



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
02/01/10

Present: Earl Baumgardner, Rick Pinciario, Carol Traynor
Others: Carol McLeod, Thomas Nucci
Minutes by: J. Penney

Call To Order at Town Hall

Chairman Baumgardner called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approve Agenda

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve agenda as submitted. Vote (3:0)

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve amended minutes from 1/25 and minutes for 1/11. Vote (3:0)

Appointments

National Grid

Bess Gorman, legal counsel for National Grid, and Andrew Schniller, project manager, are present for continuation of a public hearing.

Public hearing was held here a year ago. All has been approved except Merrimac's street crossing. Purpose of the project is to upgrade an overload. A new substation has been built in Amesbury. They are installing seven miles of new line. The 2nd line for Merrimac is in the design process and has been negotiated with Dan Folding. New substation is on property that National Grid purchased. Project will take about a year to construct in phases from Groveland all the way up. Schniller shows abutters in attendance the plans. Abutters voice concern. Gorman notes that public meetings were held previously for abutters. Gorman explains they have the underlying rights that were purchased to construct lines. This approval is for the aerial crossing on the public way. The BOS has only jurisdiction to rule on the crossing. Gorman offers that the abutters affected will get a contact name and number before work commences.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve the petition as submitted to cross River Rd. at Skunk Rd. and orders. Vote (3:0)

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to close the public hearing at 7:27PM. Vote (3:0)

Will send copies to Bess Gorman when completed by town clerk.

Denis Nadeau

He says he is just here to help out 10 hours a week or so in Inspectional Services. He has ok from Amesbury to help out here in Merrimac. He will just write permits and Bob Sinibaldi will conduct inspections.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve Denis Nadeau as temporary building inspector/commissioner. Vote (3:0)

Essex County Regional Dispatch

Joe McGowan-attorney at Essex County Sheriff's Dept.

He's had the opportunity to meet with Spencer Flynn and Shears. 6 towns have gone to go to town meeting, 2 cities have committed. They are currently working with Amesbury. Project is in the design phase. Kimball Consulting specialty is building 911 centers. The idea was to take the dispatchers from the towns participating. They do not want to adversely impact the dispatchers. They want to move it along because it is being sized by population. Would be hoping to be operational in fiscal 2012. Police and fire chiefs would be on advisory boards. They would also want to have the town administrator on a board as well to see the financial big picture. The system allows for customization according to the towns needs. McGowan doesn't believe that it has to go to town meeting but should check with town counsel. Equipment, software will be paid by the program. Fisher says their concern is the dept's communication equipment. McGowan says the engineering firm specializes in communication and would point out these deficiencies. Software and computer aided dispatch would be licensed and provided. The towns system would be linked to Middleton, dispatch software and records management package would be paid for by the Essex county program. Hiring would be done by a committee; chiefs would be involved. Benefits for the employees are not charged back to the town. 911 fee is a dedicated revenue source for grants. All the surcharges go to the 911

department. McGowan says if the town is in the process of putting on the warrant he will consider that as affirmative action. The objective of the board of selectmen is to save money and improve the safety of its residents. Fisher is concerned about cost. Fire and police are working on some numbers. The board has no plan to make a decision amongst themselves without all the information. It would go to town meeting. McLeod will contact McGowan for language for town meeting. McGowan or Tom Dubus would be available for future meetings. Baumgardner asks if the fire and police can come in. They would like to have a workshop meeting at the station. Post meeting for fire/police station at 8PM on 2/8.

Correspondence

BOH letter was sent to lake association and contact information for the group.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to file correspondence. Vote (3:0)

Old Business

Pinciario is still working on snack shack. Ask Emily Edwards if they have insurance. Light commissioners have not responded yet to invitation to BOS meeting 2/22. Will follow up in a week with them if we haven't heard.

New Business

Finance Director's Report

Coastal Metal approval should be in by Feb. 8. Have not received permission to access property as of yet. McLeod made recommended changes for budget. She has several calls into the superintendent and school committee to attend the budget hearing on 2/4. Dept head meeting was cancelled so she could go to the Essex Regional meeting. People have been asked to turn updates into the selectmen's office. Gov released budget last week. Level funded dependent on new taxes. She will leave budgets with 10% cuts.

Letter of explanation from Ralph Spencer in moving forward with ALS. Letter to the state should reference these 2 letters. Traynor thinks they need approval from the state in order to go to ALS services.

Motion to approve the request based on the letter from Chief Spencer and Amesbury Chief Brickett to move to change the ALS service as referenced in letter from Spencer dated 1/26/10 and from Amesbury fire chief dated 1/27/10. Vote (3:0)

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve draft to Jay Smith. Vote (3:0)

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve request to allow Ralph Spencer to plow. Vote (3:0)

Request from West Newbury Chairman Glenn Kemper to meet with the BOS regarding regionalization of finance depts. McLeod says it's against the law. Send email declining request.

Request from Dave Creezy to put flashing lights at school referred to police dept.

Requests for use of town property-approved already by parks & rec. Merrimac baseball has the insurance coverage necessary. Merrimac soccer has good insurance but has not listed the town as additional insured. Requests need to go back to them and need updated certificates. Merrimac softball league has adequate coverage. Northern Essex baseball needs and updated certificate.

Baumgardner brings up concern over fields being completely booked by these groups without any fees to the organizations. Request from Parks and Rec as to what these groups are responsible for maintaining the fields.

Request from Parks & Rec as to how many people on a percentage basis from Merrimac participate in these programs and what it costs to maintain the fields. McLeod will get town field maintenance costs from Tom Barry.

BOS questions if the town is legally bound to produce a report annually to provide to the residents.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to approve request from Jen Penney for 2/3 off. Vote (3:0)

Resident is upset that the town has bottle water for employees.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to remove bottled water from town buildings effective 3/1. Vote (3:0)

Baumgardner has taken out papers for reelection.

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to go into executive session at 10:43PM for personnel negotiations. Vote (3:0)

Motion made by Selectman Pinciario and seconded by Selectman Traynor to adjourn at 11:05PM. Vote (3:0)

_____/____/2010

Ricky Pinciario