

MEETING**BOARD OF SELECTMEN****JULY 20, 2016**

Members present: Christopher A. Rucho Barur R. Rajeshkumar
Siobhan M. Bohnson John W. Hadley
Members absent: Patrick J. Crowley

Mr. Rucho convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

No one is present this evening for this agenda item.

Read and acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the regular session meeting minutes of July 6, 2016, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the executive session meeting minutes of July 6, 2016, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

Joint Meeting with School Committee to Fill Vacancy until the June 6, 2017 Town Election

Mr. Rucho read the following public notice. Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen shall be accepting applications and letters of interest from registered voters of the Town of West Boylston to serve on the West Boylston School Committee until the 2017 Annual Town Election. Applications or letters of interest will be accepted at or addressed to: Board of Selectmen, 140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, MA 01583. Applications will be accepted until 6:30 p.m. on July 20, 2016, and the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee will meet at 7:15 p.m. to interview candidates and jointly appoint a candidate to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Election. For additional information please contact the Office of the Board of Selectmen at 774.261.4012, Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman, Board of Selectmen posted on July 7, 2016.

Mr. Rucho announced that we have three candidates, however, we found out this afternoon that the School Committee is not available because they do not have a quorum. We will reschedule and tentatively go with August 17th as one of the candidates is on vacation on August 3rd, the Board's next regular meeting. Once all candidates are confirmed for the 17th, we will contact the School Committee. Mr. Rucho noted that if needed, we might have to conduct interviews over two nights.

Municipal Light Board - Request Board support for Causeway Improvement Project

Ms. Scheipers reports that last week she and Mr. Hadley met with a member of the Light Board and Manger Jon Fitch. They asked if we could put this question to the Board. They are asking Verizon and Charter to relocate their lines over the causeway from aerial to underground to beautify the area. Going forward with the project makes no sense unless electric, telephone and cable are all willing to be included. They have some preliminary cost estimates for what it would cost the MLP to do so, however they need more time to get a firm handle on the estimates, and asked to postpone this discussion. Ms. Bohnson asked if we think the project will be done within six months. Ms. Scheipers advised that the MLP will probably put the conduit underground now and negotiate with the other two utilities to get their wires into the underground conduit. Charter will pass the cost onto the MLP.

Introduction of Vernon Jackson, Director of Public Works

Ms. Scheipers introduced Vernon 'Butch' Jackson to the Board. He came to us with fantastic references which include the Town of Sturbridge and Lynch Construction. The Board has no questions for Mr. Jackson and look forward to having a good relationship with the new Director.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review, approve and sign August 8, 2016 Special Town Meeting Warrant (Alternate dates, August 10 & August 15)

As was voted at the previous meeting, the warrant has one article, which is a TIF agreement with a manufacturing company coming from Worcester.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve and sign the warrant, second by Mr. Rajeshkumar. Ms. Scheipers advised that we are not able to release the name of the company at this time and more information will be out before town meeting. She asked to hold a special Board meeting next Wednesday, July 27th at 6:00 to discuss the TIF with the Finance Committee and Board of Assessors. By then we should have the agreement for the Board to vote on. Right now we have a draft and by Monday we should have most of the terms and conditions spelt out. We will also be sending out an informational mailer to all the households, which gives the article language, information about the company and the TIF. She encouraged anyone who has questions to email or call her. The company will be making a presentation at town meeting. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

2. Review draft TIF Agreement (tentative) - The agreement is not ready at this time.

3. Consider signing Change Order for Sidewalk Project

Ms. Lucier explained that the Change Order will extend the granite curbing from the maintenance road for the girls's softball field to the driveway for the Edwards School. From the road, we will have granite curbing, an area of grass leading to the sidewalk with another strip of grass just outside the fence around Pride Park. The Police Chief is also pleased with this change as we have an issue with residents parking along that section of Crescent Street. The change order is in the amount of \$28,001.00. We have been able to roll all our funding over into FY17. Ms. Lucier reports that she is trying to work with the state to get approval to extend the deadline from October 9th. If we could, she would like to use the remainder of the grant funds to improve the sidewalk along Central Street near the library. We will be working on getting some cost estimates.

Motion Mr. Hadley to sign the Change Order, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

4. Consider accepting \$88.90 in free will donations from the July 3 Concert on the Common on behalf of the town

Motion Ms. Bohnson to accept the donations, seconded by Mr. Hadley, all in favor.

5. Consider approving FISP Invoices (Cardinal (OPM) \$13,325.00)

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the invoice, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

6. Consider the following sewer abatements: 50 Yorktown, 14 Carol Drive, 39 Horseshoe, 19 Fort Niagara, 1 Pinewood and 127 Central

This item will be passed over as we have confirmed that they are in compliance with the policy and will not need an abatement from the Board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1.2016 Community Video

Ms. Scheipers reports that the town's main web page has a link for a Community Video which was done a number of years ago. We have been contacted by the company, CGI Communications, to update the video at no cost to the town and they would seek sponsorships from town businesses. If the Board approves the request, a letter will be sent out under the Chair's name to all businesses. Ms. Scheipers recommends the Board approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter. Ms. Bohnson would like to see the video before it is released. Mr. Hadley noted that the last time some of the vendors didn't think it was fair what they received for what they paid. All segments of the video will be redone.

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign the letter for the businesses, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor. Ms. Bohnson wants to insure that if they do not get local businesses to buy into this that it will still be free to the town. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

2. DEP response on landfill testing and new findings

Ms. Scheipers met with the DEP and they are going to be asking us to look to see what we can do to better identify the location where those exceedings are happening. She spoke with the testing company who has been in contact with DEP. They suggested adding two wells to the six already there and increasing the testings. Our testing company is putting together a cost proposal. This will be an addition cost we did not anticipate in the FY17 budget. Mr. Hadley asked if this would have any impact on the Light Plant lease. Ms. Scheipers will reach out to them. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if there is any remedy for this. Ms. Scheipers explained that it may not require us to do anything. DEP is trying to get a sense of where this is coming from and worst case scenario we might be required to do some sort of treatment, however, it is a little premature. Mr. Rajeshkumar is concerned about run off to neighbors. Ms. Scheipers further explained that they feel the groundwater is going down hill to the reservoir and because the town well is in that area we need to confirm that it is not impacting that area. There is a lot of information we have to pull together. If we test more frequently it would give us better data and information on seasonal impacts. The DEP is giving us time to put together a plan and they understand this is something that will take time to do. There are no private wells in that area. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if we are required to post warning signs. Ms. Scheipers states no, not at this time. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if it will impact the MLP solar panels. Ms. Scheipers did discuss this and it would be no impact as they will not penetrate the landfill cap.

3. Complete Streets Policy accepted by state

Ms. Scheipers reports that we received notice that our plan was approved and we are now eligible to apply for technical assistance funds to develop our prioritization plan as a Tier 2 community. She has reached out to CMRPC on the application and will update the Board as needed.

4. Response to pedestrian crossing @ Franklin and Route 12

Several weeks ago the Board discussed installing a cross walk at Franklin Street and Route 12. The Police Chief was consulted and he stated that it would not be a safe area for a crosswalk because of the traffic. Mr. Hadley suggested asking the state for caution lights. Mr. Rucho pointed out that both sides of Franklin Street have handicapped ramps and suggested looking into a flashing light.

5. Jake Brake Signage.

Ms. Scheipers contacted one of the engineers at MassDOT who strongly recommends we do not install this signage. If a large truck were to get into an accident and the driver were to say he was in the accident because he was not able to stop because he was unable to use the Jake Brake, the town could be held liable for the outcome. We will not be moving forward with this signage.

6. The Police Department has acquire a decibel meter for use in identifying noise issues with motorcycles and other situations

7. WRTA New Bus Route

The WRTA has a new bus route starting August 27th. Information is posted on their website with more frequent pickups. Ms. Bohnson asked if we could post this on the town's website. They are also looking for people to participate in a public satisfaction survey.

Mr. Rucho asked if we received input on the Woodland/Pinecroft Intersection Project. Ms. Scheipers reports that the Police Chief concurs with the recommendation of MassDOT.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:

1. Concurrence on the appointment of Jeffrey Legendre, 64 Rivington Drive to the Parks Facilities Committee effective July 23, 2016 for a term to expire on April 30, 2017

Motion Mr. Hadley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

2. Concurrence on the appointment of Richard Simmarano as Provisional PGE Coordinator for a period of 6 months effective July 21, 2016 for a term to expire on January 20, 2017 with a \$2,400 stipend for the six-month period

Motion Mr. Hadley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if we would be getting a permanent PEG Coordinator. Ms. Scheipers advised that because he has not been in this position before she would like to have a six-month evaluation period.

3. Concurrence on the appointment of Richard Simmarano as PEG Equipment Coordinator effective

July 21, 2016 for a term to expire on July 20, 2017 with a \$3,000 stipend for the one-year period

Motion Mr. Hadley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor.

Ms. Scheipers advised that this is a new position. We have not had an equipment coordinator in the past. We will be purchased some new equipment and Mr. Simmarano has been our key equipment person right along. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked how many hours it will be for the job. Ms. Scheipers explained that it varies and in the beginning there will be more time because of training. Ms. Bohnson asked about the new equipment. Ms. Scheipers explained that it is the hub of our cable infrastructure network and it is what we do to record the meetings. It allows us to edit and it is the brain of all the equipment being used. The funding come from our agreement with Charter.

4. Concurrence on the following Planning Board designee assignments Affordable Housing & Transportation Committee – Marc Frieden; Community Preservation Cmte. & Earth Removal Board – Cheryl Carlson; Open Space Implementation Committee – Vincent Vignaly; Economic Development Task Force & Town-wide Planning Committee – Barur Rajeshkumar and Bylaw Committee – Christopher Olson

Motion Mr. Hadley to approve all the appointments to the exception of Mr. Rajeshkumar's appointment to the Economic Development Task Force as by doing that we would have 3 current members of the Board of Selectmen on that committee, seconded by Ms. Bohnson, all in favor. Mr. Rajeshkumar will speak with the Planning Board to get another candidate.

Paul Bohnson, Candidate for Finance Committee

Ms. Bohnson recused herself and sat in the audience. Mr. Hadley suggested tabling this item until Mr. Crowley could be in attendance. Mr. Rucho would like to move forward. Mr. Bohnson joined the Board. He would like to be on the Finance Committee because he previously served five to seven years. Due to other commitments he gave it up. Now he is retired, he has plenty of time and he would like to serve the town again. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if there is any conflict of interest with Mr. Bohnson going onto the Finance Committee as Ms. Bohnson, his wife, serves on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bohnson states he does not believe there is as it is an advisory committee which makes recommendations.

Jaime DeSanti, Candidate for Finance Committee

Mr. DeSanti joined the Board and states that he is a lifelong resident of the town going to school for accounting and economics. He would like to be able to get involved in the town and he thinks this would be an opportunity. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if he would have time for this in addition to going to college. Mr. DeSanti states that he could handle it very well. And it would probably help him. He will be in his junior year.

Mr. Rucho opened the floor up to nominations. Chris Berglund, Chairman of the Finance Committee, states that he is encouraged that we have two strong candidates. He also encouraged anyone who is listening to make a commitment to the town. He is also looking forward to a full committee. He has worked with Paul Bohnson in the past and supports his appointment as he can hit the ground running and it is a great value to the town. He is also encouraged by Mr. DeSanti's candidacy as well.

Motion Mr. Hadley to appoint Paul Bohnson to the open seat, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rajeshkumar thinks the Board should give a chance to Mr. DeSanti because Mr. Bohnson was already on the board. Mr. Rucho thinks it is important for the town to get young people involved and he would encourage Mr. DeSanti to look at future openings. Someone suggested an alternate appointment slot, however, the Finance Committee per our bylaw, consists of 9 full members. Mr. Berglund thinks an alternate is a great idea so someone could learn what goes on. Vote on the motion – all in favor. The Board thanked Mr. DeSanti for applying and they will look into adding an alternate seat to the makeup of the Finance Committee. Mr. Scheipers encouraged Mr. DeSanti to attend the meetings of the Finance Committee, all of which are open to the public, to learn about the committee.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**1. Eversource Update**

Eversource will be doing some upgrades of natural gas lines in Worcester, West Boylston and Shrewsbury. Worcester Street residents is the area they will be working on and all residents will receive letters. Ms. Scheipers will update as needed.

2. The Town received \$13,810 in MIIA Rewards our second highest total since becoming a member in 2008, previous high was \$13,861 in 2012

Mr. Scheipers notes that this is a process Nancy Lucier does and has been the key driver on the program for many years. She encourages people to take advantage of the training and loss control measures. Mr. Rucho suggested putting a list together of what we have received

3. October 2, 2016; 4:00 p.m.- 2 Main Street, Worcester – Reenactment of the Worcester County Revolution of 1774

4. We have received notification from Charter that new channels will be temporarily added during the upcoming summer Olympic games to carry the overflow programming. Channel 394 will carry NBC Olympics Basketball and Channel 395 will carry NBC Olympics Soccer.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMENS REPORTS:

Ms. Bohnson reports that Ms. Scheipers has the Town-wide Planning Committee up and running again. More information will follow. Their next meeting is July 26th and she wants people to know that things are getting back up and running.

Mr. Rucho would like to look into purchase a project to be mounted on the ceiling.

Ms. Bohnson has received telephone calls from residents about the condition of lawn on The Common and the softball field. Those fields and the area in front of the town sign are in need of mowing. Ms. Scheipers did speak with the DPW Director directly about that.

Motion Ms. Bohnson at 8:00 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(A), Parts 2 & 3 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, contract negotiations with the Fire Chief and litigation. (DPW negotiations, Fire Chief contract & Concerned Citizens of West Boylston vs. ZBA), seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar.

The chairman declared and the Board will not be going back into open session after their executive session for DPW negotiations. Roll call vote: Mr. Rajeshkumar yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Ms. Bohnson yes.

Motion Ms. Bohnson at 9:30 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Hadley. Roll call vote: Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Rajeshkumar yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion Mr. Hadley at 8:20 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: August 5, 2016

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Christopher A. Rucho, Chairman

Siobhan M. Bohnson, Vice Chairman

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk

John W. Hadley, Selectman