

TOWN OF WENHAM

Wenham Board of Selectmen
Meeting of March 15, 2016
138 Main Street, Town

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 MARCH 15, 2016 at 6:15 PM in the Selectmen Chambers.

WELCOME: CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Ms. Harrison called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order 6:16 PM.
Selectmen present Catherine Harrison, Chair; Jack Wilhelm, Vice Chair; John Clemenzi, Clerk
Also Present: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public Information

The meeting was recorded with permission by HWCAM

Agenda

One Day Liquor License Application – Friends of Buker

Pingree Park Playground Report

Dugout Presentation

EXECUTIVE SESSION • Essex County Regional Emergency Communications Center

Vote: Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, the BOS enter into executive session under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, § 4. To discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto; and to include Fire Chief Bob Blanchard, Police Chief Tom Perkins, and RECC Staff and to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The Board returned to open session at 7:07 PM.

Ms. Harrison welcomed those in attendance.

PUBLIC INPUT – For items not on the agenda

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- League of Women Voter's Candidate Night – Wednesday night March 23 in Bessie Buker Multi-Purpose Room
- Warrant Hearing – Monday, March 28 in Bessie Buker Multi-Purpose Room at 7 pm
- Warrant and Annual Report to be delivered this weekend by the Scouts and are posted are on the web site
- WVIS Lunch - Saturday, April 2 at Bessie Buker Multi-Purpose Room from 12 to 1 pm before TM
- Annual Town Meeting - Saturday April 2 in the Perkins Auditorium, Bessie Buker School at 1 pm
- Annual Town Elections - Thursday April 7 at Town Hall from 7 am to 8 pm

REPORTS

Town Administrator – Update

- Mr. Lombardi recognized Jackie Bresnahan for her work on preparing the Town Report and Warrant
- Tony Fields has been hired as the interim Land Use Coordinator. Mr. Fields was a Planning Director who is now consulting for municipalities. Mr. Fields will be in the office Mondays and Thursdays and will assist with the Land Use meetings. The position has been posted. It is anticipated to have someone in the position in May / June
- Firefighter Anthony Dellacroe successfully completed the Mass Firefighter Academy
- Nicci Roebuck was hired as the Town Administrator's Executive Assistant; she will start next week.

Ms. Roebuck is a Wenham Resident. Catherine Tinsley was recognized for serving as interim the past few months.

- Police Officer Steve Farinato tendered his resignation as a full time Officer effective April 3, 2016. This position will be posted and filled as soon as possible.
- The Historic Commission was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to hire a consultant to inventory the homes built prior to 1900 in Town that are outside of the historic district. Community Preservation Funds were used to match the State grant for a total of \$20,000.
- Green Communities project- A grant was received from the Department of Energy Resources for a Feasibility Study at the Iron Rail. The analysis done proved the capital improvement would take too long to recoup the energy savings and the grant to fund the capital improvement was denied for that project. The schools have been working to upgrade energy management system at the middle/ high school for significant operational savings. Because both Towns are designated as Green Communities, Hamilton & Wenham will be submitting the grant on behalf of the School. The grant is \$500,000.
- Rain Barrel Program – Wenham and Hamilton are partnering together again this year to offer rain barrels at a reduced price of \$70 each. Barrel pick up is April 23.
- Lakeview Development – Atlantic Tambone had a preliminary meeting with the Planning Board before the formal process starts.
- Mr. Lombardi is attending the North East Regional Summit Conference in Annapolis April 21

NEW BUSINESS

Essex County Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC)

Present for RECC: Shad Ahmed Executive Director of RECC; Alyson Dell Isola, Assistant Director of Administration for the RECC; Dave Spinosa, Director of Communications

Mr. Ahmed gave an overview assessment of the RECC noting both he and Ms. Dell Isola are relatively new to the RECC. His overview included an assessment of current procedures by conducting interviews, making community visits, and speaking with the Town Administrations.

Mr. Ahmed explained that the wireless center and the radio room are two separate operations and how the center will benefit financially when the operational costs are separated.

The radio room receives calls from the five communities and dispatches to fire/police.

The wireless center handles the 911 calls from 69 communities in Massachusetts that previously was handled by the State Police; this is funded through State 911 and is being negotiated.

The Sheriff has been supportive to the RECC and continues to consider ways to improve the RECC and determine what the true costs are and take a more realistic approach.

A study of the infrastructure and services was recently approved and grant funding continues to be sought.

The RECC continues to find ways to improve efficiencies through training, pursuing accreditation, moving toward more regionalization, and improve transparency.

The meeting was open to the Board for questions.

Mr. Wilhelm questioned the finances of the RECC, specifically asking Mr. Ahmed to comment on disparaging comments in the Salem News article about the RECC regarding financial short falls of hundreds of thousands of dollars and the City of Beverly exiting the program leaving the impression the RECC is “a house of cards” and asked them to respond to some of those comments.

Mr. Ahmed responded that this is a significantly robust operation and they need to identify costs associated with the operation to improve the financials of the operation and coordinate true costs by streamlining costs associated with each operation. He reminded the Board that the Sheriff is a partner in the operation and is adamant that the cost of the wireless center will not come back to the communities.

Mr. Wilhelm asked for a separate meeting specifically to talk about the finances of the RECC, noting his concern that less communities are participating than expected and how this impacts the future budget.

Mr. Ahmed said he could come back late spring / early summer with assurances of the funding levels and budgets for the next couple of years.

Mr. Clemenzi observed regionalization is common throughout the country and questioned why the RECC “appears to be reinventing the wheel” and further suggested the RECC looks closer at other regional centers.

One Day Liquor License Request

The Friends of Buker have requested a One-day Liquor License for April 1, 2016 for a fund raiser event at the Wenham Museum. Jessica Connors was present to speak to this application saying this is for a fund raiser to benefit school programs such as field trips, and cultural enrichment.

VOTE: Mr. Clemenzi moved, and it was seconded, to approve a One Day Liquor License for Friday April 1, 2016 for the Friends of Buker fund raiser event at the Wenham Museum. The motion carried unanimously.

Appointments

- Fire Chief: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded to appoint the Robert Blanchard as Fire Chief for the Town of Wenham for a one-year term to expire March 31, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.
- Building Inspector: Mr. Wilhelm moved and It was seconded to appoint Charles Brett as the building inspector for the Town of Wenham for a one-year term to expire March 31, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.
- Interim Town Moderator: Mr. Wilhelm moved and it was seconded, to appoint Anthony Feeberry as interim town moderator effective immediately until a new moderator is elected and qualified. The motion carried unanimously.
- HW Cultural Council: Mr. Wilhelm moved and it was seconded to appoint Samantha Drislane to the HW Cultural Council for a three-year term through June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Input on Grassy Roots’ Request for a Liquor License and Special Act Legislation

Jenny Grammas, owner of Grassy Roots was present.

Ms. Harrison reviewed the owner of Grassy Roots is seeking a retail liquor license to sell beer and wine. This is a two-step process: first Town Meeting must authorize the BOS to petition the legislature for a special act to give Wenham a new liquor license. Ms. Harrison went on to explain that should that be successful, the second process would be the application process, including public hearings.

Ms. Harrison opened the meeting for comment. There were no comments/ questions.

Acceptance of Donation to Enon 1 - Building Gift Account

Mr. Clemenzi identified a \$300 donation as made specifically to Enon 1 and expressed his appreciation to the donor, Leo Maestranzi.

The Community Preservation Committee is recommending to Town Meeting that \$50,000 of Community Preservation funds be used for the design and construction of a building to house Wenham’s antique fire pumper Enon 1.

VOTE: Mr. Clemenzi moved and it was seconded, the BOS create a gift & donation account under MGL Ch. 44 Sec 53A for the purpose of funding design, construction, and maintenance of the facility to house Enon 1, the Town’s historic fire pumper. Interest on any such funds shall remain with and become a part of this gift & donation account and may be expended without further appropriations. The motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Mr. Clemenzi moved and it was seconded, the BOS move to accept the \$300 donation for the Enon 1 Building Gift and Donations Account. The motion carried unanimously.

League of Women Voters (LWV) Citizen’s Engagement Initiative

League Board Members Present: Carin Kale, President and Dacia Rubel

Ms. Kale and Ms. Rubel talked about the goal of the Citizen’s Engagement Initiative to inspire citizens and future voters to participate in local government and to learn about and encourage democracy.

Some recent and future events include:

- Civil Bee – raised funds to support 8th graders trip to Washington DC
- Voter Registrations – registered over 88 new voters. Town Clerk, Dianne Bucco was recognized for her assistance
- Working with library to plan a community read this summer

APPROVED 5.17.16

- Hold mock elections with the schools in the fall
- Plan a seminar of citizenship with senior class
- Special Speaker event on April 28 for local officials: Ed Davis, former Police Commissioner, “How one person can make a difference” and September 8 Professor Eric Lou, former White House Police Advisory will speak.
- The LWV has a new Facebook Page.

Pingree Park Playground Inspection Report

Present: Sean Timmons, Recreation Director

Mr. Timmons told the BOS that the Recreation Department commissioned an inspection of the Pingree Park Playground two months ago by a company that specializes in playground inspections and equipment.

A lengthy report has been submitted. This report is categorized e.g. playground protective surface, fall zones, safety of equipment, etc. and scored numbers one to three with number one priority being the most concerning.

Mr. Timmons referenced a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted some of the Priority 1 Deficiencies.

- The Pingree Playground is a 25 to 30-year-old wooden structure and not in compliance with safety codes.
- The sand depth inconsistently 1 to 4 inches. It should be 12 inches in all areas.
- The wooden posts of the structure are rotted, and splintered.
- The equipment should be distanced appropriately from trees and other structures to avoid accidents

Mr. Timmons noted the DPW has done a great job maintaining and caring for the playground over the years, extending the useful life but the bottom line is this playground is unsafe and it is recommended to immediately close the playground and consider a replacement playground.

Mr. Clemenzi questioned repairing the playground. Mr. Timmons noted that although this may be a possibility, it is not recommended due to the age and material of the structure.

Mr. Clemenzi and Mr. Lombardi will meet with DPW Director and Sean Timmons for a plan going forward.

With a report that this playground is unsafe, the BOS concurred to immediately close the playground.

VOTE: Mr. Clemenzi moved, and it was seconded, the BOS accept the report on the playground at Pingree Park and authorize the immediate closure of all play structures in the Pingree Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Pingree Park Little League Dugout Proposal

Present: Matt Daniels, Board of Directors for the Hamilton Wenham Little League, Safety Director

Mr. Daniels talked in length about the benefits of a dugout to provide protection to the children playing baseball from miss-directed equipment and to provide shade.

The proposal is to replace the undersized metal dugouts with 8' x 20' prefab dugout building on a 12-inch concrete slab.

Mr. Daniels went on to review the costs associated with six new dugouts is a total of \$38,000.

They will equip the two fields in Wenham and one field in Hamilton with two dugouts each.

The project is expected to be completed by April 15 to commemorate the HW little Leagues' 60th anniversary.

Mr. Daniels said the Little League will donate the structures to the Towns upon completion. He noted that maintenance is done by volunteers on the weekend and the Little League is prepared to take on any maintenance costs.

VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved and it was seconded to approve the presentation and installation of the Little League dugouts subject to in Appropriate licensing agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Patton Park Veteran's Memorial Pool Project Update – Sean Timmons

Mr. Timmons reported on the work done at the Veterans' Memorial Pool saying all the demolition work is done, the site is graded, the foundations and footings are poured, and the underground services installed.

He went on to say the bathhouse will be framed next and then the digging for the pool will commence, noting that once the cement is poured the pool is filled with water but cannot be used for swimming for a period of time.

The project is on schedule and on budget; there are no delays to date.

Clarification of Application of Sign Section of Zoning Bylaw

Ms. Harrison reviewed that a political sign was mistakenly removed, by Town Employees, from private property a few weeks ago. The BOS sought legal counsel on the the Town's sign policy. The policy is not applicable to private property including easements. The policy will be enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Pleasant Pond Intermunicipal Agreement

Mr. Wilhelm reviewed that residents from Hamilton are allowed to purchase parking stickers for Pleasant Pond Beach, but the revenue from the stickers does not cover their portion of the shared operating costs. The cost will be apportioned by the number of stickers sold to Hamilton residents.

The Hamilton BOS approved the agreement at their meeting last week.

VOTE: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, to approve and sign the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Town of Hamilton and Wenham regarding Pleasant Pond (summer program), effective immediately (March 15, 2016) through June 30, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Call Firefighter Internship Program

Fire Chief Blanchard was present to talk about the Call Firefighter Internship Program. The intention of this program is to give candidates interested in joining the fire department the opportunity to see if they really want to make the commitment before the Town makes a financial investment in their training.

The pilot program is a volunteer, non-paid, three-month trial under the supervision of a Fire Officer at all times, mostly to observe with minimal training. The internship is a prerequisite to being appointed.

All current applicants were interested in such a program.

The Board requested an update on the program in three months.

VOTE: Mr. Wilhelm moved, and it was seconded, the BOS adopt the Call Firefighter internship program policy as presented dated March 15, 2016. A discussion regarding the details of the program followed. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The BOS are posted to meet on March 30 for the Warrant Hearing and April 2 prior to Town Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Selectmen unanimously adjourned at 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley
5.11.16