

Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2009

Mr. Silvia, Dr. Bowcock and Mr. Murphy were present.

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Mr. Silvia called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to approve the minutes of February 23, 2009. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2009 executive session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

438 BRIDGE STREET

David Crowley was in attendance to discuss a letter he received from the Fire Chief, dated February 19, 2009, concerning his property at 438 Bridge Street. (See attached.) The Fire Chief was also present. The Chief stated he will not allow Fire Department vehicles to drive over the bridge to Mr. Crowley's property. There are no side railings. The concrete portion measures 10 feet wide and an ambulance is 8.7 feet wide. He said it is a tight fit and if conditions are icy, rescue vehicles could slide off. The Chief also said that responding there at night, with poor conditions, trying to save someone's life, could be dangerous. There is a 3 ½ to 4 foot drop off the bridge. The Fire Chief submitted photos showing the bridge and roadway. Mr. Crowley stated he does have guard rails and will have them installed. The Fire Chief also told Mr. Crowley the bridge must be certified by an engineer. Mr. Crowley agreed to install the guard rails and have the bridge inspected by an engineer.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Superintendent, School Business Manager and members of the School Committee were present and discussed the FY 10 School Budget. Requested amount is \$17,607,120. Articles submitted for the Annual Town Meeting were also discussed.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fire Arbitration is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on March 10, 2009 at Town Hall.

Mattapoisett River Valley Water District Meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on March 10, 2009 at the Board of Public Works.

Ad hoc committee to plan for the May 7, 2009 dedication of the Captain Whitfield House will meet on March 12, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2009

Finance Committee will meet on March 12th and 19th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Clerical Union negotiations are scheduled for March 16, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

Buzzards Bay Action Committee will meet at 12:00 noon on March 18, 2009 in Wareham.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to sign the document listing the “assessments for property held in Mattapoisett owned by the Town of Fairhaven”. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Assessed value is \$536,105. Mattapoisett will calculate a payment in lieu of taxes for FY 2009.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Report for February 2009 will be placed on file.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

One application was received to fill the vacancy on the Board of Public Works. Mr. Silvia read the letter from Kathleen Sturtevant requesting appointment. (See attached.) Dr. Bowcock motioned to appoint Kathleen Sturtevant to the Board of Public Works. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Term to expire April 5, 2010.)

CAPTAIN WHITFIELD HOUSE

Mr. Silvia read the letter from Gerald Rooney, Chairman of the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, Inc., regarding the planned May 7, 2009 dedication of the Captain Whitfield House. (See attached.) The Board is looking forward to Dr. Hinohara's return to Fairhaven.

SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE

Fairhaven Varsity Club submitted an application for a Special One Day All Alcoholic Liquor License for a dinner on March 14, 2009. Dr. Bowcock motioned to approve the application. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

TOWN OF ACUSHNET

Mr. Silvia read the letter from Michael Cioper, Chairman of the Acushnet Board of Selectmen, asking if Fairhaven will host a meeting to discuss and explore regionalization. (See attached.) At a later date, the Acushnet Board of Selectmen will be invited to a Selectmen's Meeting.

Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2009

NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Silvia read the letter from the Harbormaster requesting parking fees for Hoppy's Landing, Pease Park and Sea View Boat Ramps be increased. (See attached.) The Harbormaster and Shellfish Constable will be asked to survey surrounding towns for their boat ramp parking fees.

The Shellfish Constable submitted new "Quahog Dredge Boat Regulations for the Town of Fairhaven". The draft regulations were taken under advisement. The Board is requesting written public comment. Copies of the proposed regulations are available in the Selectmen's Office or on the Town's web site. The proposed regulations will be placed on the March 23, 2009 agenda.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Dr. Bowcock motioned to schedule a Special Town Meeting for May 2, 2009 and to set March 23, 2009 as the deadline to submit articles. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Article must be submitted to the Selectmen's Office by 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Dr. Bowcock motioned to place the following article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for "Trench Safety Regulations": To see if the Town of Fairhaven will, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 82A, §2, vote to designate the Board of Selectmen as the means by which the Town shall designate the Board or Officer to issue permits for the purpose of creating a trench as that term is defined by M.G.L. Chapter 82A, §4 and 520 CMR 14.00, or to take any other action relative thereto. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Osuch discussed Town budgets for FY 10 and explained hand outs given to the Finance Committee. (See attached memo to the Selectmen and handouts.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to cut \$130,110.00 from FY 09 departmental budgets and to place the request on the May 2, 2009 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant to transfer \$143,376.00 from Surplus Revenue. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to suspend reading each line item on the "Fixed Expenses" sheet and to vote the sum of \$15,084,128.00, which includes Greater New Bedford Voke and the Millicent Library. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2009

Dr. Bowcock motioned to suspend reading each line item on the "Fixed Expenses" sheet, "Elected Officials" and to vote the sum of \$75,086.00. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to vote the sum of \$8,647.00 for "Sub-Division MGT Fees" on the "Fixed Expenses" sheet "Other Sources of Funds". Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to vote the sum of \$2.30/gal. for FY 10 gasoline expense. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to adopt FY 09 "Utility" (heat & electricity) "Appropriations" for the FY 10 "Utility" "Recommended Administration". Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to reduce FY 10 Annual Town Meeting Article Requests by 4%, not to exceed \$651,000.00. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached sheet.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to recommend \$4,000.00 for Government Access Programming (Article #11 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant) and funding is to be taken from the Cable Fund. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to recommend \$290,000.00 for Annual Town Meeting Article#10 Hurricane Barrier (\$250,000.00) and Annual Town Meeting Article #39 Assessors Digital Maps (\$40,000.00). Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to recommend \$22,500.00 for Annual Town Meeting Article#13 Fire Department Defibrillators, and funding is to be taken from the Ambulance Account. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

The Building Commissioner will be asked to report on the condition of the Academy Building.

Mr. Osuch will speak with the land lord for the Office of Tourism.

Mr. Osuch will look in the Town Hall for space for the Office of Tourism.

Mr. Osuch will look into any documents that specify use of the Academy Building.

Selectmen's Meeting – March 9, 2009

OTHER MATTERS

The Board congratulated Ann Richard for receiving the North Fairhaven Improvement Associations "Outstanding Public Servant of the Year Award". The Board of Selectmen also congratulated all individuals honored this year by the N.F.I.A.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to sign the resolution on the Spending of Federal Economic Renewal Grants". Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:00 p.m., Dr. Bowcock motioned to go into executive session to discuss Fire Union Contract Arbitration, personnel issues in Town Hall and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary