

Selectmen's Meeting – March 22, 2010

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 March 15, 2010. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010 executive session. (6:50 p.m.) Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010 executive session. (9:25 p.m.) Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

GPCS FIBER COMMUNICATIONS

A representative from GPCS Fiber Communications, Inc. was in attendance to briefly explain the "placement of a submerged fiber optic feeder cable between Fairhaven and Martha's Vineyard". The cable will run from the AT & T Building in Fairhaven, down Scoticut Neck and under water to Martha's Vineyard. The "feeder" will provide Martha's Vineyard with reliable, secure broadband, telephone and video connection. Eventually, the fiber optic service will be available to Fairhaven residents. With these services, the GPCS representative stated property values will increase approximately 6% in Fairhaven. With headquarters in Fairhaven, jobs will be generated. The project is expected to begin in late fall of 2010 and be completed by January 2011. (See attached letter.) Discussion followed. The Board welcomed GPCS to Fairhaven. Mr. Silvia left the room when this matter was discussed.

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Tourism Director Chris Richards was in attendance and discussed the FY 11 Tourism Budget Request.

NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

Harbormaster David Darmofal and Shellfish Constable Tim Cox were in attendance to discuss the FY 11 Natural Resource Department Budget Request and Annual Town Meeting Articles.

The Shellfish Constable submitted revised changes to Shellfish and Dredge Boat Regulations. (See attached.)

Natural Resource Department will submit a Reserve Fund Transfer to the Finance Committee to purchase a marker for a mooring buoy off Crowe Island. The marker is a navigational aid. Over the winter, it came loose and was lost.

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BOAT RAMPS & WATERFRONT RECREATIONAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Ted Lorentzen and Tim Cox, members of the Boat Ramp and Waterfront Recreational Property Committee, were present. They requested Ronald Lacasse be appointed to the Committee. Dr. Bowcock made the motion to appoint Mr. Lacasse. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Term to expire May 31, 2011)

The Committee requested authorization from the Board of Selectmen to place portable toilets at Pease Park and Seaview Avenue Boat Ramps from Memorial Day to October 12th. They suggested funding come from either the Waterway User Account, Parking Ramps/Sticker Fees or possibly from one of the Improvement Associations.

The Board supported the Committee's plan to organize a Pope Beach Clean Up Day. The Committee will inform the Board when a date is selected. Board of Public Works will be asked to pick up and dispose of the trash.

G. BOURNE KNOWLES PROPERTY

Attorney Mulford was in attendance. He gave a brief history of the G. Bourne Knowles property and the covenant placed on the property in April of 2006. (See attached.) Robert Karam, the Developer at the time, will not pursue the project. A new developer is interested in the property. Attorney Mulford presented the new project to the Planning Board and they voted to remove the covenant and allow 84 luxury apartments on the site. Attorney Mulford suggested the Board of Selectmen schedule a public hearing in the near future, so the project may be fully explained. A hearing will be held on April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Attorney Mulford, G. Bourne Knowles and the developer will be present.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Members of the School Committee and the School Business Administrator were in attendance and discussed the FY 11 School Budget. Budget request is \$16,996,613. However, the School Committee stated the budget will most likely be increased by \$100,000. to \$150,000. in order to fund three counselor positions. Discussion followed. Articles submitted for the Annual Town Meeting were also discussed. School Business Administrator requested Article #13 be increased to \$75,000. Mr. Murphy motioned to reconsider the Selectmen's Recommendation for Article #13 Special Needs Early Childhood Program Revolving Account. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Murphy motioned to recommend \$75,000. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Meeting with EPA regarding Atlas Tack is scheduled for March 23, 2010 at Town Hall.

WES Construction will meet at the Board of Public Works on March 24, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

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Jack Eggleston and staff from Blue Sky Power will meet at the landfill on March 25, 2010 to view the site for the solar panel project.

Finance Committee will meet on March 25th and April 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Public Works.

Fire negotiations are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on April 2, 2010.

The Animal Control Officer will submit a Finance Committee Transfer Request for veterinary bills.

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from the Police Chief requesting the Board call for a Civil Service Sergeant's Exam for October 2010. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock read the letter from Fran Robillard requesting permission to carry over 3 ¼ vacation days beyond her anniversary date. (See attached.) Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the request. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous.

ANIMAL SHELTER GIFT ACCOUNT

Donations to the Gift Account totaling \$135.00 were accepted.

SRPEDD

Letter from SRPEDD stating the Town is required to appoint a representative to the "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee", was placed on "hold" until additional information is received from SRPEDD.

SRPEDD Technical Assistance Request Form will be discussed with the Director of Planning and Economic Development.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

A request was received from Steven Bouley to hold the National Day of Prayer in front of the Town Hall on May 6th at 12:00 noon and in the event of rain, to use the auditorium. The Board approved to the request.

NSTAR GAS

Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the petition for gas line maintenance at 73 Akin Street. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. (Approved by the Board of Public Works.)

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Votes were taken for "Recommended Administration" for Article #4 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and for Annual Town Meeting Articles. (See attached.)

Dr. Bowcock motioned to place an article on the Special Town Meeting Warrant for Local Acceptance of the Stretch Energy Code. Mr. Murphy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dr. Bowcock read the draft "Stretch Code" Article. (See attached.)

Building Department/Board of Health Administrative Assistant Position will be posted as soon as possible.

An appointment will be scheduled on the March 29, 2010 agenda with the Director of Planning and Economic Development to discuss Annual Town Meeting Article #14 Community Preservation Program Direct Appropriations from Fund Balance and Estimated Receipts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., Mr. Murphy motioned to go into executive session to discuss Union Contract negotiations, access to Bella Vista Island and not to reconvene in open session. Mr. Silvia seconded. Vote was unanimous. Roll call vote 3-0.

Jan St. Germain
Secretary