

Approved 4.19.2011

WENHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday, March 22, 2011 ~ 7 PM
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street

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

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

Also Present: Jeff Chelgren, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary, and Paul Weaver, Town Counsel

Abbreviations used:

BOS Board of Selectmen

TA Town Administrator

FinCom Finance Committee

ATM Annual Town Meeting

Public Information:

Agenda

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENTS

One-Day Liquor License - Wenham Tea House

March 30, 2011 Wenham Village Improvement Society Annual Meeting

March 26, 2011 Bridal Shower

In full disclosure, Ms. Davis stated she would be in attendance of the March 30, 2011 event at the Tea House and Ms. Martins identified that she will be in attendance of the March 26, 2011 event.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the two one-day liquor license to the Wenham Tea House. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT - May 7, 2011

Mr. Chelgren reviewed that this BOS meeting was posted for the BOS to review the draft articles. The BOS will be taking positions March 29th to finalize, sign, and post the warrant.

Present: Paul Weaver, Town Counsel; Police Chief Ken Walsh

Chief Walsh talked about Article 17- A Blade Bylaw making it illegal to possess weapons over 2.5 inches long. He explained there is currently no bylaw in existence and this cannot be enforced. Carrying a blade for legitimate use e.g. hunters, fishing, etc is not included. The Police will use discretion regarding the intention of the person carrying the blade. The PD has held many meetings regarding this bylaw and supports it be brought forward; Danvers, Beverly, Swampscott all have similar bylaws.

A discussion followed.

Mr. Weaver weighed in that it is purely discretionary regarding the intent of the tool.

Language may distinguish the circumstances the BOS are concerned about. Chief Walsh will work with Town Counsel regarding the wording.

The BOS held action for the wording.

Article 2 - Mr. Chelgren reported that the FinCom recommend favorable action.

Article 6 - To house Enon 1, Wenham's antique fire apparatus

Mr. Chelgren stated that validation is required that Enon 1 is a historical artifact. He stated that the Historic District Commission as determined this to be so. Town Meeting will confirm this decision.

This is a necessary vote for Community Preservation Act funding to be used to house Enon 1.

Mr. Weaver drafted language that Enon 1 is an artifact, displayed in the historic district for Town Meeting Vote; there is no historic preservation district as required by CPA and it thought the town could determine this as historic artifact.

Ms. Davis made a motion to Recommend Favorable Action. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Article 8 - Debt Amortization schedule for 4% Trackless Machine – Debt exclusion

The BOS support the need of this machine.

Ms. Davis stated she would like to see the FinCom come up with a zero percent increase budget saying she is hearing from residents that do not want to see taxes raised.

Mr. Clemenzi made a motion to recommend favorable action. Ms. Martins seconded. The motion carried by majority vote with Ms. Davis abstaining.

Lose Leaf Pick-up

This is under the levy limit if appropriated.

There will be a town meeting vote to see if this is an essential service. This will require a resident to make the motion.

Ms. Martins reviewed that a bagged leaf pick up is still free; a call in service for lose leaf pick-up for a fee option proposed.

The BOS did not take a position at this time.

Article 14 – Citizen Petition

Mr. Chelgren stated that the FinCom felt it is important to take a position.

Mr. Weaver stated he is looking in to the details, specifically the date the agreement becomes effective.

The BOS did not take a position at this time.

Article 15 & 16 - War Memorial /Car Barn Lot (CBL)

Mr. Weaver identified he has been in communication with the War Memorial Committee (WMC) regarding these two articles saying it is being proposed that the concept is to put the War Memorial on a portion of the CBL and the second to dedicate the purpose of the CBL to the control of the WMC to be used as a Memorial Park.

The WMC preference is to have full custody and control of the entire CBL transferred to the WMC.

Mr. Weaver pointed out a couple potential legal issues that need to be clarified. The BOS hold this for future deposition. It was noted this requires a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting.

The BOS noted their concern that the initial plans of the War Memorial or a Car Barn Lot design have not been released yet and suggested a fall town meeting may better serve the timeline.

The town meeting needs to approve the construction of the WM on town land.

There are several working designs but they have not been presented to the BOS or the Building Committee.

The Selectmen will RATM (Recommend At Town Meeting)

Regarding Article 16, Mr. Weaver noted that it could operate independently; if this is approved, the WMC will continue to be in existence and become permanent with potential to have a line item.

The BOS did not take a position at this time.

The FinCom meets tomorrow night and will be wrapping up with budget

The "Add back list" and 2 recap sheets were provided to the BOS for review.

A list for "add backs" was reviewed including decisions made to put items back into the budget by the FinCom.

It was noted that the Recap sheet has the school budget as level funded.

The surplus gap is \$119,000 prior to the add backs. Ms. Davis noted the town is allowed to go up to the 2 ½ percent but stressed it doesn't need to.

Mr. Chelgren explained that the FinCom could use the school cuts to buy down the tax rate. The Schools have been asked to decrease their budget by \$350,000, thus decreasing Wenham's portion by (approximately \$113,000)

It was noted that Hamilton has not voted yet, but it is understood they are of similar mind.

Mr. Chelgren stated that the FinCom would take a vote tomorrow night.

Ms. Martins made a motion that the funding to the school be reduced by Wenham (Wenham's Oproportion) \$113,000 Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by majority vote with Ms. Davis abstaining.

Regarding the document "Salary Survey of Local Communities", the FinCom is now recommending that the salary of no more than four nonunion employees be increased by a total sum not to exceed \$19,000 and that this not include the library personnel; this is at the discretion of the BOS.

Police Chief Walsh addressed the BOS speaking in support of the 2004 decision to rotate the purchase of cruisers, saying this has not happened and the fleet now has high mileage and an increase in maintenance costs.

He noted decisions made at this time, for this budget won't affect his department for another 16 months and that the cruisers averages about 30,000 miles each and are used differently than most passenger cars. He cited several safety concerns with the cruisers not being replaced. He suggested that a cruiser replacement plan be part of the operational budget rather than the capital budget.

Ms. Martins summarized there is a general agreement where FinCom is on the budget, managing the town services, and tax base.

Mr. Chelgren provided the BOS with information regarding the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program for future discussion. Ms. Davis stated she does not support the program as presented. More information is needed.

The Town Administrator will speak to the Town Clerk about the vacancy on the Planning Board and that this is on the election ballot.

Mr. Weaver suggested that the town determine how many residents are not on public streets or other factors of who does not participate equally to town services.

The BOS meet next on March 29, 2011.

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

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley

