

Selectmen's Meeting – February 19, 2010

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

Also in attendance was Jeffrey Osuch.

Dr. Bowcock called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of February 8, 2010. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 executive session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

HOUSING AUTHORITY

Jay Simmons and James Leal, members of the Housing Authority, were in attendance to jointly fill the vacancy on the Housing Authority with the Board of Selectmen. By law, both Boards must vote by roll call. Also present was James Dutra, an applicant for the position. A letter requesting appointment was also received from Gregory Bettencourt. Mr. Dutra stated he lives in one of the Housing Authority's units and has a relative who works for the Housing Authority. Mr. Silvia motioned to nominate both candidates. Jay Simmons seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Dr. Bowcock asked Mr. Simmons if he was aware of the Open Meeting Law and prior to this meeting, did he discuss filling the vacancy and who he would vote, with members of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Simmons said he did discuss this with members of the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Bowcock stated this is a clear violation of the Open Meeting Law. Also discussed was the letter from the Housing Authority, dated February 5, 2010, stating the Housing Authority voted unanimously to recommend James Dutra to fill the vacancy. (See attached.) This vote was taken prior to the deadline to submit an application. Discussion followed on the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Gregory Bettencourt to fill the vacancy. Dr. Bowcock voted for Mr. Bettencourt. Mr. Murphy voted for Mr. Bettencourt. Mr. Simmons voted for James Dutra. Mr. Leal voted for Mr. Bettencourt. It was so voted 4-1. Term to expire April 4, 2011.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Retirement Board will meet on February 22, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Job Meeting with Fall River Electric for Town Hall Electrical Repairs is scheduled for February 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall.

Retired Employees Health Insurance Committee will meet on February 23, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Reception at the new "Vet Center", 73 Huttleston Avenue, will be held on February 25, 2010.

Meeting with WES Construction to discuss the Digester Project is schedule for 9:30 a.m. on March 3, 2010 at the Board of Public Works.

Selectmen's Meeting – February 19, 2010

Police Union negotiations are scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on March 4, 2010. Dispatcher Union negotiations are scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2010.

Finance Committee will meet on March 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Council on Aging will meet on March 8, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Silvia motioned to send a letter to Congressman Barney Frank in support of the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority's plans to renovate their Fairhaven Vessel Maintenance Facility. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous. (See attached.)

Mr. Murphy motioned to sign the "Agreement" by and between the Town of Fairhaven and Local 1555, International Association of Firefighters, Inc., pending final approval from Town Counsel. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Silvia motioned to sign the contract with Coviello Electric & General Contracting Co., Inc. 77 Mystic Avenue, Medford, Ma 02155 for the Operation and Maintenance of Municipal Street Lighting System, subject to review of the Insurance Certificate. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Silvia motioned to authorize Dr. Bowcock to sign the "Agreement for Professional Services between Town of Fairhaven, Board of Public Works and Saltonstall Architects for Document, Bidding and Construction Services for Sludge Building Re-Roofing Project". Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock stated the "Memorandum of Understanding" between the Board of Public Works and the Board of Selectmen "to establish a clear and consistent practice for the submission of contracts for approval by the Town Accountant and Town Counsel" has worked well. (See attached.) The "Memorandum" expires on May 1, 2010. Mr. Silvia motioned to send a letter to the Board of Public Works to extend the "Memorandum" from May 1, 2010 to May 1, 2011. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

LANDFILL SOLAR PROJECT

Mr. Osuch summarized the e-mail from Diane Gray, Massachusetts Department of Energy, announcing the Town was awarded an Energy Efficiency and Block Grant sub-grant in the amount of \$150,000. for Solar PV. The grant is for Blue Sky Power and will reduce the rate the Town will pay Blue Sky for the Landfill Solar Project. (See attached.)

BOAT RAMPS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Padraic Elliott submitted his letter of resignation from the Boat Ramps and Recreation Committee. As a member of the Finance Committee, he is not allowed to be on any other Board/Committee. With regret, the Board accepted the resignation.

Selectmen's Meeting – February 19, 2010

ACUSHNET SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

An invitation was received from the Acushnet Board of Selectmen to attend a Founder's Day ceremony on Sunday, March 14th at 1:00 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, 1341 Main Street, Acushnet. The Board will try to attend the ceremony.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr. Murphy asked what was being done with old street signs. Residents have inquired about purchasing them. Mr. Osuch will send a letter to the Board of Public Works asking their plans for the old signs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:45 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to discuss Council on Aging issues and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary