

TOWN OF WENHAM

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting of June 23, 2015  
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, June 23, 2015 at 7 PM in the Selectmen Chambers.

**WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE AGENDA**

With a quorum present, Ms. Harrison called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order 7:01 PM.

Selectmen present Catherine Harrison, Chair; John Clemenzi, Clerk

Absent: Selectman Jack Wilhelm

Also Present: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Recording Secretary

Public Information:

Agenda

Chapter 35 Acts of 2015 (Bill no.1918)

Announcements

Appointments

Grant application

Minutes (held)

MOA- Finance Director Contract

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Clemenzi reported there is a meeting tomorrow night to make a decision on the candidate to fill the Veteran's Agent position.

Senator Bruce Tarr & Representative Brad Hill were present to report that Home Rule Petition & Senate Bill No. 1918 to allow the Town of Wenham to pay for restoration work done on grave stones at the Wenham Cemetery in 2013, held for payment due to the procurement laws, was signed by Governor Baker and put into law as Chapter 35 of the Acts of 2015 allowing the Town to pay (\$30,000) for the work done. The bill was co-sponsored by Representative Hill, who was credited for moving the Bill through the House very quickly. Representative Hill recognized and thanked Selectman Harrison for testifying at the State House on behalf of the home rule petition.

Representative Hill spoke to the culvert on Route 22 that is in dire need of repair, saying that he is seeking state funding through the Department of Transportation to assist the Town of Wenham in the repair costs. Officials from the Department of Transportation will be in Wenham Friday to see the culvert and to meet with the Department of Public Works Director & Town Administrator. Representative Hill and Senator Tarr will monitor this closely.

Representative Hill and Senator Tarr gave a brief update on the budget saying the Conference Committee continues to meet; the goal is to submit the budget to the Governor by July 1, 2015. A supplemental budget was signed to keep funding for local government in the event the budget was not signed in time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board of Selectmen Summer Schedule

The BOS will meet:

- July 21, 2015 - Regular meeting

- July 24, 2015- BOS retreat
- July 29, 2015 –Joint meeting with the School Committee (tentative)
- August 4 & 18 - Regular meetings (tentative)
- An executive session meeting with counsel will be scheduled

School Committee Vacancy – There is a Wenham vacancy on the HW School Committee; candidates are being sought to fill the position through to the next election. Letters of Interest should be submitted by July 22, 2015 to the Superintendent's office.

Sign Policy – Ms. Harrison reviewed community signs that had historically been allowed on the Car Barn Lot, are no longer permitted as this is now the Veteran's Memorial Park.

A number of signs have recently been placed in this location and as a reminder, Ms. Harrison announced that signs are not permitted and will be removed. The BOS are considering an alternate location.

Community Block Party & Two Town Celebration – The Community House is hosting a “two-town” block party at Patton Park, Saturday June 27, 2015 starting at 4 pm.

Water Ban Mandatory – The water ban has been raised and none essential water use is prohibited; hand watering is allowed from 5 pm to 9 am.

## REPORTS

### Town Administrator

Mr. Lombardi's report included:

- The 100-year old culvert on Essex Street has been in need of repair for the past ten years and is being considered for state funding. He will continue to keep the BOS updated.
- The Baker Administration formed a Community Compact to allow towns/cities to have access to technical assistance and grant funding to make improvements (in up to 3 area's of municipal government), set goals and best practices. The program gives communities “points” for signing up which assist the town with future grants. Mr. Lombardi will have more information at the July meeting to further discuss participating and identify goals.
- Mr. Lombardi, along with Ms. Wills, Mr. Gasperoni met with Department of Revenue to discuss participating in the newly formed Tax Payer Assistance Program. The program is designed to assistance municipalities set the tax rate up to a month earlier. This will help the town manage schedules during budget season. Wenham will be one of 30 communities enrolled in the program.
- There are four new raised planting beds with vegetable gardens at the entrance of the Council on Aging (COA), and a professional botchy court, which is open for public use. George Ricker and COA Director Jim Reynolds and were recognized and thanked for donating supplies and their time in the construction of the court.
- Regarding the question if the BOS can appoint themselves to a committee, Mr. Lombardi reported it is clear the BOS cannot appoint themselves to a paid or non-paid position. The towns past practice of appointing the BOS as i.e. fence viewers will be changed going forward.
- A Selectman can be appointed as an ex officio on the Building Committee as stated in the original charge.
- There is no local authorization for a Selectmen to be appointed as an ex officio to the Iron Rail Committee.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Appointments – Town Officials, Boards, Committees

1. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Diana Lang to the Council on Aging** for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.
2. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Jacob Kreyling as a Wenham Firefighter** for a 1-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016. It was unanimous to do so.
3. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Ann Brainard to the HW Cultural Council** a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.
4. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Denis Curran to the HW Joint Recreation Committee** for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.
5. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Suzanne Thomas to the Wenham Housing Authority** for the remainder of the unexpired term until the Town Elections in April 2016. It was unanimous to do so.

6. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Don Killam to the WISSH Committee** for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.
7. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Cal Perkins to the WISSH Committee** for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.
8. Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint **Candy Kuebel to the WISSH Committee** for a 3-year term beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. It was unanimous to do so.

Logan Community Advisory Committee – Jill Romano (appointment)

The Town of Wenham has not previously had a representative on the Logan Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Romano was present to speak to this appointment and explained that since moving to town seven years ago, she has seen, and confirmed, a change in the Logan Airport traffic going over Wenham has increased from 17% to 25% of air traffic from Logan Airport.

Ms. Romano stated her interest in serving on the Logan Community Advisory Committee, noting there is little representation from the North Shore. It is her opinion that someone from Wenham should be on this committee to equalize representation in an effort to equalize the air traffic, and keep the town informed on action taken by Massport. Senator Tarr and Representative Hill have offered their assistance.

Ms. Romano informed the Board that she met with a representative from Massport, who explained changes made by the FAA and NTSB to use satellite technology, along with new rulings, has impacted the air traffic over Wenham - mainly because Route 1 A is on the center line of runway 22, which is the default primary runway and is used more in the summer due to the southwest airflow.

Mr. Lombardi confirmed his recommendation the BOS appoint Jill Romano to the Logan Community Advisory Committee and will draft a letter to the Logan Community Advisory informing them of Ms. Romano's appointment.

*VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to appoint Jill Romano to the Logan Community Advisory Committee for a 3-year term beginning immediately on June 23, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.*

Declaration of Surplus Computer Equipment – Recommendation of Micro Support Group

Micro Support Group inventoried the Town's computer equipment and identified unserviceable computers in the police department. Because of the sensitive information stored on those computers, the equipment must be destroyed, and therefore declared surplus by the BOS.

*VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, to declare the attached equipment and fixed asset listing (police Department) as surplus and authorize the proper disposal under Mass General Laws and Regulations. The motion carried unanimously.*

Iron Rail Technical Assistance Grant

Mr. Clemenzi reviewed the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant is available to be used to fund a consultant to evaluate the boiler/control system at the Iron Rail Building to determine if an upgrade is feasible/ warranted, what cost savings may be realized, and make a recommendation to improve efficiencies. Mr. Clemenzi added the soft costs of maintenance and manpower would also be saved with a new system. The Iron Rail Commission supports the grant application. It was note the Town could then apply for a grant through the Green Communities for the capital improvement costs.

*VOTE: Mr. Clemenzi moved, and it was seconded to approve the submission of the Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant for \$12,500 for the Iron Rail steam boiler conversion engineering study listed on the grant application. The motion carried unanimously.*

Other Matters Not Anticipated - There were no other matters to come before the board.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to come before the board.

**MINUTES** - April 21, 2015; May 5, 2015; May 5, 2015 ES; May 19, 2015; May 19, 2015 ES; June 16, 2015  
The minutes were held for review and deferred to the next meeting; no action was taken.

APPROVED – 8.18.2015

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Contract negotiations with Finance Director Angel Wills

*VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved at 8:06 pm, and it was seconded, the BOS enter into executive session as allowed under (2) To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personal, and to return to open session for purpose taking action if appropriate, and adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.*

The BOS returned to open session at 9:23 PM to take action on contract negotiations with Angel Wills as agreed in executive session.

*VOTE: Ms. Harrison moved, and it was seconded, that the BOS approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Wenham and Angel Wills, Finance Director/ Accountant to be dated June 23, 2015, as presented with one modification to "Essential Duties" section first paragraph to read:*

*"The Finance Director / Accountant shall be responsible for supervising the operations of the finance department including the Treasurer/Collector and performs all relate duties under the general supervision of the Town Administrator."*

*This is a three-year contract, for a full time position (37.5 hours a week) with the Finance Director/ Accountant at an annual salary of \$77,805. The motion carried unanimously.*

**ADJOURNEMENT**

*Mr. Clemenzi moved to adjourn at 9:26 pm and it was unanimous to do so.*

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley  
7.12.15