

TOWN OF WENHAM
Board of Selectmen
Meeting of December 10, 2019
Town Hall, 138 Main Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Tuesday December 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Selectmen Chambers, first floor.

The Town of Wenham has a three-member Board of Selectmen elected for three-year terms with one seat up for election each year. Catherine Harrison (2020); John Clemenzi (2021); Jack Wilhelm (2022)

The Board of Selectmen serve as the chief executive body of the Town. The board's duties include in part appointing the Town Administrator and other board/committee members, developing goals and policies, preparing the town report, the annual budget, and presenting the warrant for Town Meeting.

The Board typically meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Town Hall. The BOS meetings are posted on the Town calendar. All meetings are open to the public and may be viewed on local cable channels HWCAM.org or You Tube HWCAM.

Call to Order - With a quorum present, Mr. Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Selectmen present: Jack Wilhelm, Chair; Catherine Harrison, Clerk

Not present: John Clemenzi, Vice Chair;

Also present: Anthony Ansaldi, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public Input – Items not on the agenda

There was none.

The agenda was taken out of order with consent.

375 Anniversary Committee – Celebration Commemorative Booklet*

Town Moderator Trudy Reid, Chair of the 375th Anniversary Committee along with Town Clerk Dianne Bucco presented the 375th Anniversary Commemorative booklet for the Wenham 375th Anniversary celebration.

375 copies were printed and are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Remaining funds will be put in a CD for the 400th anniversary.

Announcements – Additional information can be found on the town's web site.

- Wreaths Across America, Saturday, December 14, 12pm at the Main Street Cemetery
- Town Office Holiday Hours: Town Hall, Library and COA will close at noon on December 24 and December 31 and will be closed all day on December 25 and January 1.
- Holiday tree recycling is available through January 11 at the Pingree Park to be chipped and used for compost.
- Community Preservation Act Funding Application Deadline is Monday, January 6, 2020 at 4:30 pm.
- Superintendent search – The HW School Committee is seeking input from community; information is on the web site.

Reports

With no new updates since the last meeting, Mr. Ansaldi said he would post a Town Administrator's report on the town's web site at a later date.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Open Session: July 9, 2019

Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to approve all items in the consent agenda including the: A. Minutes for the Open Session for July 9, 2019.

- Annual Liquor License Renewal
- 97 Market, Inc., Albert Abdelmalak – 143 Topsfield Road
 - Letter dated December 5, 2019 re Property at 143 Topsfield Road in Wenham was purchased by Wenham Corner Realty LLC on September 5, 2019

This agenda item was continued from the December 3 meeting for the Selectmen to review additional information regarding the liquor license including confirmation from the new owner Wenham Corner Realty, LLC regarding the terms of the lease for 97

Approved 03.17.2020

Market. Mr. Ansaldi reported that the new owner of 97 Market building issued a letter confirming the lease through March 31, 2024 with 2 five-year extension options for the property at 143 Topsfield Road.

Vote: The BOS voted unanimously to approve the annual renewal of the retail license for the sale of wine and malt alcoholic beverages for calendar year 2020 for 97 Market, Inc., 143 Topsfield Road, Wenham MA., Albert Abdelmalak manager.

New Business

- Approval of Fire Chief Stephen Kavanagh's Contract and Appointment of Fire Chief Stephen B. Kavanagh
 - Memorandum of Agreement Fire Chief

The BOS came to tentative terms on a contract in executive session; these terms were agreeable with Chief Kavanagh. Chief Kavanagh was present.

Vote: The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to agree to the terms and conditions as set forth in the contract for Fire Chief Stephen Kavanagh effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and appoint Chief Kavanagh as Wenham's Fire Chief effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The Selectmen and Chief Kavanagh signed the contract.

- Approval of Three Month Leave of Absence for Police Officer Mia Cefalo
 - Memo to A. Ansaldi from Police Chief Perkins re Resignation and request for leave of absence dated December 5, 2019
 - Agreement Between the Police Benevolent Association of Wenham July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022

Captain DiNapoli was present and spoke to the request submitted by Officer Mia Cefalo for a three-month leave of absence to allow her to maintain benefits during her training with the State Police through March 31, 2020. This is a provision of Article 33 of the collective bargaining agreement through the police union.. Officer Cefalo's last day with Wenham is December 31, 2019. All costs associated with these benefits are paid by Officer Cefalo. Officer Cefalo has been with the town five years and leaves in good standing.

Vote: The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve a leave of absence, in accordance with Article 33, in the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Police Benevolent Association of Wenham, MCOP Local 382, for Police Officer Mia Cefalo effective December 31, 2019 through March 31, 2020.

- Discussion on Housing Authority Vacancy
 - Email A. Ansaldi to Wenham Housing Authority re Arthur Burt dated December 5, 2019

With the passing of resident Arthur Burt, there is a vacancy on the Wenham Housing Authority(WHA). Mr. Ansaldi reviewed the procedure to fill the vacancy of Mr. Burt's term. A joint meeting with be held between the BOS and the Wenham Housing Authority on January 7, 2020. Town Counsel has been asked to confirm the process.

In accordance with MGL C.121B, §5 and C.41, §11, the remaining members of the WHA must notify the BOS, within 30 days, of said vacancy. Upon receipt of the notice, the BOS shall notify the remaining members of the WHA that they shall convene a joint meeting with the intent to fill said vacancy through the April 2019 Annual Town Election by joint appointment to be made on a date to be determined; and, further, to invite qualified registered voters of the Town of Wenham to apply for said appointment and to be interviewed at a joint meeting.

- Revenue "Options" Presentation
 - PowerPoint presentation

Mr. Ansaldi gave a brief summary of the FY21 budget meeting with Department Heads on Saturday.

Currently there is a structural deficit of \$1,130,574 and the capital improvements plan potential projects total \$958,233; funding sources to be determined for approved projects.

Options identified to decrease the deficit included reduce expenses, increase fees and create new revenue. Mr. Ansaldi further elaborated on some of these options with the focus on a couple of specific areas to initiate discussion.

- Pleasant Pond beach is open from May to September with operational actual costs for 2019 of \$24,032 and total revenue from 184 sticker sales of \$3,355; Hamilton and Wenham's general funds are subsidizing the balance of \$20,677 (Wenham share based on a three-year average was \$10,752)
- Fully recover indirect costs of the Water Department currently being subsidized by the General fund estimated at \$100,000. Mr. Ansaldi noted that although the Water Department is treated like an enterprise fund is not a true enterprise fund and the budget is approved by Town Meeting.
- The increase in total cost of refuse disposal is a priority for FY21. Currently Wenham has a fixed cost contract with Casella for weekly house to house curb side pick-up and hauling of trash and recycling , Wheelabrator is contracted to incinerate the trash and charges by the ton. The Wheelabrator cost has gone up significantly.

Approved 03.17.2020

The Town no longer receives revenue from recycling; this is now an added expense to the town.

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Mr. Ansaldi Review of possible options presented to the Finance Committee to offset the high trash cost:

- o Flat annual fee paid quarterly (1400 households)
- o “Pay as you throw” – residents purchase Wenham trash bags

Other considerations to be approved at town meeting include adopting the Meals & Room Occupancy Tax and putting an operational override on the warrant.

The Selectmen were interested in receiving public feedback on the trash collection / options, noting this has been a hot topic in Hamilton and Ms. Harrison recommended a public forum be held and although town meeting approval is not required for fees, she supported this be brought to town meeting.

Mr. Ansaldi noted that other than employee benefits, refuse collection is the largest expense of the town.

The Selectmen agreed a separate meeting on a Saturday be scheduled in January to further discuss these options in detail, after the school has submitted a preliminary budget. A meeting was scheduled for Saturday, January 4 at 9 am.

Other matters, as may not have been reasonably anticipated by the Chair (Discussion Only)

Adjournment - *The Selectmen unanimously adjourned at 7:36 pm*

Respectfully Submitted By
Catherine Tinsley
1.4.2020