

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

With a quorum present, Ms. Martins called the meeting to order at 7 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
TA Town Administrator
Fin Com Finance Committee
HW Hamilton & Wenham

Public Information
Agenda

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AGENDA

Ms. Martins stated she would be taking the agenda out of order.

STATEMENTS OR QUESTIONS BY PUBLIC

Fire Academy

Present: Fire Chief Robert Blanchard; members of the Wenham Fire Department
Fire Chief Blanchard and many firefighters from the Wenham Fire Department were present to honor Tim Bartlett and Ryan Comeau who recently completed the Massachusetts Fire Academy call volunteer class #033. The men were recognized for their hard work and commitment during the five-month class that started in August. Chief noted about half the department has been through the Academy.

Fire Department – Fee Increase Proposal

Present: Fire Chief Robert Blanchard
Chief Blanchard provided an updated list of permit fees to the BOS for approval. He told the Selectmen the fees are in line with other local communities. The basic fee is \$50.
Chief Blanchard also announced that it is burning season through the end of April; this fee has remained the same at \$10 for seniors and \$20 for residents.
Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the revised schedule of fees from the fire department as submitted on the memo dated November 29, 2010. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

In Closing Chief Blanchard recognized and thanked those fire fighters for their work clearing the snow on the public buildings this winter. This was echoed by the BOS.

DPW – Expression of Appreciation

Mr. Clemenzi recognized the DPW for their work over the winter attending to the roads and sidewalks during the many snowstorms.

OLD BUSINESS

Snow Safety

Mr. Clemenzi reminded residents to please help keep fire hydrants open in their neighborhood and that children are kept away from snow banks next to the road, citing the many potential dangers of children playing on the snow banks.

Nomination Papers

Ms. Davis announced nomination papers for town positions are available through the Town Clerk office. She read the list positions/terms; nomination papers must be submitted by March 21, 2011 at 5pm.

Ms. Davis also announced that there are three positions open on the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee; papers are available at, and must be returned to the Superintendent office by March 23, 2011.

Volunteer Position Available

Ms. Davis announced two volunteer positions are open on the Town Advisory Committee; people with engineering, construction or building experience are preferred. Resumes should be sent to the Town Administrator's office.

Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant Open – Until March 8

Mr. Clemenzi announced the town meeting warrant is open until March 8, 2011. Anyone interested in submitting a citizen petition should contact the Town Administrator's office.

The warrant goes to print in early April.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department – Appointment of Reserve Officers

It was noted that the Police Chief Walsh was not able to attend the BOS meeting; he will be at the next meeting.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve Reserve Officer appointments of Peter Cherry of Gloucester and Christopher Sandborn of North Andover effective immediately. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Wenham Affordable Housing Trust (WAHT)

Ms. Martins announced that the WAHT has a qualified buyer for the Pleasant Street home; they are passing papers next week.

It was also noted there is a condo for sale on Friend Court through the affordable home program.

Ms. Davis made a motion to authorize the WAHT to sell the property at 105 Pleasant Street for \$197, 900 to an approved buyer according to the WAHT guidelines. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

May 7, 2011 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) - List of Potential Warrant Article Review

Mr. Chelgren reviewed the new listing of potential eleven articles.

- Standard articles, budget, CPA , level tax rate (A-G)

- Bonding trackless machine (DPW)

- Bonding ESCO contract

- Brady Fund Transfer (to the AHT)

- North Shore Home Consortium (to be used AHT)

- Zoning Amendment (map update)

- Vocational school (new Essex Aggie School proposal)

- Term of Town Clerk; amended from 1 to 3 yr election term starting in 2012

- War Memorial Committee (place holder) use of the car barn lot as a Memorial Park

- Capital purchase of a large Gravely mower and bucket truck for HW Grounds department

Police Department: Mr. Chelgren informed the BOS that the Police is proposing two bylaws: a marijuana and weapons/ blades bylaw. Mr. Chelgren stated that the Police Chief would make a presentation at the next meeting.

Michelle Bailey questioned if the School Street gates beside the Buker School can be kept close during daylight hours citing safety issues as children are accustomed to these gates being closed during school and tend to run freely across the street to the playground after the gates are opened.

Town Counsel, Fire and Police Chiefs have all been consulted and determined that this is not a warrant article issue but will further be discussed by the BOS.

Mr. Chelgren began a discussion about increasing revenue to the town saying the Finance Committee is suggesting the BOS consider increasing the parking stickers at Pleasant Pond; the sticker is currently \$10 for seniors/ \$25 for HW residents.

Mr. Chelgren confirmed the sale of tickets was down last year from the previous year. He went on to say that the beach is becoming a popular spot for birthday parties and fundraisers.

The BOS talked about various options but did not support raising the cost of the Pleasant Pond parking sticker.

Mr. Clemenzi suggested fliers be printed promoting the area and Ms. Davis suggested a promotional announcement be made and tickets sold at town meeting.

Town Advisory Committee (TAC) – Financial Policies

Mr. Chelgren stated that he spoke with the TAC at their last meeting; they are interested in providing guidance in financial policies but want clear and defined direction of what they are being asked to bring forward.

Ms. Davis reiterated that this task belongs with the Finance Committee, noting only one person on the TAC has FinCom experience. She also noted that additional people are needed on the committee and that they have enough tasks to complete as it is.

Mr. Clemenzi supported a timeline for the TAC with regular feed back.

The BOS requested an update from the TAC regarding the town property study suggesting this is done every 6 to 8 weeks.

Mr. Chelgren suggested the financial information be prepared for June, noting that there are various policies available through the MMA website that can be considered, thus reducing the time needed to prepare the data.

The TA will schedule a meeting between the Chairs of the Fin Com and TAC to further identify and coordinate the task and report back to the Selectmen.

Regarding the Operational Audit, Ms. Martins reported that it continues to be clarified and defined with Evergreen Inc.

Ms. Martins reported that the Facilities Assessment Steering Committee had its first meeting last week to organize and gather data. The committee is comprised of eight people from both Hamilton and Wenham.

The Committee is planning on meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm.

These are open meetings but they will not be televised.

Ms. Davis provided the Selectmen copies of strategic planning information from the MMA conference.

MINUTES

December 7, 2010

Ms. Davis expanded on the goals for the TA in the minutes; these were provided to the Board for approval

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of December 7, 2010 as edited. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

January 27, 2011 (joint HW BOS)

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2011 as edited. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

February 8, 2011

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of **February 8, 2011** as edited. Mr. Clemenzi seconded and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Martins announced the BOS next meeting is Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. Davis made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 pm and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley