

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday, March 16, 2010
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

May 25, 2010

With a quorum present, Mr. Swartz opened the meeting at 7:02 PM

Selectmen Present: Lawrence Swartz, Chair; Harriet Davis, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Secretary
Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Paul Weaver, Town Counsel & Town Moderator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary

Abbreviations used:
BOS – Board of Selectmen

Public Information:
Agenda

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rain Storm – Review and Commendation

Mr. Swartz read a letter from the DPW Director of appreciation to the DPW crew in preparation of the storm and in cleanup after.

The Firefighters were also recognized for their work around town, pumping out over 20 basements and responding to calls, which continue to come in.

Mr. Swartz announced the extension of the yard waste drop off behind the Iron Rail and at the West Wenham playground through March 22, 2010.

Mike Kennedy of 21 Lake Avenue was present and informed the Selectmen that his property is flooded yet again. He reviewed that Lake Wenham is spring fed, but the outlet to Miles River has been dammed by the Salem Beverly water Board causing water problems to homes on Lake Ave which in turn is causing the septic systems to overflow and seep into the Lake.

Mr. Chelgren responded that the entire basin of Wenham Lake is considered a water reservoir basin and by law they are allowed to store water to full capacity.

The Town Administrator was requested to have a representative of the Salem Beverly Water Board address this issue at a BOS future meeting.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

OLD BUSINESS

May 1, 2010 Annual Town Meeting

Presentation of proposed articles by Proponents

Present: Marinel McGrath, School Superintendent; Don Gallant, School Committee Board – HWRSD Articles
Mr. Gallant reviewed the changes in the Regional Agreement language and entered into a discussion with the Board regarding the proposed amendments.

Mr. Gallant stated that the final version will be presented to the School Committee for approval March 31, 2010. This will then be presented to the Wenham and Hamilton Selectmen to be placed on the town warrants.

Stabilization Fund – Mr. Gallant reviewed that this Article will allow the School Committee to establish a stabilization fund. This was turned down the previous year.

He noted that this is not for “extra money” but is specifically for capital funds, and the money will sit in an account regardless if there is a stabilization fund.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding how the funds for the schools are certified and the timeline of the availability for its use.

Jay Burnham – Citizen Petition submitted by Enough is Enough

Present: Jay Burnham, Hamilton, announced a citizen’s petition requesting an amendment to the Regional School District calling for an Operational Audit.

The request gives the selection of the Auditing Company to the HW Boards of Selectmen. He noted MGT America is an independent company being recommended by EIE. Mr. Burnham reviewed the areas included in the audit. He noted Gloucester went through this audit and found substantial savings.

The cost varies according to services provided; the full audit ranges from \$70,000 – \$95,000 and is paid for by the operating budget of the schools.

Mr. Burnham stated that the petition was filed with the Hamilton Town Clerk and upon certification it will be presented to both BOS for placement on the warrants. Over 850 signatures were obtained from the two towns, but it only must be certified by one town according to the regional school agreement.

Mr. Weaver added that the motion can be modified on the Town Meeting floor.

125 Pleasant Street

Present: Jim Kroesser, Attorney representing the Estate of Carol Gordon, 125 pleasant Street; Paul Scola
Representative of the Family

Mr. Kroesser reviewed that the land in question is property abutting 125 Pleasant Street. Mr. Kroesser referenced a plot plan of 125 Pleasant Street, the land in question, and abutting Town owned property.

Mr. Kroesser explained that the Estate of Ms. Gordon is preparing to sell the property, and it has been determined that the driveway actually runs through land registered to the Town. He noted that Ms. Gordon paid taxes on this property since purchasing 125 Pleasant Street in 1995.

The article also asks that the abutting property that the Town owns be included in the plot plan for 125 Pleasant Street. This is less than an eighth of an acre which would provide the necessary space for a septic system. Mr. Weaver commented that this land has no value or use to the town. It would benefit the town for this property to have this location for septic design to spare mature trees.

Mr. Scola stated that he spoke to abutting neighbors saying there are no objections to this plan.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the agreement concerning 125 Pleasant Street, Wenham, dated March 16, 2010 between Town of Wenham and Estate of Carol Gordon subject to conditions written on agreement number 2419 along with exhibit A sketch plan of all areas and of the currently recorded land and registered land and easement, Subject to a vote on May 1, 2010, at the Wenham Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Warrant

Review Articles add/ delete, approve draft wording

Set Order

Mr. Weaver, Town Moderator explained the Warrant Article order dated March 16, 2010 with the Board.

He told the Selectmen that he recently attended a Moderator's meeting and asked how to address the "bolting quorum" in the middle of the meeting after special articles are voted noting that it is recommended that Financial Articles be placed first.

Review Articles

Mr. Chelgren identified each article number and order, and gave a brief overview, explaining the articles in detail where necessary.

The Selectmen talked about asking Town Meeting to cut out the cost (about \$4000) of printing and binding the annual Town Report and instead putting it on a CD. Mr. Weaver will get a sense of the Town Meeting noting that when Ms. Davis's mother was selectman Wenham had won awards for its Town Report. Ms Davis said townsfolk should be able to see and read the report and wouldn't bother to plow through a CD, and she will speak on this at town meeting.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments are being prepared.

Bonding Request for ESCO will be put forward.

NEW BUSINESS

WISSH Bylaw Amendment – Approval request

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that the BOS previously approved the bylaw language changes. *Ms. Davis made a motion to adopt on behalf of WISSH the new set of bylaws dated 2-2-2010 and as on file with the Town Administrator. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Annual Appointment – Building Inspector & Fire Chief

Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint Robert Blanchard as Fire Chief to continue through March 31, 2011.

Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint Charles Brett as the Inspector of Buildings to continue through March 31, 2011.

Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Adeline P. Cole Memorial – Request for action

The BOS talked about a memorial to Adeline Cole, a founder of Wenham Museum and great contributor to the Town of Wenham. Jack Hauck is requesting an Ad Hoc Committee is set up for this purpose.

Ms. Davis made a motion to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to honor Adeline Cole in an appropriate fashion.

Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis will be the Selectmen appointee.

REPORTS

Mr. Clemenzi announced that Mr. Hauck has written a fascinating booklet on the history of the Tea House, and it is available for purchase at The Exchange for \$5.

The Selectmen acknowledged that last Sunday's Boston Globe rated Wenham as the number one choice for best town to live in.

Mr. Chelgren acknowledged a letter from Mr. Hauck at the Maples thanking the Wenham Fire Department for its help during the recent storm.

Mr. Chelgren reported that Wenham received ten inches of rain over the past weekend during the storm and the Fire Department responded to a number of calls from residents with flooded basements. He noted that all firefighters and at least one fire truck respond to these calls. Mr. Chelgren told the Board he spoke with the Fire Chief about establishing a policy for the department to respond to such calls saying it is costly for a full response. Ms. Davis commented that the service should be available to residents but asked how to manage repeat calls to residents that should be purchasing a pump and suggested the consideration of an escalating service fees for repeat service to the same residents. Mr. Swartz added that the Town DPW maintained the drainage systems and the town has new culverts in many areas, which kept many areas from flooding.

Mr. Clemenzi agreed the service is of great value and that the Board consider fees for repeat callers

Mr. Brett will be consulted. Mr. Swartz suggested that as building inspector he should do an analysis after the call to determine if a pump is needed for potential flooding in the future. Mr. Chelgren will look into these suggestions.

MINUTES

March 2 & 9, 2010; February 22, 2010

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve February 22, 2010 with edit as indicated. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

8:58 pm - Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley