

Board of Selectmen, February 7, 2012

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

Present: Anthony V. Vegnani, Chairman; John F. Danehey, Shawn Harris, Richard W. Murray

Patricia A. Vinchesi, Town Administrator

Press: Patriot Ledger, Scituate Mariner, Globe South

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA/ WALK-IN PERIOD

Mr. Harris made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ACCEPT the Agenda for February 7, 2012. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. Discussion – Item #11 “Discussion/ Public Building Needs” will be heard after Item #9 and before Item #10 this evening. No further discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. Bernice Brown, Town Clerk, was present at tonight’s meeting. Ms. Brown recently submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen announcing that she would not run for re-election in May 2012. The Board thanked Ms. Brown for her professionalism, considerable contribution to maintaining and preserving the Town Archives, the organization and efficiency of elections and Town Meeting and her pleasant demeanor welcoming everyone to Town Hall. Ms. Brown thanked the Board and stated that it had been “an honor to serve as Town Clerk” and that she loved her job.

4. MEET APPLICANT/ Commission on Disabilities

The applicant was unable to be present this evening. The Board noted that the applicant’s qualifications were excellent and that she would be a good addition to the Commission.

5. INTERVIEW TOWN ACCOUNTANT FINALIST

Ms. Vinchesi introduced Town Accountant finalist, Meg LaMay. Ms. Vinchesi reviewed the application and interview process. Ms. LaMay has her undergraduate degree from Holy Cross and a Master’s Degree from Suffolk University. She passed the CPA exam and worked for a public accounting firm for five years and most recently has worked as the Town Accountant in the Town of Hanson for the past five and one half years. The Board reviewed Ms. LaMay’s qualifications and spoke to her about Scituate’s enterprise funds.

Mr. Vegnani asked if Hanson had a Financial Forecast Committee similar Scituate’s? Ms. LaMay answered “no, I basically was the financial forecast committee”! She was asked about the commute from her home in Hanson to Scituate. Ms. LaMay stated that the commute was only thirty to forty minutes and not a problem. Mr. Harris noted that it is nice to have a candidate with experience in both the private and public sectors. Mr. Vegnani noted that Ms. LaMay comes very highly recommended and he thanked her attending tonight’s meeting.

6. INTERVIEW VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER FINALIST

Mr. Donald Knapp, 38 Satuit Trail, finalist for the Veterans Services Officer was present. Mr. Vegnani explained that the position was advertised and twelve people applied. Scituate is planning to “mirror” Hingham’s Veterans office and to “get up to speed” quickly. Mr. Knapp stated that he grew up in Scituate

and served in the Coast Guard in various locations, for 20+ years. He fully understands and supports good communication with all the veterans in our community. Mr. Danehey noted Mr. Knapp's familiarity with recent technologies and the way in which this will benefit this office.

7.REPORT/ LOGAN AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/ Gary Banks

Mr. Banks, Scituate's member on the Logan Airport Advisory Committee, reported on the many accomplishments of this Committee over the years. He noted the "good cooperation" between the FAA and Logan Airport. He stated that most jet noise is out over the ocean unless there is a nor'easter and runway 33 left must be used. He noted recent improvements to jet engines making them much quieter on long descents. Mr. Murray asked about the frequency of Committee meetings? Mr. Banks responded "once every couple of months".

8. DISCUSSION/VOTE/ ORDER TO LAY OUT STREETS & SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE/ Street Acceptance Committee

Mr. Kevin Cafferty, Engineering Division Supervisor, stated that the residents of Lauren and Ava Lanes have petitioned to have their "streets" made public ways. These are recently built subdivisions and the streets meet the proper "standard". Discussion continued on the sidewalks installed on nearby Tilden Road that were part of a mitigation effort by the subdivision developer.

Mr. Murray made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen DIRECT the Department of Public Works (DPW) to lay out the following ways and notify the abutting property owners by letter and by posted notice that it is the Board's intention to lay out the following streets as public ways at a public meeting on March 13, 2012 and to DIRECT the DPW to prepare the necessary lay out: Ava's Lane and Lauren Lane. SECONDED by

Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

9.DISCUSSION/ VOTE/ Change Order/ Waterline/ Surfside Road/ K. Cafferty

Mr. Cafferty explained that the Department of Public Works would like to replace an "ancient" water line on Surfside Road at the same time the new sewer main is installed. The cost of the new water line will come out of the Water Enterprise Fund. Betterments fund the new sewer line.

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to AWARD a Change Order to Albanese Brothers Inc. for the amount of \$389,136.69. SECONDED by Mr. Murray. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

11.DISCUSSION/ PUBLIC BUILDING NEEDS

Mr. Vegnani spoke about a meeting that the Selectmen hold annually to discuss the "upcoming year". This year, the condition and repair of public buildings was a focal point.

Gates Intermediate School, Town Hall, Police and Fire Stations were considered and a plan to move forward on examining the needs of affected departments. Mr. Vegnani spoke about the Gates Intermediate School feasibility study. The idea of moving the intermediate school to the Town Hall site to create a "campus" with the High School, Town Hall offices moving to the Gates Intermediate School site and a combined fire and police complex in the west end of Town where it is most needed were discussed. He noted that many surrounding Towns have launched similar plans. A phased plan will be considered and ultimately presented and voted at a Town Meeting. "The overall goal is to create a master plan to improve our schools, public safety and Town department space." Tonight's announcement will be the first of many opportunities for the public to learn and participate in this process going forward.

10. DISCUSSION/ VOTE/ FY13 BUDGETS & ARTICLES

310 South Shore Regional School

Mr. Jack Manning, the Town's representative to the South Shore Regional School, stated that the School's FY13 budget has increased by approximately 4.8%. The cost per student ranges between \$13,075 and \$15,000. "Building stock and materials add a lot to this budget." Ms. Vinchesi stated that this budget is \$8,700 higher than what was budgeted back in the fall.

650 Beautification

Ms. Donna Bangert, Chairperson of the Beautification Commission, read the group's mission statement. The Commission oversees thirty volunteers who plant and maintain thirty "adopt-a-lots" in Town. The Commission is requesting an increase in their "bottom line" for a total of \$20,500. The additional funds will allow them to plant the train islands. Ms. Bangert noted that MBTA mitigation funds originally funded such areas. The Town Administrator increased the Commission's budget by \$4,000, but Ms. Bangert does not believe this will be enough. The Board will consider this request and thanked Ms. Bangert and the entire Commission for the considerable work that they do. Discussion continued on the possibility of Kennedy's Country Gardens taking over the planting and maintenance of the center area of the Greenbush roundabout.

691 Historical

Mr. Dave Ball and Ms. Betty Meisner, Historical Society, were present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Ball read the mission statement and listed the Town owned, historical buildings. They are asking for a \$5,000 increase to their budget to cover some of the building maintenance previously funded by MBTA mitigation monies. The need for security at the Lighthouse was discussed.

541 Council on Aging

Ms. Florence Choate, Director of the Council on Aging, stated that the Senior Center has been very busy and the groups have enjoyed using the Harbor Community Building. Ms. Choate reviewed the various ongoing programs. A twelve passenger van has been ordered and the GATRA transportation service was briefly discussed. Ms. Vinchesi complimented Ms. Choate for making application to and receiving the formula grant on a yearly basis.

630 Recreation

Ms. Jennifer Vitelli, Recreation Director, and Mr. Chris Roberts, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, were present at tonight's meeting to speak about programming, fields and lifeguards. Ms. Vitelli noted the Department's recent recognition by the State regarding programming in concert with the CORSE Foundation. Mr. Harris noted the department's high number of participants and Mr. Murray noted the 32,000 hours of yearly programming. Mr. Vegnani stated that the budget was level funded and also the fact that much of this budget is "self-funded". The Selectmen congratulated this Department on their excellent work.

Discussion continued on work of the Beach Sticker Committee. The month of March now annually marks the expiration of beach and transfer station stickers although transfer station stickers will be honored through June 15th for this year only. Stickers will be available on-line starting March 12th. Resident Matt Brown designed the new stickers for this year. Stickers are available from the Town Clerk's office during Town Hall hours, on-line and by mail. Residents are encouraged to make their sticker purchases early. There is also a computer kiosk for stickers in the front lobby at Town Hall.

610 Library

Ms. Kathy Meeker, Library Director, spoke about our Library placing 7th out of 28 applicants for a large

State grant applicable in FY2015 (July 2014). A fundraising effort in anticipate of receiving the grant is now underway. The Library was busier this year, which was quite an accomplishment considering it was open eight(8) hours less a week. A clerical correction was made increasing this budget's bottom line by \$4,000.00.

510 Health

Ms. Jennifer Sullivan, Director of Public Health, and Mr. Russ Clark, Member of the Board of Health, were present at tonight's meeting. Ms. Sullivan spoke about the need to close some Scituate beaches last summer due to the results of water tests. Seaweed may have affected some of these results as well as bacteria in storm drains near some beaches. Several departments will be discussing the seaweed issue in the future. The Department is requesting more hours for the public health nurse. A revolving fund has been created for the flu vaccine, which should improve the overall process of acquisition and distribution.

549 Commission on Disabilities

This budget remains the same each year - \$5,075.00.

Capital Budget Review

Ms. Vinchesi gave an overview of the process which now encompasses a five(5) year Plan. Requests for capital projects are rated and the incorporated into the Plan. She spoke about long-term capital projects and the scheduled replacement of infrastructure and vehicles. Aggressive infrastructure programs for sewer and water are in place and we are now looking at Town buildings. Ms. Vinchesi noted that because the Town is in a good Free Cash position, it can do a lot more "pay as you go" capital projects. The Capital Planning

Committee received \$8.8 million in capital requests and the Town Administrator recommends a\$3.837 million Capital Plan. The requests will be reviewed by the Committee and then they(the Committee) will present the Plan to the Board of Selectmen. Discussion continued on Town owned buildings.

11. APPOINTMENTS – Commission on Disabilities, Town Accountant, Veterans Services Officer

The Town Accountant position was temporarily held.

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen APPOINT Christine Duane to the Commission on Disabilities. SECONDED by Mr. Harris. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

Mr. Murray made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen APPOINT Donald Knapp as Veterans Services Officer. SECONDED by Mr. Harris. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

13.VOTE / TEMPORARY POPULATION/ A.B.C.C.

Mr. Harris made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to estimate the increased resident population of the Town of Scituate at 28,500 as of July 10, 2012. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

14. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Murray announced that the polling hours at the High School gymnasium for the presidential primary will be from 7AM to 8PM. The Selectmen read Valentine's Day cards sent to them by the Fourth Grade Class at the Wampatuck School.

Mr. Vegnani announced that the next Selectmen's meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Many residents signed wind turbine blades a couple of weeks ago thanks to the efforts of Al Bangert. He noted a recent fundraiser at the Gates Intermediate School at which our cameraman, Zach, played with his jazz band. Andrea's Auction had a very successful fundraiser at the Barker Tavern recently. Boys and girls basketball teams are doing very well.

15. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Murray read a letter from Water Resource Committee Chairman, Jeff Rosen, complimenting Mr. Jim DeBarros, Water Division Supervisor. Mr. Murray read a letter from resident Robert Groebel thanking Water Division employee, Ms. Nora Finnegan, for her help and excellent "follow through". A letter was also read from Jack and Alice Weafer, 111 Gannett Road, thanking the Russell Jones construction

company for successfully transplanting their rose bushes during the Gannett Road pedestrian path construction. They fully support the new pathway, as well.

16. MINUTES

Mr. Danehey made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ACCEPT the minutes of January 24, 2012. SECONDED by Mr. Harris. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

17. LABOR NEGOTIATIONS (Union) & CONSIDERATION/ PURCHASE/ EXCHANGE/ LEASE/ VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY (Executive Sessions)

Mr. Vegnani stated that the Board would re-enter Regular Session at the conclusion of the Executive Sessions this evening. The Board of Selectmen entered into Executive Session via roll call at 9:25 PM. The Board of Selectmen exited Executive Session via roll call at 10:25 and called Regular Session back to order.

Vote: Town Accountant

Mr. Murray made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to APPOINT Meg LaMay as Town Accountant and APPROVE the Town Accountant's Employment Contract as presented. SECONDED by Mr. Danehey. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Murray made a MOTION that the Board of Selectmen VOTE to ADJOURN the meeting at 10:25 PM. SECONDED by Mr. Harris. No discussion. Unanimous vote. (4-0)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Anthony V. Vegnani, Chairman

Richard W. Murray

John F. Danehey

Joseph P. Norton

Shawn Harris

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberley A. Donovan, Exec. Assistant