

Selectmen's Meeting – March 16, 2009

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

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Mr. Silvia called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2009 executive session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Osuch will attend the meeting on March 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. with Gerald Rooney and others to plan for the May 7, 2009 dedication of the Captain Whitfield House.

BBAC Meeting scheduled for March 19, 2009 may be cancelled.

The Health Agent and Board of Public Works will meet at 4:00 p.m. on March 19, 2009 to discuss recycling/trash contracts.

A meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2009 to discuss finishing Union Wharf repairs.

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Chris Richards, Director of Tourism, members of the Historical Commission and members of the Historical Society were in attendance to discuss a proposal to move the Department of Tourism from the current location on Center Street to the Academy Building. The Building Commissioner was asked to inspect the Academy Building and submit a report. Mr. Silvia read the report from Andy Bobola, Assistant Building Commissioner. (See attached.) Mr. Richards stated the Tourism Department has rented the office on Center Street for the past eight years and the rent has never increased. Rent is \$525.00 per month. Mr. Richards spoke with the landlord, who agreed to lower the rent to \$495.00 per month, a savings of \$30.00 a month and \$360.00 per year. Mr. Osuch read the Proclamation issued in 1992 establishing the Museum of Fairhaven History at the Academy Building, to be operated as a cooperative endeavor of the Historical Commission and the Historical Society. (See attached.) He also read Town Meeting Articles regarding use of the Academy Building. (See attached.) Discussion ensued concerning the condition of the Building, cost to heat the building, lack of handicap accessibility, security concerns and parking issues. Mr. Richards was instructed to contact the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and receive in writing, confirmation that the Academy Building is exempt from being made handicap accessible. If the Tourism Department is relocated to the Academy, Mr. Richards would like the "Office Room", if

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the Historical Society doesn't move the "Period Room". Also discussed was a proposal to relocate the Office of Tourism to the Town Hall. There is a room available upstairs that is handicap accessible. Another suggestion was relocating to the Tax Collector's Office. On Saturday, for building security purposes, the Selectmen's Office could be used. There would be no rental fee. The Board agreed the most important aspect of the Tourism Director's job, is to market the Town of Fairhaven. Mr. Silvia stated he does want any more "cuts" to the advertising budget.

FY 10 proposed budget for the Tourism Department was discussed.

Discussion followed on the importance of the May 7th dedication of the Captain Whitfield House. Dr. Bowcock reported an estimated 100-150 Japanese visitors will be in Fairhaven. This is a significant event in Fairhaven and Japan. Depending upon the list of dignitaries, State Police, State Department and Secret Service may be involved. Mr. Richards will work with Gerry Rooney, Mr. Osuch and the Police Chief to coordinate this historic event.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING SCHEDULE

Board of Selectmen will meet on March 23rd, April 6th, April 21st, May 4th, and May 18th, 2009. Meeting on Tuesday, April 21st will be scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

ACUSHNET BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Selectmen will meet with the Acushnet Board of Selectmen, in Acushnet, on Monday, March 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and explore regionalization.

TOWN HALL CLERICAL POSITIONS

Dr. Bowcock motioned to eliminate two clerical positions (Building Department Administrative Assistant & Board of Health Administrative Assistant) and create one new position (Building Department/Board of Health Administrative Assistant) as of March 30, 2009. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock motioned to eliminate the part-time clerical position in the Collector's Office, effective March 27, 2009. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

GOVERNOR DEVAL PATRICK

Mr. Silvia read the letter addressed to Governor Patrick regarding a Bill filed by Representative Stephen Canessa, "An Act Establishing a Regionalization Advisory Commission". Dr. Bowcock motioned to send the letter to the Governor and Mr. Silvia is the contact person. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Osuch reviewed the “FY 10 Articles to Fund (General Fund)” handout. (See attached.) The Board agreed to a 4% reduction for FY 10 articles.

“All Department Salaries & Operating Expenses Only” and “FY 10 Proposed Cuts Town Hall” handouts were reviewed. (See attached.)

Votes were taken for “Recommend Selectmen” for Annual Town Meeting Articles. Dr. Bowcock made the motions and Mr. Murphy seconded. Votes were unanimous. (See attached.)

Votes were taken for “Recommended Administration” for Article #4 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Dr. Bowcock made the motions and Mr. Murphy seconded. Votes were unanimous. (See attached.)

The Tree Warden will be asked to submit a revised FY 10 budget with a 4% cut.

William Roth will be asked to attend the next Selectmen's Meeting to explain the Community Preservation Article that appears on the May 2nd Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

OTHER MATTERS

The Board offered their condolences to the family and friends of Firefighter Nancy Scott. Her mother recently passed away.

The Board offered their condolences to the family and friends of Firefighter David Gordon, whose wife recently passed away.

The Town could not reach an agreement with the Fire Union. An arbitration session was held last week and a decision is expected within the next few weeks.

Dr. Bowcock stated the Economic Study Committee met last week. The four “big” departments, Board of Public Works, School Department, Police and Fire Departments, attended. Fiscal year 2010 budgets were discussed along with the possibility of deeper cuts in the next fiscal year. Most departments cut 4% from their FY 10 budgets. Health care for employees and retirees was also discussed. The School Department submitted a level funded budget for FY 10. They will either need to find additional sources of revenue or cut 4% as other departments have done. The Fire Department agreed to a 0% pay increase for next year.

The M.O.L.I.F.E. Charity Ball will be held on March 20, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at White's of Westport. “Woman of the Year” is Pam Francis. “Man of the Year” is

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Kevin Cromwell. The "Lifetime Achievement Award Winner" is Simone Blanchette and Candice Dann is the "Personal Achievement Award Recipient".

Mr. Murphy stated he was a judge at the "Miss Senior Sweetheart Southcoast Pageant". He congratulated the winner, Hilda Connor.

This past weekend, Mr. Silvia presented a Proclamation to Michael Parker, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Silvia attended the lecture on "Fairhaven, the Fishing Port" held at the Town Hall this past Saturday and sponsored by the Historical Society. He said the event was well attended and thanked the Society.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:45 p.m., Dr. Bowcock motioned to go into executive session to discuss Clerical Union Contract negotiations and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary