



Town of West Boylston
140 Worcester Street, West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583

Board of Selectmen/Sewer Commission Meeting Minutes

Date / Time / Location of Meeting January 3, 2018; 6:45 p.m.; Rm 210 Town Hall

Members Present John W. Hadley, Chairman Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chair Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman

Members NOT Present

Invited Guests:

Welcome – Call to Order

Time: 6:45 pm

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar at 6:45 p.m. to enter into executive session under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30a, Section 21(A), Part 3 to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation and Chairman declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Town of West Boylston Board of Selectmen v Michael Cox et al). Motion seconded by Mr. Rucho. Mr. Hadley so declared. Roll call vote: Mr. Rajeshkumar yes, Mr. Rucho yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Crowley yes. The Board will be returning to open session and Ms. Bohnson will be joining the Board for the session

Motion Mr. Rucho at 6:56 p.m. to come out of executive session, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar. Roll call vote: Mr. Rajeshkumar yes, Mr. Crowley yes, Ms. Bohnson yes, Mr. Hadley yes, Mr. Rucho yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one present for this agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

December 20, 2017, regular session

Motion to Accept: Mr. Rajeshkumar

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Result: All in favor

December 20, 2017, executive session

Motion to Accept: Ms. Bohnson

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Result: All in favor

Review and vote to approve warrants for the period covering December 21, 2017 to January 3, 2018: payable warrants for the town FY2018-26 & 27, payroll warrant FY2018 #13, and Municipal Light Plant warrant FY18 #15

Motion to Accept: Mr. Crowley

Seconded: Mr. Rucho

Result: All in favor

Colleen Abrams, President of Wachusett Greenways – request for formal commitment by the Board for use of the discontinued Pleasant Street as a rail trail.

Ms. Abrams joined the Board to discuss the Mass Central Rail Trail, to thank them, and to ask for continued support. This year their primary project is one embarked on 20 years ago, the Beaman Street causeway, which they hoped would be a pedestrian way trail access. They have been working on the 140 connection between North Hampton and Boston. In 2012 Senator Chandler put the Rutland tunnel and the Causeway project into the Transportation Bond Bill and they are putting together pieces of grants through the Recreational Trail Program and their DCR partnership. The causeway connection will be a more costly project and Ms. Abrams does not know the price yet. The next grant proposal is to connect from the beginning of Pleasant Street to the end of Pleasant Street. For that grant she is looking for a letter of support from the landowner, the Town of West Boylston. In addition they have asked all eight towns and the legislature to write letters of support. They will also do an improvement on a section of the West Boylston trail that is always more bumpy, the section between the washout and I-190. Ms. Abrams states that the DPW has been wonderful in maintaining the trail. Two sections of trail in Holden will be realigned as well.

Motion Mr. Crowley to sign a letter of support to use discontinued Pleasant Street as a rail trail, seconded by Mr. Rucho. This will change the section of the discontinued road as an extension of the rail trail. Ms. Bohnson asked if they calculate the amount of people who use the trail. Ms. Abrams explained that they would like to do more trail counts, you need to start at 6:00 a.m. and stay until dark. The other issue is you need two or three people for a good trail count. The highest day count they had was 700 people. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Ms. Abrams also thanked the Board for attending the birthday party and for their support IN paying for the portable restrooms. Six of the eight towns also provide additional support.

Senator Harriette Chandler & Representative James O'Day

Senator Harriette Chandler & Representative James O'Day joined the Board. Senator Chandler reports that they are working on 4 Home Rule petitions filed by the town. The first is H3015, An Act Relative to Affordable Housing, the second is H1433, An Act Relative to the Director of Public Works petition, the third is Cemetery land and the fourth is West Boylston Water District's new well. On December 19 there was a hearing on the affordable housing petition. The DPW petition will be done in the Senate on Friday. They have no language from the town on the Cemetery land transfer issue. Ms. Scheipers advised that there is no final decision as yet on that. At this point the Cemetery Board asked the Selectmen if it is more feasible route to acquire private property rather than do a land swap with DCR. Rep. O'Day added that at the last session they passed the change to

allow for an appointed Town Clerk in place of elected. They were happy to move that along and he congratulated Elaine Novia who is being appointed to that position. Senator Chandler reports that there is a house bond bill coming. If there are any housing issues, we should let her know. Mr. Hadley, who also serves as a member of the Affordable Housing Task Force, advised that they are working on a project right now. Mr. Rucho asked about the \$5 million Goodale Park Improvement funds, which are in another bond bill. Rep. O'Day states it is still alive, in the hands of the administration, you have to wait for the Governor to release the money. Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if there are any state funds available to pay for the new DEP mandate that every community with a sewer system must come up with an I&I Plan. Senator Chandler does not think so. She added that there are no funds for senior centers either. There are some things they just do not fund. Mr. Rucho asked since the state mandates it can't the state help the town pay for it. Senator Chandler replied no, they cannot. The Governor is going to release the money for earmarks. Mr. Rucho asked about funds for hosting the jail. Rep. O'Day replied, similar answer as the sewer inquiry. The state facilities do get some funds, nothing else.

John Suraci, Eagle Scout Project presentation

John and Edward Suraci joined the Board. John provided the Board with the drawings supplied by an Assabet student. The structure will be made of scrap metal with a slightly angled down top. The piece of steel will be clamped to the base and the base will be bolted to the floor. It will be natural, not painted and he anticipates it being done by April.

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve the design as presented, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor. He will contact the Town Administrator when it is ready for installation.

Public Hearing (continuation) in accordance with General Bylaws of the Town of West Boylston Article XXIII, Public Hearing and Notice – Consider Amending Policy L-15, Policy For Gateway Signs

Mr. Hadley reports that the Economic Development Task Force met, reviewed the policy, and recommend it be amended to a fee of \$250 for three months. Because we had an issue with a competing business being advertised on the sign, the business selected will be up to the discretion of the Economic Development Task Force so it will not be a competing business. Mr. Crowley asked what happens if no one comes forward. Ms. Scheipers asked if there is any provision for the business to get the sign up and painted. Mr. Rucho suggested April to June. Mr. Hadley recommends drawing the month before the sign is scheduled to go up to give plenty of time to get the sign done. Mr. Crowley asked why Mr. Hadley is confident people will now pay for this. Mr. Hadley reports that there was a lot of positive feedback over people wanting to advertise.

Motion Mr. Rucho to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve the changes to Policy L-15 to include \$250 charge for three months of advertising and the name drawn will be at the discretion of the Economic Development Task Force, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.Consider approving a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$1,000 for ZBA Salaries and Wages

Motion Mr. Rajeshkumar to approve, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

2.Review and consider approving Social Media disclaimer language

Town Counsel provided sample language which would be posted on the main page of each of the town's official social media pages, which allow comments. Ms. Scheipers has a list of the official pages.

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve the language provided by Town Counsel as a disclaimer for all town official social media pages, seconded by Mr. Rucho, all in favor.

3.Discuss and revote a stipend for Brittany Blaney for filling in as Access Coordinator from July to October 2017

Mr. Hadley would like everyone to be aware that Board members received a letter from John Schlichte. The first item he pointed out was that the name should be Brittany Blaney-Anderson. The Board noted that Brittany Blaney-Anderson is the same person as Brittany-Blaney. Mr. Rucho explained that this was voted on once before, however, because it was not listed on the agenda, Mr. Schlichte filed an Open Meeting Law Complaint that there was not adequate notice.

Motion Mr. Crowley to approve a stipend for Brittany Blaney for filing in as Access Coordinator from July to October 2017 as previously voted, seconded by Ms. Bohnson. Mr. Crowley noted that Tim Scanlon, the former Access Coordinator, resigned July 14, 2017 and we are giving Ms. Blaney a stipend from July 1. Mr. Rucho, Chair of the PEG Board, reports that he has Mr. Scanlon's time sheets from the first two weeks in July. The first week he worked ten hours and the second week he worked two days, eight hours. He added that Ms. Blaney worked well over that time even before July. Mr. Crowley asked if she kept time sheets. Mr. Rucho advised that she has log sheets and worked hours in those two weeks.

Mr. Rajeshkumar asked if Mr. Scanlon worked as the Access Coordinator, up to 20 hours a week, why did Ms. Blaney have to fill in from July 1 to July 15. Mr. Rucho replied, the work was not getting done by the other gentleman and Ms. Blaney worked 19.5 hours the first week and 24 the second week. She did this because the work was not getting done because he was leaving. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Hadley, Rucho, Crowley and Bohnson yes; Mr. Rajeshkumar, no.

The next motion is a necessary motion to respond to the Open Meeting Law complaint we have to send communication to the state on what action we took in regards to the complaint.

Motion Mr. Rucho to authorize the Chairman to submit to the Attorney General's office the necessary copy of the complaint and details regarding what actions the Board took to address the complaint at the subsequent Board of Selectmen's meeting on January 3, 2018, seconded by Ms. Bohnson. The action was the Board re-posted the agenda item on its January 3, 2018 agenda and re-discussed and re-voted the stipend. Town Counsel made the opinion that it might not be a violation because it was not something the Chairman would have anticipated or expected to be on the agenda. It was last minute. The Board made the decision to revote. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

4.Consider approving a stipend for Brittany Blaney for filling in as Access Coordinator from October 2017 until January 1, 2017

Motion Mr. Crowley to revote the stipend for Brittany Blaney from November 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018, for 14-hours a week at \$17.50 an hour, seconded by Ms. Bohnson. Vote on the motion – Messrs. Hadley, Rucho, Crowley and Ms. Bohnson yes. Mr. Rajeshkumar no.

5.Consider approving the hiring of Keith Fancy as a temporary part-time plow driver for the Department of Public Works effective January 8, 2018 until May 31, 2018 at a rate of \$18.28/hr.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the hiring, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

6.Consider request to transfer the Entertainment License issued to Pearson Realty Trust to Partazis, Inc. for 555 Prospect Street

Angelo Vangos joined the Board. He explained that there will be no changes, everything will remain the same including the days, hours and entertainment. They get great crowds who come out.

Motion Mr. Rucho to approve the transfer of the entertainment license, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

7.Municipal Calendar for 2018 with updated departmental entries

Ms. Scheipers explained that the calendar has an expanded list of action items. We discussed having the DPW list all their activities, including the parks activities. What it does not do yet is break those out by department level. She asked if it would be necessary for this document to do that, or that the items be posted on the department's web page. Mr. Rucho feels it would be clearer for people if those items were posted on the department's web page.

FISP UPDATE:

1.General Update on Senior Center and Police Station

Mr. Hadley reports that the town meeting is scheduled for February 26th and the election is set for the 27th for the senior center project. They will hold informational meetings for the general public very soon. The police station project is complete.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS:

1.Concurrence on the appointment of Michael Franciosi as Alternate Wiring Inspector effective January 7, 2018 for a term to expire on April 30, 2018 at a rate of \$25 per inspection

Motion Mr. Rucho to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Crowley, all in favor.

2.Consider appointing Brittany Blaney as the Interim Access Coordinator for WBPA-TV effective January 1, 2018 Coordinator at a rate of 17.50/hr for 14 hours a week

Motion Mr. Crowley to concur with the appointment, seconded by Mr. Rucho. The appointment will be in effect until we hire the permanent Access Coordinator. Mr. Rajeshkumar voiced his concern that without an end date there is no motivation to hire anybody. He added that this interim position has been going on since last July and he is not sure about the interview process. He thinks it would be better to go with three months and then extend if needed. Mr. Rucho reports that the PEG Board has been working very hard and they are very motivated to find somebody. They have two people to interview, one is on vacation and the other he emailed a week and a half ago and he will call him because he has not yet replied. They have posted the position, reviewed and contacted applications and their next meeting is July 16th. He added that Brittany Blaney does not want the job, she is just helping us out. Vote on the motion- Messrs. Hadley, Rucho, Crowley and Bohnson yes; Mr. Rajeshkumar no.

3.Concurrence on the appointment of Town Clerk (tentative)

Elaine Novia joined the Board. Ms. Scheipers explained that Elaine Novia has been working for the town for ten years as the Assistant Town Clerk. She has agreed to take on the role of Town Clerk. It will be for 31-hours a week and compensated at step 3 of grade 7 of the wage and classification plan, \$24.37 an hour. As discussed with the Board, the position will be changed to a 40-hour a week position at the next town meeting. Mr. Rucho asked about providing a stipend as we have one person doing two jobs. Ms. Scheipers advised that we are ready to post the Assistant Town Clerk job and she anticipates a hiring by the first meeting in February. Ms. Novia did get a stipend from July to October. Mr. Rucho would like a stipend as well. Ms. Scheipers will look at what that stipend should be. The current stipend was to equal the amount of pay she would be getting now as Town Clerk. What is being discussed should be an additional amount to compensate her for being responsible for two jobs. Mr. Rucho noted that it is a 31-hour a week position with no overtime. Ms. Scheipers advised that it is an exempt position and you are obligated to work the number of hours it takes to get the job done, it is salary and not eligible for overtime. We cannot dictate which positions are exempt or nonexempt. She noted that we are in the process of going through a compensation study. Mr. Rucho thinks we should look at it. Ms. Bohnson questioned how we came up with the rate. Ms. Scheipers advised that the Personnel Policy dictates the starting step. We can hire up to step 3 of the grade. When the former Town Clerk retired she was at the top step. The town is working on a wage and compensation study. Ms. Novia added that she has not received a stipend since October. Ms. Scheipers will work on that number. Vote on the motion – all in favor.

Ms. Novia thanked the members of the Board and the Town Administrator for their support in this appointment. She will do her best to fulfill the duties of the Town Clerk to the best of her abilities.

MEETINGS, INVITATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. January 9, 7:00 p.m. – FISP Meeting
2. January 22, 7:00 p.m. – Town-wide Planning Public Forum, at Town Hall

This forum is to get public feedback on the first four chapters and there will be representation from each of the committees who developed those chapters at the meeting.

3. Announce that the town has been designated a Green Community

Now that we have received the designation we get a \$145,435 designation award, which we can put towards the projects identified by the energy audit. Ms. Scheipers thanked Norma Chanis and Nancy Lucier for pulling together the information and stated that if it were not for them she doesn't think we would have gotten this.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SELECTMENS REPORTS:

Mr. Hadley addressed the trash/recycle collection issues we have been having this week. Our hauler is trying to get everyone picked up as soon as possible. There will be no trash pickup tomorrow due to the snow storm and residents need to bring in their trash/recyclables and not leave them out on the street. He asked them to wait until the town can post a collection schedule on the website. Mr. Rucho noted that the issue we have is the communication with the rubbish hauler. Mr. Rajeshkumar added that during the holiday season there is more trash and he recommends that rather than the typical one truck and one man that the numbers be increased. Ms. Scheipers reports that they used additional trucks today to resolve the issue. Some of the trucks are having issues with the extreme cold and the landfills are limited in times of the day they can be open.

It was announced that town hall offices will be closed tomorrow.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:15 p.m.: Mr. Rucho
Seconded: Mr. Rajeshkumar
Result: All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Approved: January 17, 2018

John W. Hadley, Chairman

Christopher A., Vice Chairman

Barur R. Rajeshkumar, Clerk

Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman

Patrick J. Crowley, Selectman