

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Monday, January 23, 2006

On January 23, 2006, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 7:00 PM at the Town Office Building in Lakeville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hurd at 7:00 PM. Selectmen present were: Selectman Hurd, Selectman LaCamera and Selectman Yeatts. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator, Tracie Craig, Executive Assistant and Christine Weston, Recording Secretary.

7:00 PM Planning Board-driveway cut-5 Lang Street

Also present was James Marot, Chairman, Planning Board. Brief discussion took place with Mr. Marot regarding the driveway cut for 5 Lang Street. All pertinent information has been submitted, the plans have been reviewed and the Planning Board agrees with what has been presented. There is enough upland and frontage to the property.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera; seconded by Selectman Yeatts it was:

VOTED: To approve the driveway cut for 5 Lang Street
Unanimous in favor

Discussion then took place regarding matters with National Development and Canpro. Canpro needs to have the road under construction, as they have committed to do, in order for Oxford to move forward with their development plans for early April of 2006. Canpro needs to submit the plans regarding the road and the infrastructure to the Planning Board so that they can be reviewed. Canpro and the Planning Board will be asked to attend the Selectmen's meeting on February 6th in order to give a status update with respect to the road construction plans. They will also need to go before the Conservation Commission as well. The building permits will be held up for Oxford unless Canpro continues to proceed as required.

7:30 PM Capital Expenditure Committee Appointment

Also present was Gordon Goodfellow, Town Moderator. Chairman Hurd stated that David Morwick has come highly recommended and with much experience from the Town of Bridgewater with public safety and capital procedures. Mr. Goodfellow then appointed David Morwick to fill the vacancy on the Capital Expenditure Committee, effective January 23, 2006 through to July 31, 2006.

7:45 PM Meeting with Lynn Pellitier-The Call regarding advertising rates

Present for the discussion were Sarah Corbette, Editor in Chief of the Call and Lyn Pelletier, Publisher of the Call. Chairman Hurd explained that the Town has been considering changing to another source for its legal advertising needs. Representatives of The Middleborough Gazette were met with on December 19th to discuss advertising rates and this evening The Call is present to also have an opportunity to speak on what benefits they might have to offer the Town in terms of advertising and local coverage.

Ms. Pelletier took the floor and stated that every household in Lakeville receives a copy of The Call, free of charge. They are distributing their paper to rural and inner city residents and also to P.O. boxes. This was initiated in March 2004 and arrives to citizens faithfully each Wednesday. The paper can save the Town money with a great rate, and there is very good legal department in Plymouth for the newspaper. Ms. Corbette added that the Memorial Press Group (MPG) is very committed to the paper and has a 183 year history for the Town of Plymouth. Since 1988 they have been servicing the Town of Carver with the Carver Reporter. They presently have 13 newspapers in 15 towns. Coverage is on the Town, their sports, their schools, their community happenings, etc. Other towns, such as Raynham and Taunton, have called in orders to request a paper of this nature specific to their towns as well.

Selectman LaCamera stated that he very much liked The Call's approach. He added that he has nothing against The Middleborough Gazette, they have done great articles also for the Town. However, he would like a paper that essentially is for Lakeville exclusively. He asked what more could The Call do to expand coverage for The Town? Ms. Corbette responded that the goal is to continue receiving information from the schools, police department and other sources for the Town paper. There is a dedicated reporter on 40 hours a week and also a dedicated sports person with 40 hours a week. It is a growing operation. No calls have been received that the paper is not welcome to where it is being sent. There have been many positive comments and letters of thanks for the servicing of the paper. A sample of all the papers that The Call presently puts forth, were available for the Selectmen to review.

Chairman Hurd asked what the policy was for errors made in the legal section? Ms. Corbette responded that though a person from the legal department was not present, she felt that the ad would be rerun. Chairman Hurd stated that there is a cost to the Town if there is a misprint in the legal section. Rescheduling of meetings need to take place, it involves personnel, etc. Would The Call be able to compensate the Town further in the event that there was a misprint? Ms. Pelletier added that she would find out if there was something else that could also be done if the paper was at fault for an error. All the other towns that they presently work with do publish their legal ads in their papers. Ms. Craig asked what the deadline was for legal ads and what was the process of receiving them? Ms. Pelletier responded that it would be on Friday for the Wednesday paper, but possibly could go as far as Monday. The ads can be either faxed, emailed or dropped off at the Taunton office. Ms. Garbitt asked about what had been heard about the paper reducing its staff? Ms. Corbette responded that the reduction was made in its daily paper operations, not with its weekly operations.

Ms. Pelletier stated that she would forward the information as requested regarding compensating the Town for legal errors, leave the sample papers for the Selectmen's review and if there were any more questions, the Board can feel free to call the paper.

Request to use Old Town House-Lakeville Arts Council

Ms. Garbitt asked that the Lakeville Arts Council request be withdrawn until the February 6th meeting of the Selectmen.

Request for appointment of GATRA delegate

Chairman Hurd stated that Marilyn Mansfield, Director of the Lakeville Council on Aging has recommended two (2) people for the appointment of GATRA delegate, one would serve as an alternate.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera; seconded by Selectman Yeatts it was:

VOTED: To appoint Robert Brady as GATRA delegate and Carl Asbury as GATRA alternate with a term to expire on July 31, 2006.
Unanimous in favor

Request for appointment to Council on Aging to replace vacancy

Chairman Hurd read a request from Marilyn Mansfield, Director of the Lakeville Council on Aging to fill the vacancy on the Council on Aging Board.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera; seconded by Selectman Yeatts it was:

VOTED: To appoint Patricia Bessette to the Council on Aging to fill a vacancy with a term to expire July 31, 2008.
Unanimous in favor

Letter of resignation from Randy Swann-Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Garbitt stated that Randy Swann has rescinded his resignation. He will remain on the Library Board of Trustees until the Town Elections take place.

Request for reappointment as constable-Herve Vandal

Chairman Hurd read the request from Herve Vandal to be reappointed as constable for the Town. He noted that the bond for Mr. Vandal is current and that he has been a constable for many years.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera; seconded by Selectman Yeatts it was:

VOTED: To reappoint Herve Vandal as constable with a term to expire January 21, 2007.
Unanimous in favor

Request for reappointment as constable-Kenneth Upham

Chairman Hurd read the request from Kenneth Upham to be reappointed as constable for the Town. He noted that the bond for Mr. Upham is current and that he has been a constable for many years.

Upon a motion made by Selectman LaCamera; seconded by Selectman Yeatts it was:

VOTED: To appoint Kenneth W. Upham as constable with a term to expire January 9, 2007.

Unanimous in favor

Letter from Police Chief Mark Sorel regarding cruiser

Chairman Hurd explained that there was a letter from Mark Sorel, Police Chief, regarding a cruiser that had recently blown an engine and the fact that the car would also need an entire front end replacement. The car presently has over 125,000 miles on it and was to be phased out in FY08. Selectman LaCamera asked that the matter be deferred to the Capital Expenditure Committee meeting on Wednesday night for discussion. The Chief is slated for two (2) new cruisers as of July 1, 2006. Another cruiser cannot be leased by the Chief without town meeting vote. Minor further discussion took place on the matter which will be presented for discussion at the Capital Expenditures Committee meeting.

Request from Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Garbitt asked if there were interested members from the Board who would like to sit on the initial screening of applications for the new Library Director position on February 11th? Selectman LaCamera asked that Ms. Garbitt speak with Ms. LaFave to reconsider the timeline of the screening and the deadline of February 10th. There would not be enough time for the applications to be reviewed prior to the screening. The Selectmen can then consider who might be available at their February 6th meeting.

Any other business that may properly come before that meeting.

Chairman Hurd mentioned that there will be a grand opening of the Fall River Credit Union on Bedford Street, in the new Sedell's Plaza. Ms. Garbitt will be attending this event.

Ms. Garbitt stated that the parking plan for Rousseau's R.V. had been received. When the license for the business was renewed by the Board, it was contingent on there being a Certificate of Compliance, which is in place and recorded at the Registry of Deeds, the other Certificate of Compliance has three (3) years in which to be complied with. There are thirteen marked spots for employees to park and there are typically eight (8) employees present on a given day. The State has also put up the no parking signs on the highway.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Yeatts; seconded by Selectman LaCamera it was:

VOTED: To accept the parking plan as presented by Rousseau R.V.

Unanimous in favor

Chairman Hurd asked when the Bradshaw kennel hearing that had been postponed would take place? Ms. Garbitt responded that Mr. Bradshaw was unable to attend the meeting this evening, thus it is being postponed until he can be present to speak on the kennel license. There

have been no other licenses presented to the Town Clerk with changes of ownership on the property.

Robert Darling, Building Commissioner, entered the meeting to speak on a complaint received for 157 County Road. The owner has built a new house and is to take down his old house. He has been selling materials from the old house during the interim. Chairman Hurd stated that a timeline needs to be presented of when the old house will be taken down. Mr. Darling stated that he would speak with the owner and give him approximately 30-60 days for this to be done. Selectman LaCamera stated that 60-90 days would be reasonable. The main concern for the Town at this time is that there may be a fire. All doors need to be boarded up so that there is no access to the house.

Other Items

1. Letter from DHCD regarding subsidized housing inventory
Chairman Hurd stated that the Town is still in the protective phase and the DHCD is certifying the Town's current subsidized housing inventory. The Town has come a long way since a few years ago when it had one of the lowest percentages in the State. The Town has worked very hard to put together projects that make sense for the Town and to also serve a deserving demographic of the Town. The Town's current rate is being identified as 8.5% that is only 1.5% away from the required 10%.
2. Letter from DHCD regarding certification of its approved Affordable Housing Plan
Selectman LaCamera asked about the certification threshold as mentioned in #2 of the above letter? Chairman Hurd stated that he had asked the Town Administrator to look into further clarification on this. Ms. Garbitt explained that it depends on the percentage that the Town has whether it is for one (1) year or two (2) years. It is not cumulative, it overlaps. Also, it is understood that some of the projects in Town will be phased in and the DHCD is working to clarify how they will resolve this for Towns. Minor further discussion took place on the matter.
3. Letter from CEA regarding 7 Vaughn Street
4. Letter from Taunton River Watershed Campaign
Selectman Yeatts stated that she was intending on writing a mini-grant to help sponsor one of the events that takes place at Betty's Neck. There was a consensus of the Board for this to take place.
5. Memo from Town Counsel regarding Private Property Taking
6. Memo from Town Counsel regarding Avoiding Constructive Approvals of Subdivision Plans and Zoning Relief
Chairman Hurd asked that all board members receive a copy of the above memo from Town Counsel.
7. Memo from Town Counsel regarding Relocation Office
8. Information regarding Plymouth Health Insurance Group
9. Plymouth County Commission meeting agendas: January 11 & 18, 2006
10. SRPEDD meeting cancellation notice
11. Notice from Dept. of Business and Technology regarding new construction reform law

Minor discussion took place regarding the filing of abatements for those in Town who felt that they may have been over assessed for their property taxes. At this time, the company is working with the Town in order to analyze what happened. While some properties were over charged, some were undercharged. The calculation formula had been changed and in many cases, land values were given more weight, thus a subsequent reduction in physical structure. The overall valuation though of 15% is roughly where it is supposed to be. If it is more than that, citizens can file an abatement with the Assessor's Office, no later than, February 1st. The date cannot be changed since the State dictates the date. The Assessor's Office is available for questions and calls, and this information is on the Town website as well.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Yeatts; seconded by Selectman LaCamera it was:

VOTED: To enter Executive Session at 8:10 PM for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real estate and not to return to Open Session. Polled vote: Selectman LaCamera, aye, Selectman Yeatts, aye and Selectman Hurd, aye.