

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
December 4, 2012

Members Present: James DeVellis, Chairman
Mark Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Lorraine Brue, Clerk
Lynda Walsh
Ginny Coppola

Others Present: Town Manager Kevin Paicos

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by James DeVellis, Chairman. Chairman DeVellis reviewed the agenda.

Chairman's Update

Mr. DeVellis and other Board members have been receiving calls and requests from the media and others in regards to initiating an investigation about the recently uncovered child sex abuse case in which a former town resident is being accused of molesting children from the 1960's to 1981. Investigators and attorneys are working on this case as a criminal process and it is in the police department's jurisdiction. It is not in the interest of the Board of Selectmen to discuss this case, however, the town department heads, School Superintendant and the Police Chief are looking for any records that will help the investigation. Anyone who was a victim of Mr. Sheehan is welcome to reach out to the Board, but Mr. DeVellis recommends they contact the Police department, specifically officer Tim O'Leary. The YMCA is offering a presentation to educate the public on prevention of sexual abuse of children Thursday night.

Mr. DeVellis then read a public statement: "I see absolutely no benefit whatsoever in putting up roadblocks in determining what happened back then to our kids. Victims simply did not get the respect they deserved during those days and I will do everything that I can as a Selectman to make sure that it does not happen to them again as adults by covering anything up or being less than completely helpful. If our community failed a child back then, the worst thing we can do now is not address it openly to get the questions answered. This is somewhat early in the process and I know few details, however, if the flag that the selectmen have to waive high says 'If you are a predator in our community, we will make it as difficult and miserable as possible for you to exist here or anywhere.', then that is what I will do. Step one starts with getting to the truth and there is no other way in my opinion. I am confident that our town and our leaders will do the right thing and there is nothing I have seen or heard so far to the contrary."

Crossroads Veteran's Services District Grant

The Board met with Mike Johns of Veteran's Services. Town Planner Sharon Wason, who helped write the grant is not available this evening. This grant is to help the four communities in the Crossroads Veterans Service District, Easton, Foxboro, Mansfield and Norton, with transitional costs as they are regionalized. This will cover costs such

as telephone lines, computer services, etc. The grant was applied for last year, but they did not get it. They are reapplying this year and need one town to take the lead and the Board of Selectmen to sign. This grant will result in an improvement in their services.

Ms. Brue noted that an email was received from the Governor today looking to make cuts in services and Veteran's Services was specifically mentioned. Ms. Brue suggests that they reach out to our legislators for support.

A motion to endorse the application for the Crossroads Veteran's Services District Grant was made by Ms. Brue and seconded by Mr. Sullivan. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Appointment of Paul Dumas as an Alternate to the Board of Directors of the Crossroads Veterans Service District

Current Board member Robert Siteman has been on a medical leave and asks that Cyril Paul Dumas be appointed to serve as an alternate until Mr. Siteman is available again. This would be an interim appointment as a provision is needed to appoint alternates for all the towns in the district.

A motion to appoint Cyril Paul Dumas as an Alternate to the Board of Directors of the Crossroads Veterans Services District until January 31, 2013 was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Alcohol License Renewal Affidavits

The Board was presented with a list of all establishments seeking to renew their alcohol licenses. Only two on the list, Bar Louie and Waxy O'Connor's, do not have all the required paperwork submitted. It was also noted that Antonia's will not be renewing their license and that will be reverting back to the town. The Picadilly Pub license is under a court order to renew their license as Picadilly Pub as the sale of the business has not gone through yet. The Asian Ginger restaurant has not received a license from the ABCC yet.

Mr. Paicos recommends that all licenses be signed at this time and that Bar Louie and Waxy O'Connor's will not be released until all required items are submitted.

A motion to renew and sign all Alcohol License Renewal Affidavits was made by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Year End Insurance Loss Control Program

Mr. Paicos reviewed the results of the Loss Control Program for FY13 with the Board. This is a report submitted by the Executive Loss Control Committee (ELCC) whose purpose is to review and manage all insurance claims as well as offer preventative training. They have been working on claims reductions and participating in the MIIA rewards program which rewards the town with credits for participating in training, policy adoption and other tools. The town earned \$46,000 in credits last year which will be applied to the FY13 insurance premiums. The premiums themselves should be lower

due to low loss ratios the past three years. The Experience Modification Factor (Mod) of the town is very low due to these low ratios. The town is expecting a \$120,000 reduction in premiums due to rewards credits, early payment credits, joint participation credits and underwriting endorsements.

Mr. Paicos wishes to thank the members of the committee including School Superintendant Deb Spinelle, School Business Manager Bill Yukna, Police Chief Ed O'Leary, Fire Chief Roger Hatfield, Dep. Fire Chief Steve Bagley, Assistant Town Accountant Jodi Cuneo, COA Director Vicki Lowe, Health Director Pauline Clifford, DPW Director Roger Hill, Town Engineer Bob Swanson, Library Director Jerry Cirillo, Executive Assistant Sandra Herrmann, the School Committee Advisory Committee, the Library Board and the Board of Health.

FY14 Budget Goals

Mr. Paicos stated that the budgets should be done by the end of January. There are a few guidelines is preparing the budgets. There is no wage COLA as it has not been voted yet. Some departments will need new employees, the priority will be Public Safety and Police, DPW Laborer, a floating Clerk for Town Hall, Social Services and Council on Aging and the Library.

The cost of electricity has been in flux but there is a bid in place, this bid is only for the cost, not for distribution or transportation. The gas contract will be rebid also as prices have been going up recently.

The Library Custodian position has been cut down to part time right now due to the library relocation. This position will be restored to full time once the library goes back to their renovated building.

In regards to Public Safety, initiatives are being looked at including the liquor licenses at Patriot's Place including more police officers as mitigation. They are also looking at reorganizing the police department which will result in more patrolmen. Right now the police department is stretched thin; sometimes there are not the required numbers of patrolmen out on the roads.

The town has a unique situation with Patriot Place, sometimes all available patrolmen are there, especially on weekends as the detail officers there cannot transport anyone arrested, this results in less coverage elsewhere in town. They are hoping to add two officers next year.

The Social Services department at the Senior Center has been looking for more personnel for years. They also have a unique situation with housing on motels on Route 1. The COA Director is doing both jobs right now.

There is still an opening in the Finance Department, this is a funded position.

The DPW is looking to add two to three laborers, these would be beginning positions. The efficiencies at the DPW are still being looked at. The creation of the DPW cut 1 ½ full time positions and created the position of Town Engineer.

The Advisory Committee will have a Saturday morning meeting to discuss level services versus level spending.

Action Items

The Board reviewed the minutes of November 13, 2012 and November 20, 2012.

A motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2012 was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

A motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2012 as amended was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Two members of the Agricultural Commission need to be reappointed.

A motion to reappoint John Hazeldine and Rosemary Smith with appreciation to the Agricultural Commission for three year terms expiring on December 14, 2015 was made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Walsh. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

A request for One-Day All Alcohol Licenses for possible Patriot's playoff games has been received from Fred Smerlas of First and Goal.

A motion to approve up to two licenses for Fred Smerlas/First and Goal on a date to be determined by the Patriot's playoff schedule was made by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

A request has been received from Anastasia Tsoumbanos of the Lake View Pavillion to allow 11:00 a.m. openings on Saturdays and Sundays to serve alcohol in 2013.

A motion to grant an early Saturday and Sunday opening at 11:00 a.m. for 2013 for the Lake View Pavillion was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Ms. Brue. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

The Walpole Board of Selectmen as seeking the Board's support in sending a letter to the legislature to delay the effective date of the Medical Marijuana law. They feel that zoning needs to be developed by the towns through their town meetings in the spring and the current effective date will not give the towns enough time to do this.

Mr. Paicos stated that the first step is putting out regulations which need to be done by the Department of Public Health. There will be six clinics allowed statewide.

The Board will forward this request to the Planning Board as it involves zoning.

It was noted that the advertisement for the Waxy O'Connor's liquor license violation hearing was advertised as January 8, 2012 instead of January 8, 2013. This has been corrected.

The Board discussed the open office hours that have been available for the past few months on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. There has not been very much public response. The Board members decided to discontinue these hours but any member of the public who would like to talk to a Board member can call the office and make an appointment.

A motion to adjourn the meeting to enter into Executive Session and not return to regular session at 8:00 p.m. was made by Ms. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Sullivan. **The motion carried 5-0-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray