

Acton Board of Health

December 10, 2007

Members Present: William Taylor, Chairman, William McInnis, Member and Phil Alvarez, Associate voting for Joanne Bissetta.

Staff Present: Doug Halley, Health Director and Sheryl Ball.

Others Present: Steve Graham, Atty,

The meeting was called to order at 7:41p.m.

Minutes

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Board of Health minutes dated November 26, 2007 as amended.

Show Cause Hearing – Quail Ridge Country Club

Dr. Taylor opened the show cause hearing. The Board reviewed the settlement agreement and made modifications. Dr. Taylor asked about the legality of the settlement agreement and it was stated that the agreement gives the Town of Acton more leverage in court if ever needed. If the Board is in agreement with this document a vote is needed to approve this document. Mr. Halley stated that Town Counsel has suggested that the Board vote to give power to chairman to sign the agreement. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to accept the agreement as amended and gave the chairman the authorization to sign the document.

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to close the show cause hearing.

Salary Parity

Mr. Halley stated that the Town is contemplating salary parity. Mr. Halley stated that compensation of Town employees has been found to be below average as compared to other communities for most employees. The Selectmen want to raise the salaries in order to maintain rates with current communities and would also like to add a 5% increase that an employee who has reached their top step could be awarded based on a good review. Mr. Alvarez stated that he fully endorses this concept and asked if this would be subject to Town Meeting vote. Mr. Halley stated that the budget will be presented to Town Meeting and it would include these increases. The Selectmen have the authority to vote the policy but the town's people would have to vote the monies. The Selectmen are meeting with the Finance Committee and are discussing this policy prior to bringing it to Town meeting. Mr. Halley explained that they took the average of all 15 communities that were surveyed and looked at more than just salary compensation. They also looked at each employees number of duties, hours worked, what they do, etc. It is anticipated that the Town will need approximately \$473,000 to bring everyone to parity. On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to endorse the salary parity.

Other

- A resident of Acton has written a letter to the Board asking the Board to consider a ban or time restrictions on the use of leaf blowers. The Board stated such a regulation would need to include all other appliances such as lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc...and that a regulation is not something the Board wants to address at this time.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. McInnis, seconded by Mr. Alvarez, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Ball, Health Secretary
Acton Board of Health

William Taylor, Chairman
Acton Board of Health