

May 25, 2010

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of April 13, 2010 ~ 7 PM
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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

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

Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Swartz announced that Warrants are being delivered April 16th & 17th for the Annual Town Meeting, May 1, 2010; the ballot vote is May 20, 2010.

Stretch Code Presentations HW Green

Mr. Swartz announced the next Stretch Code presentation is April 14, 2010 at the library, noting that residents will be asked to vote on accepting this at Town Meeting.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS OR STAFF

Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board (SBWB)

Present: Tom Knowlton, Superintendent for the SBWB; John Darling

At the request of the BOS, Mr. Knowlton talked about the effect of the recent rain storms on the level of Wenham Lake. He identified that information regarding Wenham Lake to the BOS. Mr. Knowlton began by giving a brief overview of the history of Wenham Lake saying Legislature authorized Wenham Lake as a reservoir in 1869. In accordance with legislation the SBWB is allowed to keep the lake at its maximum level at 34.82 feet and currently the spillway is kept at 34.71 feet.

He stated that water is pumped into Wenham Lake from the first of December to the end of May; no pumping is allowed after the end of May. Reservoirs are filled to capacity in the event of a dry season.

He reported that over 17.5 inches of rain fell in March which is 750 million gallons and is almost half the volume of the reservoir. Wenham Lake is 274 acres surface area.

Mr. Knowlton reiterated that the water has nowhere to go, noting that beaver dams along the Miles River and Ipswich River contributes to the flooding. He commended the Town for the repair of the Larch Row culvert saying it has helped the water flow tremendously.

He acknowledged when the lake rises, Lake Avenue floods and was asked to address the flooding issue. He responded that there is nothing in the event of flooding that can be done as the homes were built on fill in a swamp. He advised the towns to clear the waterways of beaver dams and clean culverts.

Mr. Chelgren talked about the town's response to health problems related to the dams and the management in plan. He stated that the Culvert on Route 1A at Wenham Lake is the responsibility of the State, but the town and golf course assist with the maintenance. He said one possible consideration is the dredging of the Ipswich River;

this is being considered collaboratively with Beverly, Wenham, Hamilton, and Ipswich. There is an active application with the Army Corps of Engineers submitted in 2008.

Three residents were present from Lake Ave.

Mr. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Dupuis all spoke about the flooding in their homes and various efforts to prevent the flooding of their property, and noted the added expense including now being in a flood zone which was not so in 2005.

The Selectmen asked that the SBWB review the level of the lake and how to protect private property and if there is federal assistance. Mr. Chelgren reiterated the Town will be cleaning out culverts, and the beaver management plan will be implemented.

OLD BUSINESS

May 1, 2010 Annual Town Meeting- Warrant

Mr. Chelgren reviewed the Warrant Articles, noting this information is on the Town web page.

Both Finance Committee and BOS are in support of the budget.

Mr. Chelgren explained that the Town Counsel had wanted Articles 16, 17 & 18 rolled into one but Department Of Revenue – source of Green Communities Grant, will not allow the BOS to adopt the stretch code and so article 16 has been separated back into three articles:

Article 16: Town Bylaw Amendments – Expedited Permitting

Article 17: Zoning By-law Amendment – Solar Photovoltaic Overlay District

Article 18: Adoption of Stretch Energy Code

Ms. Davis said, as Fence Viewers, it is the Selectmen's responsibility to walk the boundaries of the town and asked Mr. Chelgren to arrange this with abutting communities.

The BOS again reviewed a letter from the BOS on school funding backed up with information from the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to accept the document as amended to be printed and inserted in the Town Warrant book.

Discussion followed--It was noted that card stock was donated. Eleven hundred copies will be printed by Minute Man Press at a cost of \$400 to be paid out of the Town Hall General Expense fund.

The motion carried by majority vote with Mr. Swartz voting in the negative.

Appointment – Bethany Bodengraven Assistant Treasurer Collector

Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint Bethany Bodengraven as the Assistant Treasurer Collector through June 30, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

H-W Little League Baseball – Parade (Sunday, April 25)

Ms. Davis read the parade route for opening day. The police departments of Hamilton and Wenham have approved this request.

Ms. Davis made a motion to authorize the parade to take place on April 25th as requested. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Mr. Chelgren discussed the departure of Sarah Johnson, the Finance Director, as she is taking a position in Weston and announced that her last day will be Saturday May 1, 2010. The town has received three resumes so far. Mr. Chelgren presented a proposed transition plan Entitled Financial Director/ Treasurer Collector

Transition Plan that shares the department responsibilities between the Assistant Treasurer and Town Accountant. An office temp will assist in the routine operations of the Finance Department through the end of the Fiscal Year to August 20, 2010.

As a part of the plan, a Consulting Group would be hired through the end of the fiscal year to July 16th funded from savings in salaries; overall cost of the proposed transition plan is \$13,733.50.

Mr. Swartz commented on the responsibilities as planned and suggested the duties may not take the man power suggested and that the consultant be paid for hours worked and not a fixed weekly amount.

Mr. Swartz requested the Town Administrator check with procurement law if hiring a consultant financial firm requires a RFP (request for proposal).

Mr. Chelgren talked about the salary offered for the Financial Director position, identifying the position is budgeted for \$65,000.

The BOS talked about raising the salary in the job posting by \$5000 to be in line with the going rate as shown on the MMA website for other similar job openings. The Finance Committee will be consulted.

The Board talked about the process of hiring for the position. A screening committee will make a recommendation to the BOS.

Joint Hamilton, Wenham BOS Meeting

A joint Meeting is being scheduled for Tuesday, April 27th.

Mr. Chelgren reported on the Energy Consortium saying the Town requested a quote from HEFA (Health Education Facilities Authority). Currently the town is paying 9.97 per Deco Therms; the new quote for an additional 12 months is 9.922.

Mr. Swartz questioned additional information and if there are other options including electricity costs.

MINUTES – March 31, 2010

9:03 pm - Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley