

1/13/03

(13)

Selectmen's Minutes December 2, 2002 7:00 P.M.

Present: Trey Shupert, Walter Foster, F. Dore' Hunter, Peter Ashton, Pam Harting-Barrat, Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. Meeting was televised.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

Trey spoke about the input we have been receiving about the sidewalk on Esterbrook Road. They had put the sidewalk condition in the decision. He has now received emails that the residents don't want the sidewalks now and urged the board to consider that the sidewalk to no where will eventually become a side walk to somewhere. Don noted that he has had conversations with Garry Rhodes and Garry has been working with the developer who is interested in building the sidewalk. Garry could not ascertain what contribution the developer would be willing to offer. Peter suggested that we not build the sidewalk. He feels that it would make things easier with dealing with wet lands issues. He thinks it should go to a public hearing. Walter said we should have a process in place to address these issues as they come up. He is an advocate of sidewalks but we need to do this in a public session. It was noted that we should check with the attorneys. Pam felt that she would like to hear from those affected and more about the replication of the wet lands.

Graham Knowland – Said that Esterbrook is a scenic road and to put in a sidewalk would require many trees and stone walls being destroyed. He said he remembered that the abutters did not want them, but the Selectmen urged them. He started on about the curb cut on Esterbrook. Trey and Dore' asked him if he wanted the sidewalks. He said they want safety. He would not directly answer the question.

Don was asked to have Garry Rhodes speak with the developer to discuss this possible change.

Trey said that we need to schedule a public hearing.

Chris Schaffner – He spoke about the Public Safety Building and the program that will fund renewable energy systems, wind, solar, or fuel cells with funding which would total 105% of the debt. He offered his service if they wanted to pursue.

Alice Quirk of Bellows Farms – Representative of Farm Brook Trust. They need to obtain the as built plans of their septic plant from Northwest Structures. They are required to have those as built plans for DEP etc. They need to renew their permit for 2003 and they need to start this in January. They were asking the Town for help in obtaining these As Builts.

They would like us to send a reminder to Peabody to submit his As Built Plans as soon as possible. Dore' noted that they inform Mr. Peabody to submit this information. Don said that the BOH has sent letters and he will follow-up with a phone call and letter.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

SEWER COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

SEWER PLANT CONTAMINATION

Peter spoke about the need for a fine structure should an incident like this occur again, and to act as a deterrent. PETER ASHTON – Moved that we accept the fine structure of \$5,000 per offense, per day. DORE' HUNTER – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

MR. HONG AN – PETER ASHTON - Moved to appoint Mr. An as an Alternate Member of the HDC for a term to expire June 30, 2005. WALTER FOSTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

FRIENDS OF THE CPA – Susan Mitchell-Hardt – The "Friends" presented a check for \$550.49, which is the balance in their account to offset the costs of setting up the program.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

FY04 BUDGET DISCUSSION – Trey spoke about the public meeting and he noted the following items for consideration by the Board. Free Cash, and there was feedback about cutting personnel in the A and B budgets. He wants a working session on the 16th to give them a month to finalize budgets and bringing them back to the Board for action.

Dore' noted that we heard from Bill Mullin who said we should maintain credibility by having personnel cuts. Dore' does not agree and he thinks we need to talk about preserving services. He feels we need to draw the line and we need not cut personnel to make us credible. Dore' reiterated he will carry a NO to town meeting floor.

Peter said it is imperative that we continue to move forward for final decision about the B budget and amounts of Free Cash to be used in both A and B Budgets. He hopes ALG process will work through this. Peter's thoughts are that we need to reduce Overtime and that would reduce FTE's in the B Budget. He said we need to look at the library decreasing number of days being open, as well as reductions in public safety departments. It will be hard to find layoffs, as the budget is lean.

Walter feels that we have received feedback and that he has been looking at issues he wants to take a hard look at adjusting both A and B Budgets. He felt we should not make it a situation of laying off instead of reductions in services. He will be voting to shift some of the items that they feel are critical risks

Pam said that she is concerned with cutting back public safety.

Trey spoke about the cuts in both budgets. He has asked staff to look at putting capital items back into the budget. He also noted we need to look at the overtime use in Public Safety and other union issues in the organization.

Don noted that if we cut out overtime or call back in Highway it hardly would make a dent.

FEES DISCUSSION – Recreation Commission took a look at their fees and provided us with what other communities provide. They felt that it was not a comparison of towns like Acton. They said we could set the early Bird Beach fee at \$125 and the remaining at full price. He would like to see a significant fee difference between the Early Bird Beach fee and the regular beach fee. The Board discussed other Recreation fees such as the increase to \$175.00 per child per week to attend camp. It was decided to contact the Recreation Commission to get more information and input regarding the proposed fee increases.

LICENSE RENEWALS – WALTER FOSTER – Moved to approve Liquor Licenses, contingent on outstanding taxes being paid. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

WALTER FOSTER – Moved approve the retail package store licenses Contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. DORE' HUNTER – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.
WALTER FOSTER – Moved to approve the Wine and Malt contingent on outstanding taxes being paid. PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Common VICTUALER Beer and Wine Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Class II Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Class I Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Entertainment Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Bowling Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Billiard Table Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Amusement Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Taxi Car and Drivers Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve the License to Tell Fortunes Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve The Boarding House License contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WALTER FOSTER - Move to approve all Common VICTUALER Licenses contingent upon outstanding taxes being paid. . PAM HARTING BARRAT – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

CLOSE 2003 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT – PETER ASHTON – Moved to set the 2003 Warrant at the close of business on December 16, 2002. DORE' HUNTER – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

OTHER BUSINESS

Debt Exclusion Issue resolved? Submitted to DOR
Exchange Hall – Parking and Counsel opinion and go through the memo with all items addressed

Bruce Freeman – agree with Tom's opinion.
EDIC – Next steps on calendar for Jan 13 at 7:45.'

Starbucks – issues raised

2020 meeting on Dec. 11th at 6:15 at the Senior Citizen.

Pam spoke about Ms. Jacoby's complaint about the paving in front of her home.

CONSENT AGENDA

F. DORE HUNTER – Moved to approve. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Don noted that he and staff were going out with the architect in Connecticut tomorrow to see some of the public safety buildings they have been involved in.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PAM HARTING-BARRAT – Moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and Collective Bargaining. Roll taken All Yeas. PETER ASHTON – Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Christine Joyce
Recording Clerk

Clerk

Date

Selectmen's minutes
December 2, 2002

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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Collective bargaining – No gag clause this time has been voted already. Don asked for guidance – Dore' said talk up the Overtime costs.

Trey said note our displeasure of Fire going on to JMLC on the fourth session.

Golf Course to settle the back taxes and we have gone to the State Forester for disposition of whether or not it is considered forest land. It is noted that the decision may not be made before the end of the year. We could lose 4 years of roll back taxes of a 8-year roll back. John was told to take the hard line. Town Manager draft letter to them with a copy to the Governor and Mitt Romney.

Christine Joyce
Recording Clerk

Clerk

Date