

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
Selectmen's Meeting Room
Executive Session – 8:45 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by roll call vote at 8:45 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares— FIRE and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. As the chair so declared, the following members were present and voted as follows:

Richard Murray was excused.

Vegnani aye

O'Toole aye

Harris aye

Danehey aye

Also present was Patricia Vinchesi, Richard Judge, Fire Chief and Neil Duggan, Building Commissioner

Clapp Road Exchange of Land

Selectman Danehey recused himself from this discussion as he is involved with the developer in a legal matter.

Neil Duggan, Building Commissioner informed Board members that he was contacted recently about the potential development of 25 acres of land off Clapp Road by Scott Livingstone. Mr. Livingstone developed Whitcomb Pines, a 40B project. The subdivision would involve approximately 200 homes and the developer was interested in a “friendly 40B” application. After consulting with the Town Administrator it was agreed that she would meet with Mr. Livingstone and Mr. Duggan to discuss the project and discuss whether the project had to be a 40B as much more could be achieved without the state intervention. Part of Mr. Livingstone's proposal is to ask the Town to do a land swap so he has better access to Route 3A. The land he would swap is approximately five acres of conservation land off Clapp Road. Because it is for conservation purposes, the Route 3A land, part of the Ellis Property on the west side of the highway, would require Conservation Commission approval, town meeting approval, the Legislature's approval, Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources approval and signature by the Governor. Mr. Duggan informed members that Town Counsel said this should not be a problem if more acreage is going into conservation than coming out. The process would take 6-9 months. The Board

reviewed the market up map of the areas involved provided by Mr. Duggan and we agreeable at this stage of the process.

Fire Contract Discussion

Ms. Vinchesi informed members that mediation was scheduled for May 9. Staffing and the cost of overtime remain a key issue. Chief Judge was asked to explain to Board members the high use of sick leave in the department which was well over other town departments. Chief Judge stated that the average was 9.6 days. This directly led to the overtime being \$116,000 over-budget projected through June 30. The Board expressed its dismay over this issue and asked the chief what he was doing to address it and the budget shortfall. The chief provided some answers and was going to meet tomorrow with personnel who were over the average. Selectman Vegnani noted that all the other union contracts were settled but that contract negotiations with the fire union were not conducive to effective operations. Selectman Danehey stated that it was imperative that the second ambulance run 24/7 and that the Town wanted to provide for this and fund it but the current costs in the union contract were making any improvements difficult. Board members expressed ongoing concern with the matter and asked that he return in a month or two to update them on improvements.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Patricia Vinchesi

Recorder