of the sign, and photo of the content.

Ms. Davis reported that the policy states there be no more than three signs in front of the car barn lot, installed 10 days prior to the event and removed immediately after the event. She went on to say that the size of the sign should be 24"x 42", tasteful, and uncluttered. Local and State signs e.g. water ban, are exempt.

Ms. Davis reviewed the policy saying variations and exceptions can be voted by the BOS.

The Building Inspector has authority to remove objectionable signs and those not approved by the BOS.

This is limited to town owned property, not homeowners own property.

Mr. Swartz opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments.

The Selectmen were requested to increase the limit of three signs to five; and that signs be allowed for fourteen days to be removed within two days after the event.

*Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the Highlighted version for sign policy for town owned land amendments included: increase the limit of signs from three to five; increase the time that signs can remain up from ten days to fourteen days; and change the language to remove the signs from immediately to within two days  
Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Border to Boston (B2B) Trail Committee

*Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint John Monroe, 98 Pleasant Street to the B2B Trail Committee. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Annual Liquor License report

The selectmen acknowledged that the Annual Liquor License report is being submitted.

Comcast Agreement

Mr. Chelgren spoke regarding Comcast providing written confirmation to agree to be responsible for the expense of the discontinuance of the copper lines.

Organic Waste Collection

The Organic Waste Collection is being administered by the Town of Hamilton.

Esco Funding

Mr. Chelgren reported that this will eventually be a warrant article to bond for just the ESCO Funding which will be rolled in with other anticipation notes. The BOS was provided with information with the two options of Municipal lease and bonding. Mr. Chelgren reviewed the two options, noting the cost savings with the bonding option. Details of the improvements being bonded were identified.

The Green Committee Grant will hopefully provide more funding to the town.

Executive Session

It was determined that the ES was not necessary

**REPORTES**

The BOS will be speaking at the COA coffee Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and post a meeting after to discuss the budget.

Mr. Swartz announced that he will not be seeking re-election to the BOS for an additional term, at this time.

8:48 PM

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

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Catherine Tinsley*