

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday, August 3, 2010 ~ 7 pm
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AT THEIR MEETING OF

Aug. 17, 2010

With a quorum present Ms. Martins called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Selectmen Present: Molly Martins, Chair; John Clemenzi, Vice Chair; Harriet Davis, 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

STATEMENT OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC

Mr. Donnellan asked for an update regarding the progress of the Rail Trail. Ms. Martins responded that there has been no further information; the BOS will provide an update at a future meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affordable Housing Lottery

Ms. Martins announced the Wenham Affordable Housing Trust has two homes for the first time home owners program via a lottery process; open houses are August 3rd at 105 Pleasant Street and 11 Friend Court, Unit 2.

Kite Day (4th Annual) is August 14th at Birch Plains Field in Beverly. Pre-registration is requested through the COA or recreation Departments. The event is sponsored by Wenham Friends of the COA

Wenham Day – August 28th (Rain Date August 29)

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that the BOS had questioned if the events will be on both sides of Main Street and he reported the Museum has confirmed that they will.

State Primary Election

Wed August 25th is the last day to register for the state election on September 14th. Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

Wenham Quilt Dedication – Saturday, Aug 14 at 10 AM

Jack Hauck announced that August 14, the quilt of Wenham, will be dedicated and hung in Wenham Town Hall on the wall across of the Treasurer's office.

Police Chief Walsh notified the BOS that the Wenham Police Department cruiser came in 3rd place in the best looking cruiser in The Law & Order Magazine and will be featured in the August issue.

OLD BUSINESS

COA (Council On Aging) Collaboration Study

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that Wenham BOS requested a discussion with the Hamilton BOS regarding the possible collaboration of the COAs.

Present: Susan Carp, Interim COA Director; Mark Johnson, Hamilton Selectman

Ms. Carp reported to the BOS regarding the operation of the COAs in both Hamilton and Wenham. She talked about moving towards one director for the two towns, leaving the separate COAs intact. The director would oversee programming, outreach, van service, etc.

Ms. Carp recognized that she already is in contact with many Hamilton residents through the Van Service.

She identified that there are 1580 residents in Hamilton and 822 residents in Wenham over 60 years of age and that combined services will allow for better coordination of programming, outreach services, and cost savings.

Mr. Johnson also spoke in support of the collaboration, recognizing that there are many services that can be offered, that are currently not being done.

Jack Hauck spoke in support of the Director position and collaborating between the two towns with the support of both COA Boards.

Leigh Keyser, of Hamilton, talked about the need in the towns for more senior services adding that he supports a full time director for both towns.

Tom Tanous encouraged maintaining differences while collaborating services. He suggested that as a starting point, senior services already in the towns be identified, adding that Senior Care will be happy to help the towns get started. Mr. Johnson agreed to a joint Selectmen meeting to further discuss collaboration between the two COAs by defining the study period and time line.

Ms. Carp said she would like to extend current services to Hamilton residents as soon as possible and committed to staying in the Interim position as long as necessary to see this through; she requested immediate access (as soon as possible) to the seniors in Hamilton and to create programming for both communities.

With interest between all parties, Ms. Martins encouraged the Selectmen to move forward and Mr. Chelgren was asked to schedule a joint meeting.

Tom Kelly reviewed that his wife was very active in the Town of Wenham with the seniors, saying she thought positively that the towns should pursue merging.

Posting Locations – Change as requested by Town Clerk

Ms. Davis talked about the requirement to post the Warrant in public places and identified those locations historically posted on trees and poles around town. Ms. Reid has notified the BOS that these are not the most advantageous locations and suggested that the Warrant be posted at the Post Office, COA, Library, and the Town Hall including the Town's web site and the posting on trees is eliminated.

Mr. Weaver referenced the MGL 39 Sec 10 and the Town Bylaws and recommended changing the bylaws, and that the Selectmen form a recommendation that the town, publicize it in the short term and adopted it formally at the Town Meeting.

WISSH Appointment – Trudy Reid

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the nomination of Ms. Purdy, Chair of the WISSH, that Trudy Reid be appointed to the WISSH Committee for one year Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Iron Rail – Update of Speculative Discussion

Mr. Clemenzi gave a brief update and overview of the Iron Rail gymnasium building. He reported that the town has been approached by contractor interested in the reuse of the property; the proposal has no frame of reference and the BOS suggested an ad hoc committee to do an in depth study of long and near use, acquisition and disposition of 61A and 61b properties, and town owned properties.

The BOS will accept letters of interest in being on an ad hoc committee from residents.

Mr. Chelgren will draft a charge for such a committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Wenham Bonding – Authorization and Signing

Mr. Chelgren reviewed Bans have been carried for many years; these are ready for bonding.

Water improvements, drainage, ESCo (after grant money) for a total of \$ 1,203,000 at an interest rate of 2.224 % with Eastern Bank; this is a 12 year bond. The Selectmen signed the documents.

Ms. Davis made a motion to authorize the bonding as presented for \$1,203,000.00. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Historic District Commission Appointment – Bill Joyner

Ms. Davis made a motion to appoint Bill Joyner on the Historic District Commission for a term of three years. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

David Mehlin is stepping down and was recognized for his dedication and work on the commission.

REPORTS

Regarding the Finance Director position, Mr. Chelgren reported that four people have been interviewed; there are two strong candidates who will be given second interviews.

Mr. Chelgren requested authorization to offer an increase in the salary of up to \$5,000, contingent on the approval of the BOS. Ms. Davis noted her concern that the salary range was already increased for the position and preferred that the salary range be \$70,000 or below. The Chair of the Finance Committee has been informed and is agreeable with the caveat that additional information is provided after the interviews.

Ms. Martins and Mr. Clemenzi agreed to the increase, asking the Town Administrator to be cautious.

Regarding the liquor license amendment Mr. Chelgren updated the BOS saying it has passed the ABCC (Alcohol Beverage Control Commission) and the Senate. It is expected to be at the Governor's Desk within a month.

Ms. Martins reported on the Finance Committee reorganization meeting saying Roger Kuebel was voted chair of the Finance Committee; five of six seats have been filled.

August 16th the Wenham BOS will be attending the Regional ECO presentation in Hamilton.

Ms. Davis reported on a recent meeting with Hamilton Selectmen Jeff Stinson and the new Superintendent of Schools, Raleigh Buchanan and Peter Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Finance saying a host of information was exchanged and she believes the town will benefit with the new approach. Mr. Buchanan was invited to attend the next BOS meeting on August 17th.

Ms. Davis reported on a July 1st meeting regarding the Bolder Lane property saying it is uncertain if the property will perc to support a septic system. The DPW will provide the backhoe to work with an Engineer to perform the testing. The BOS agreed that this be deferred to the new ad hoc committee for town land study.

MINUTES

June 1, 4, 15, 22, 29, 2010 and July 6, 14, 20, 2010

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of June 1, 4, 15, 22, 29, 2010 and July 6, 14, 20, 2010 as originally submitted by minutes clerk Catherine Tinsley. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Martins requested the original minutes are sent to the BOS.

The next BOS meeting is August 17th

9:03 Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley