

Board of Selectmen's Meeting

October 15, 2019

Gala Meeting Room, Foxborough Town Hall

6:30 P.M.

Member Attending: Mark Elfman, Chairman, Leah Gibson, Vice-Chairman, Edward O'Leary, Clerk, Chris Mitchell, and David Feldman.

Also Present: William G. Keegan, Jr., Town Manager, and Michael Johns, Assistant Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. with Chairman Elfman asking for a motion to go into Executive Session for the reasons listed in Item 1 of the Agenda. E. O'Leary moved to go into executive session of purposes listed in Item 1 of the Agenda. D. Feldman seconded the motion and all members voted in the affirmative by using a roll call method of voting. The Board also noted for the record that they would be returning to open session following the conclusion of the executive session.

1. 6:30pm - Executive Session

Discussion

1.01 To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations concerning the Town Manager's contract

Action, Discussion

1.02 BOS Vote to Approve/Release Executive Session Meeting Minutes for 9/30/19 and to reconvene in Open Session.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at approximately 7:20 P.M.

Chairman Elfman proceeded to read the agenda for the meeting. Michael Johns lead everyone with the pledge of allegiance.

2. 7:25pm - Citizen's Input

Discussion

2.01 Public Comment

Pat Stevens thanked the Town Engineer, Chris Gallagher for helping to place an illuminated speed sign near the corner of her property located on Mechanic Street. She said that the sign has been helpful in reducing traffic speed on Mechanic Street near her house.

3. 7:30pm - Wayfinding and Branding

Action, Discussion

3.01 Discussion/Possible Vote on the Wayfinding and Branding Strategy

Paige Duncan, Town Planning Director, led a discussion and presentation pertaining a process that had begun over a year ago to work with a working group of staff and residents and a consultant to help identify a branding concept for the Town of Foxborough. As part of that process, a review of the downtown signage was performed and the results revealed that there are approximately 180

street signs located throughout the downtown area. This can lead to confusion and what is referred to as “sign pollution”. The working group made several recommendations for removing several signs that we determined to be confusing or counter-productive to what is now going on in Downtown Foxborough. Ms. Duncan then presented the Board with several examples of new signage that was reflective of the brand that most members of the working group thought would leave a positive impression of this community to those traveling through and conducting business in the Downtown area.

Board members found the presentation very helpful and were supportive of the proposals presented. L. Gibson who participated in the process felt that the ideas presented were well vetted and were reflective of the working groups discussion. Following the discussion, the Board accepted the report as presented and supported the new wayfinding concepts for the Downtown. P. Duncan said that there is no funding for the new signage at this time but that efforts are being made to fund raise so that the program could be implemented in phases.

A motion was made by E. O’Leary to accept the recommendations as presented and to support the new branding program for the Downtown. Second: D. Feldman, All members voted in the affirmative.

4. 7:55pm Rotary Temporary Traffic Control Plan

Action, Discussion

4.01 Update and Discussion/Possible Vote on Rotary Temporary Traffic Control Plan

Chris Gallagher, the Town’s Engineer, opened the discussion concerning some temporary traffic adjustments to a section of the Town Common Rotary to help alleviate traffic backups on Main Street. These backups occur due to traffic conflicts that happen when vehicles leave Main Street and enter the traffic circle. Traffic will often stop at the corner and wait for vehicles to clear the rotary before entering. This backup causes significant delays on Main Street at approximately 3:00pm and 6:00pm. Chris turned the presentation over to Tim Thomson from the PARE Engineering firm who described some of the temporary measures that are being proposed so that the traffic can move more freely in the Common Rotary. Mr. Thomson provided detailed reasoning for the Town to evaluate some temporary measures that might help the flow of traffic in the Rotary. C. Gallagher indicated to the Board that they did a similar detailed presentation at a public hearing on this topic a week prior to tonight’s meeting and it was very well attended. A lot of important information and ideas were presented and there seemed to be a consensus that testing some ideas was a good approach; before installing any permanent changes to the Rotary. C. Gallagher also indicated that this test was a phase 1 approach and that other changes may be forth coming to the other end of the Rotary; if this is successful.

The Board began their discussion by acknowledging the good meeting that was held on this topic just last week. Several Board members were in attendance at that meeting so what was presented tonight was not a surprise. M. Elfman commented that if the temporary measures are effective, that he would like to see some permanent changes made as quickly as possible. In short, he did not want the Town to study, reach a conclusion and then pull the barrels out and go back to the old method of traffic flow in the Rotary and confuse the public. Board members generally agreed with that comment. C. Gallagher said that they will evaluate the traffic movement for 30 days and then come up with some conclusions. Weather permitting, they will do what they can to install a more permanent solution for the Rotary.

A Motion was made by E. O’Leary to approve the temporary traffic measures as proposed by PARE Engineering and the Town’s Engineer for a 30 day test period; and if the tests are determined to be successful, that a more permanent solution be installed as soon as possible. Second: D. Feldman, All members voted in the Affirmative.

5. 8:20pm - Gillette Stadium Annual Event License

Action, Discussion

5.01 Review/Discussion and Possible Vote on Gillette Stadium Annual Event License

William Keegan, the Town Manager, introduced this topic and also introduced Patrick Costello, the Town Counsel and Peter Tamm, an Attorney representing the Kraft Group. Mr. Keegan stated that what is before the Board tonight is a document that has been prepared over a span of about 3-4 years in which the Town and the Kraft Group have worked toward drafting an annual license for the all of the major events that occur at Gillette Stadium. Attorney Costello explained to the Board that this annual license approach would help to reduce the number of administrative hearings that are held throughout the year for major sporting or entertainment events held at Gillette Stadium. What would happen is that the Kraft Group would submit one major application to the Board for their consideration. It is anticipated that this application would be forth coming in the first or second month of the calendar year. This application would include a listing of all the anticipated events that would be expected to occur at the venue over the next twelve month span. This would include Major League Soccer, NFL football, concerts, specialized sporting events, and other entertainment options.

If an event that was not listed on the single application were to come up during the year, the Board has the option of holding a special hearing on the event or they could opt to include it as part of the overall application. This may be particularly true if the event was considered to be routine in nature. What's important about this process is that it does not limit the Board or the Town's rights to protect public safety and to consider the public welfare.

This "annual license" approach has been in other major venues throughout the country but more importantly this approach has been adopted in both Mansfield and in the City of Boston.

If this were to pass this evening the Board would also be asked to submit a request for special legislation that would allow this license to remain active for a 12 month cycle from the date that the license is approved. Currently, Massachusetts Law limits licenses to expire on December 31 of each year. However, due to the unique nature of the events at Gillette, the event schedules usually runs past December 31. The special legislation would cure the limitation for granting this license.

D. Feldman and C. Mitchell confirmed for the Board that this license was something that has been in the works for several years and it was good to see it finally come to fruition.

M. Elfman asked Town Counsel and Mr. Keegan what action was needed from the Board this evening. Mr. Keegan indicated that there really should be two motions from the Board; if they agree with this proposal. One would be to approve the single license approach for Gillette Stadium with the first year anticipated for the 2020 season starting in March of 2020. The second would be to authorize the Town Manager to submit legislation by filing it with the State Representative and the Governor's Office. The special legislation that would allow the license to expire at the end of a continuous 12 month cycle as opposed to ending on the last day of the calendar year. E. O'Leary made the motion to approve the new single license proposal for Gillette Stadium as presented by Town Counsel and the Town Manager. Second: D. Feldman, Vote: all members voting in the affirmative.

Second Motion: E. O'Leary made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to file special legislation that will allow the Annual Gillette Stadium Entertainment License to span a continuous 12 month cycle and not be limited by the present law which would cause such license to automatically expire on December 31st of each year. Second: D. Feldman, Vote- All members voted in the affirmative.

6. 8:00pm - Selectmen's Update

Discussion

6.01 Selectmen's Update:

M. Elfman indicated that the new parking lot located at Schneider Electric is very dark at night. He didn't know if there was anything the Town could do to help this situation. Mr. Keegan said that he would review this with Roger Hill from the DPW Department to determine if there were any viable options.

7. 8:05pm - Town Manager's Update

Discussion

7.01 Town Manager's Update – Mr. Keegan provided his update to the Board and highlighted that the Financial Summit was coming up October 17 and that is what he has been focused on. The Meeting will be different from how it was presented in the past and that it will be interactive. Other updates included information about the Hatheway Patterson Site. Mr. Keegan informed the Board that representatives from the EPA and DEP were out this past week to offer a status report on the site. There were not notable concerns expressed. One observation was that there needs to be some street sweeping and crack filling of the parking lot. This has been raised with the DPW Department and they will be addressing this in the Spring of 2020. The Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow night to offer their final recommendations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Pilot Commuter Rail Service to Foxborough will begin on Monday, the 21st of October. There will be a small gathering at the Train Station that day to officially open this new service to and from Foxborough to Boston. Finally, Mr. Keegan will be attending the ICMA Annual Conference in Nashville through Wednesday of next week but will remain on vacation through next Friday. Mike Johns will be in charge while he is away.

8. 8:10pm- Assistant Town Manager's Update

Discussion

8.01 Assistant Town Manager's Update- Mr. Johns provided his updates to the Board and indicated that he is working on several position openings at this time including the Community Information Specialist

9. Action Items

Action, Discussion

9.01 Public Event Application - Recreation Department Application for Halloween Parade from the Igo School to Town Common with trick or treating on both sides of Central Street on 10/26/19 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

Action, Discussion

9.02 Fire Department - Acceptance of Firefighters Assistance Grant in the amount of \$138,727.27
Action, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.03 Recreation - Acceptance of Gift Donation of \$2,500 to the Recreation Department from Stephen & Susan Burlone for the Booth Playground Construction. Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.04 Veteran Services - Acceptance of Gift Donation of \$112.00 to the Veteran Services Department from the Fisher School Sunshine Water Fund in Memory of Phillip Conway

Action, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.05 Veterans Services - Acceptance of a Gift Donation of \$250.00 to the Veterans Services Department from James S. Dailey Jr. and Paula M.H. Dailey. Action, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.06 Veterans Services - Acceptance of Gift Donation of \$100.00 to the Veteran Services Department from L. Grasso in Memory of Phillip T. Clark
Action, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.07 Boyden Library- Acceptance of a Gift Donation of \$10,000.00 to the Boyden Library from John N. Spinney and Erin S. Halperin Charitable Giving Trust to be used for the Spinney Speakers Series Cost.
Action, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

9.08 Approve 9/30/19 Minutes, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

10/1/19 meeting minutes, Motion to approve: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: E. O'Leary, Second: D. Feldman. Vote= All members voted in the affirmative.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM