

Selectmen's Meeting – September 14, 2009

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

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of August 31, 2009. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2009 executive session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

THE JAMES HOLMES MEMORIAL BOAT RAMP

Dorothy Holmes, Ronald Manzone and Tim Cox were present. Mr. Manzone had submitted a letter suggesting the new Pease Park Boat Ramp be dedicated as "The Jim Holmes Memorial Boat Ramp". Mr. Murphy motioned to dedicate the new boat ramp as "The Jim Holmes Memorial Boat Ramp". Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Committee to plan the 12th Manjiro Festival on October 3, 2009 will meet on September 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Landfill Solar Panel Project Proposal will be reviewed on September 17, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hastings Middle School.

Buzzards Bay Action Committee will meet on September 17, 2009 at 12:00 noon at Wareham Town Hall.

Police Sergeant interviews are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on September 17, 2009 at the Police Station.

Civil Service Hearing for Terry Darwin will continue on September 18, 2009 at Southern New England School of Law.

Town auction is scheduled for September 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Public Works. Mr. Murphy will be the auctioneer.

Retirement Board will meet on September 21, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

The next meeting of the Town's Economic Study Committee will be September 29, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

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Mr. Murphy motioned to send a letter to Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee to request that Voke reduce Fairhaven's assessment by \$86,041. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to send a letter to the Dartmouth Board of Selectmen and Mayor Lang of New Bedford asking them to support Fairhaven's request to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee to reduce Fairhaven's assessment by \$86,041. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. If necessary, the Board of Selectmen will meet with Dartmouth Selectmen and/or Mayor Lang.

Dr. Bowcock read the e-mail from William Roth regarding the Buzzards Bay Watershed Municipal Mini Grant in the amount of \$35,000. to buy partial interest in 8 acres off Bridge Street, adjacent to Nasketucket Woods. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to accept the Buzzards Bay Watershed Municipal Mini Grant and to authorize Dr. Bowcock to sign any and all required documents. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy will attend the MMA's Legislative Breakfast Meeting on October 16, 2009 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Acushnet Council on Aging.

Mr. Osuch summarized the letter from the Council on Aging concerning a request by South Coast Community Church to rent the COA Building for their Sunday services. They currently meet in the Sippican School in Marion. In the past, Town Counsel also represented Marion, and perhaps there is a letter on file concerning this matter. Mr. Murphy motioned to authorize Town Counsel to look into the matter, if there is no letter on file. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to authorize payment to Agostini Construction Company, 243 Narragansett Park Drive, East Providence, RI in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Requisition No. 27. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (East Fairhaven Elementary School Project)

Wayne Fostin submitted a request to carry over 4 ½ vacation days beyond his anniversary date of September 19, 2009. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Selectmen received a copy of the most recent un-employment bill in the amount of \$25,212.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Murphy motioned schedule a Special Town meeting for Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hastings Middle School. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to set September 23, 2009 as the deadline for articles to be placed on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. All articles must be submitted to the Selectmen's Office by 4:00 p.m. on September 23rd.

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BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Construction Report for August 2009 will be placed on file.

NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Murphy motioned to sign the lease between the Town of Fairhaven and Robert Hobson for the storage of lobster gear at Hoppy's Landing. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE/TREASURER

The Director of Finance/Treasurer submitted the "Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund Application for FY 2010 Distribution" for the Selectmen's signature. This is the fifth year the Town has applied for funds from this account. Mr. Murphy motioned to sign the application. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

VERIZON

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from Richard Colon, Verizon's Regional Director of External Affairs, regarding the "switching facility" located at Cushman Park. (See attached.)

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Dr. Bowcock read Carl Bissonnette's letter of resignation from the Cultural Council. (See attached.) The Board thanked him for his time on the Council.

RAY'S FAIR REPAIR

Ray's Fair Repair submitted a revised plan for the repair facility at 47 Howland Road. The Building Commissioner reviewed the plan and noted the Town "Should not allow parking on the west side of the building." Discussion followed. Mr. Osuch was instructed to contact Ray's Fair Repair and inform them an engineer's plan must be submitted accurately indicating parking spaces and "true to detail". Mr. Murphy motioned to table the matter until the next meeting. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Dr. Bowcock read the e-mail from the Sustainability Committee stating they would like to sponsor a second annual Environmental Fair to be held September 19th at the Unitarian Church. The Commission requests permission to block off a portion of Walnut Street. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to ask the Police Department to block off a portion of Walnut Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

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SPECIAL ONE DAY ALL ALCOHOLIC LICENSE

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the application for a One Day All Alcoholic License submitted by Ice Chest Bar & Grille for a fund raiser on Sunday, September 20th from noon to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the application for a One Day All Alcoholic License submitted by Fairhaven Varsity Club for a “Pig Roast” on Saturday, September 19th from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

NSTAR GAS

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the petition to install a gas main and services on Elm Avenue between Main St. and Green Street including intersections. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Approved by the Board of Public Works.)

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Murphy thanked all who volunteered at the annual Our Lady of Angels Festival held on Labor Day Weekend and also thanked Kathy Lopes for another successful Ft. Phoenix Road Race/Walk held this past Sunday.

Mr. Silvia reminded residents the Sustainability Committee will hold an “Environmental Fair” on Saturday, September 19th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church. Farmer's Market will be held at the High School on Sunday's from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. thru October 18th. The Academy Building is open on Sundays thru October 18th.

The Board congratulated the Livesey Club on their 60th anniversary. The Selectmen, Representative Straus and Senator Montigny presented Proclamations to the Club for their 60 years of supporting youth activities. Three of the founding members attended the celebration.

On September 29th, the Fairhaven Improvement Association will honor Selectman Michael Silvia for his years of dedicated public service. The event will be held at the Wamsutta Club. Anyone wishing to attend may contact the Improvement Association for more information.

POLICE UNION GRIEVANCE

Police Union Grievance Hearing regarding a decrease in pay, caused by a reduction in State Aid for Police Officers who qualify for the Quinn Bill, was scheduled for 7:10 p.m. Chief Myers, Officer David Correia, Officer Scott Joseph, Attorney Brian Fitzsimmons and Attorney Thomas Crotty were in attendance. Dr. Bowcock summarized the Quinn Bill, which is a financial incentive for Officers to further their education. The Town pays one half of the incentive and the State pays one half. The State has not lived up to their obligation and only paid 16% this year.

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The Union filed a grievance, the Police Chief denied the grievance and it is now before the Board of Selectmen. The Union requested executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:20 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to hear the Union Grievance, to discuss the Landfill Solar Panel Project, the Wind Turbine Project and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary