

**MINUTES
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
GRIFFIN ROOM, TOWN HALL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

APPROVED

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Brown, Cebula, Hughes, LaMantia, MacAskill

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Christopher Clark, David Riquinha, Dan Pelletier, Ginny Hewitt, Jeremy Gingras, Gary Carreiro, Sally Urbano, Brooke Williams, Barbara Josselyn, Liz Groves, Allin Thompson, Danette Gonsalves, and others.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Peter Hughes.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gingras reported on the upcoming Cranberry Festival events. The Board took comments from Brooke Williams regarding uses for the West Harwich School.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes – June 17, 2015 Regular Meeting
- B. Approve and sign Amendment to Town of Harwich/Harwich Historical Society Agreement to include A. Elmer Crowell Barn building as requested by Brooks Academy Museum Commission
- C. Approve request by Brooks Academy Museum Commission to establish A. Elmer Crowell Barn Maintenance Gift Account
- D. Approve Chapter 90 Project Request for Resurfacing Various Roads in the amount of \$392,645.08
- E. Accept gifts to Harbor Demolition/Beautification Fund
- F. Accept gifts to Albro House Maintenance Gift Account

Ms. Brown moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/PRESENTATIONS *(Not earlier than 6:30 P.M.)*

- A. Annual Meetings:
 - 1. Architectural Advisory

Ms. Josselyn and Ms. Groves provide the annual report of the Architectural Advisory Committee.

- 2. Agricultural Commission

Chairman Hughes reported that the Agricultural Commission has asked to be rescheduled.

3. Brooks Academy Museum Commission

Mr. Gingras provided the annual report of the Brooks Academy Museum Commission.

4. Historic District / Historic Commission

Chairman Hughes reported that the Historic District/Historical Commission has asked to be rescheduled.

B. Joint Meeting with Board of Water Commissioners regarding potential water/wastewater organizational configuration – *discussion and possible vote*

Chairman Hughes asked the Water Commissioners if they had taken a vote to either support or not support the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Mr. Thompson stated that 2 of the 3 Water Commissioners serve on the Wastewater Implementation Committee but the full Board of Water Commissioners has not voted on the CWMP. He stated that with regard to the organization, they have voted a position to have a 5 member elected Board for water and wastewater. He outlined a study that they commissioned in 2012 noting that it is discussed in the study. He stated that the Selectmen already have a full boat and if they go with this 5 member elected Board they will still be involved as they will have to sign bond issues and participate in fee structures. He said he doesn't think the Selectmen want to take on complaints and billing issues and he stressed the need for infrastructure improvements that need to be addressed. Chairman Hughes noted that recent races for Water Commissioners have been uncontested and questioned if there would be enough interest to fill a 5 member Board. Mr. Thompson responded that he firmly believes we will always have enough interested people. Chairman Hughes noted that there were significant management issues at the Water Department and questioned what steps would they use to make sure that doesn't happen again. Mr. Thompson responded that all employees know they may talk to the Commissioners at any time and there are now written policies in place including use of cell phones and computers. Chairman Hughes asked if the Water Department has a plan that matches the CWMP to what they might need water wise. Mr. Thompson responded that East Harwich is all set for water and our problems will be in the older part of Town. He said we are looking at about \$25 million in updates. Ms. Cebula questioned who makes sure the policies are supervised. Mr. Carreiro stated that they have gone way off subject and the comments are inappropriate and uncalled for. Chairman Hughes said he disagreed in light of past events and added that this is a lot of taxpayer money. Mr. LaMantia proposed keeping the current Commissioners as appointed members of a Wastewater and Water Committee, and having them report to the Town Administrator who reports to the Board, and the Selectmen would deal basically with policy. Mr. MacAskill clarified that the Commissioners are proposing expanding the current Board and increasing their responsibilities. He stated that an elected body is answerable to the taxpayers and he is not sure the Selectmen have the expertise for water and wastewater. Mr. Carriero stated that an elected body carries more weight being answerable to the taxpayers and an appointed body for this caliber of work isn't effective. Ms. Gonsalves pointed out that they already have the billing and software in place. Ms. Cebula asked that the report that Mr. Thompson referenced be placed on the Town's website so the public can have a better understanding. Mr. Clark stated that there has been a legislative history that this is an elected body and it would be a significant change to make it appointed and from a business perspective having the billing merged with water makes sense. Mr. Cakounes said he strongly disagrees with a potential charter change to disband the Water Commission and have the water and sewer duties under the Board of Selectmen. He noted that the

Department has a history of awards and citations and the Selectmen would be overtaxed with adding this under their direction. He said we should increase the elected Board to 5 members. Chairman Hughes said they would continue the dialogue.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Preparation for Charter amendments – *discussion and possible vote*

Chairman Hughes reviewed the memo from Kopelman and Paige dated November 12, 2014 regarding Charter Interpretation Issues and asked Mr. Clark to identify the items they want to work on for their meeting with the By-Law Charter Review Committee next week. Mr. LaMantia noted that the Harbormaster isn't specified in the Charter and should be.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Declare the following structures as surplus and offer for bid - *discussion & possible vote*:

1. Detached garage in rear of Albro House
2. Addition on east side of Albro House

Ms. Brown said we should hold off on this until we know if we are going to keep the building. Ms. Urbano said it detracts from the historic form of the building. Ms. Cebula questioned why if a Town department is doing something on Town property it becomes a Town expense and Mr. LaMantia noted that we have to pay the fees to ABC Disposal and we don't have any other source of funds. Ms. Cebula also questioned why we are soliciting funds to pay for Town expenses. Ms. Brown said we can start to create a plan for the building and Mr. Clark responded that administration has developed a plan for Town use and a wellness center. Mr. LaMantia moved to declare as surplus and offer for bid the detached garage in the rear of the Albro House and the addition on the east side of Albro House. Ms. Cebula seconded the motion for discussion. Mr. MacAskill stated he was against knocking down the garage because if we knock it down and somebody buys it they will never get a garage permit again. He said it adds some value to the building and could be of some use. Mr. MacAskill moved to amend the motion not to include the detached garage. Mr. LaMantia seconded the motion. Ms. Cebula commented that the garage is a dump. Chairman Hughes called for a vote on the motion to amend. The motion to amend failed by a 2-3-0 vote with Ms. Cebula, Mr. LaMantia and Ms. Brown opposed to the motion. Ms. Brown moved to amend the motion that we do not offer it for bid, if we are going to declare these structures as surplus, that we simply move ahead and demolish it ourselves with the \$500 that was given to the gift account. The motion was not seconded. The main motion carried by a 3-2-0 vote with Mr. MacAskill and Ms. Brown in opposition.

B. Wastewater Educational Moment – Sewer Plan – *discussion*

Chairman Hughes outlined Figure 13-1 of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

C. Potential re-use of West Harwich School – *discussion*

Chairman Hughes questioned if we want to put out an RFP for re-use of the West Harwich School. There was a discussion about putting out an RFI and having a license agreement with an interested party. Mr. Cakounes noted that there is still the contamination issue on the property that lingers and

he strongly advocated for a licensing agreement. The Board took comments from Brooke Williams. Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Clark to talk to legal counsel and find out the best way to move forward.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Legal costs summary – Kopelman & Paige FY 14, 15 & 16

Mr. Clark noted that a summary of legal costs from Kopelman & Paige is included in the packet.

B. East Harwich Fire Study Group on potential additional uses for East Harwich station

Mr. Clark reported that the Fire Chief had requested a study group to look at issues at the East Harwich Station.

C. Merging of two part-time Building Inspector positions

Mr. Clark reported that he had a request from the Building Commissioner to merge the two part-time Building Inspector positions into one full-time position. He stated that he has the salary covered but probably not the overhead costs. Chairman Hughes asked Mr. Clark to provide the full cost. Mr. LaMantia commented that he is in agreement with the concept but it would be nice if they actually had the numbers. Ms. Cebula stressed the need for a full cost analysis.

D. Withdrawal of Proposal to purchase former Fire Station on Bank Street

Mr. Clark noted that the proposal to purchase the former Fire Station on Bank Street has been withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hughes adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Steidel
Recording Secretary

Related Documents - September 14, 2015 BOS Meeting

- 01 Agenda.pdf
- 02 Minutes - June 17, 2015.pdf
- 03 Historical Society Agreement Amendment.pdf
- 04 Crowell Barn Maintenance Gift Acct.pdf
- 05 Chapter 90 Request.pdf
- 06 Gifts to Harbor Beautification.pdf
- 07 Gifts to Albro House Maintenance.pdf
- 08 Annual Committee Meetings.pdf
- 09 Water Commissioners.pdf
- 10 Charter Revisions.pdf
- 11 Surplus Buildings.pdf
- 12 Wastewater Moment.pdf
- 13 West Harwich School.pdf
- 14 T.A. Report - Legal Costs.pdf
- 15 E. Harwich Fire Study Group.pdf
- 16 Building Inspector Positions.pdf
- 17 Bank St. Fire Station Proposal.pdf