

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
6/1/09**

The Board of Selectmen met this evening at the Easton Town Offices, Selectmen's Office, 136 Elm Street, with Chair Colleen Corona presiding.

Members present: Colleen Corona, John Haederle, Chuck King, Irwin Cohen, Ellen Barlow and Town Administrator David Colton.

Corona called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Corona was not present at this point of the meeting.

One day liquor license request - Easton Rod & Gun Club

Applicant John Standish was present.

Voted: (Haederle/King) voted unanimously of those present to approve a one day all alcohol license for the annual chicken barbecue to be held at 112 Howard Street on June 21, 2009 from noon – 6pm

One day liquor license/fee waiver request – The Friends of the Ames Free Library

Nancy Donahue and Library Director Madeline Holt were present.

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously of those present to approve a one day beer and wine license for a fundraiser at the Qeset House at 51 Main Street on June 13, 2009 from 7pm – 9pm

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously of those present to approve the fee waiver associated with the one day license

One day liquor license request – Stonehill College, Inc.

Voted: (Haederle/King) voted unanimously of those present to approve a one day beer and wine license for a Gold Fund Alumni Event to be held at Donahue Hall on June 10, 2009 from 6pm – 9:30pm

Road closing request – Oliver Ames High School graduation ceremony

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously of those present to approve the road closing request for the Oliver Ames High School graduation ceremony on June 7, 2009

Finance Committee vacancy

Colton explained the vacancy and the need to fill the position. Colton suggested that the Board announce the vacancy so that interested citizens may apply. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will meet in joint session to fill the vacancy. The successful candidate will fill the vacancy until the election in April 2010 and all interested citizens can go to the town's website to access the required volunteer form. A date for the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be established shortly.

Comcast tentative license agreement

Corona explained that this item will not be discussed this evening.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 6/1/09

Purchase and Sales Agreement – Massapoag Ave property “Parcel B 13.92 acres”

Colton referenced the purchase and sales agreement for the property on Massapoag Avenue that was approved for purchase at the May 18, 2009 town meeting. All the terms of the agreement have been reviewed by Town Counsel. The final sale price is \$375,000

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously of those present to approve the purchase and sales agreement

Introduction of new Police Chief

Chief Tom Kominsky, Deputy Chief Allen Krajcik, Sergeant Arthur Martell and Sergeant Dan O'Reilly were present. Colton stated that three eligible internal candidates were interviewed for the position of Police Chief. The interview process concluded last week. Colton noted that he is pleased to announce that Deputy Chief Allen Krajcik has been appointed Police Chief effective June 30, 2009. Krajcik has been a member of the Easton Police Department since 1982; served as Deputy Chief for 11 years and has a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice. Colton also noted that Krajcik is very dedicated and deserving of the promotion. Colton acknowledged the two Sergeants present and stated that they are both capable excellent candidates and they performed well in the interview process. The Sergeants are here to show support for the Chief.

Krajcik thanked Colton and the Board for the promotion. He is very pleased and excited to be named the new Chief. He spoke of the excellent Police Department and the challenges ahead. He is looking forward to the future.

Corona noted that she is sad to see Kominsky go; he has done a great job. Corona congratulated Krajcik and thanked the other candidates who interviewed for the position.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. contract amendment #3 – Five Corners Intersection

DPW Director Wayne Southworth was present. Colton noted the minor shift in the easements.

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously of those present to approve the contract amendment #3 in the amount of \$2,950

Southeastern Regional Services Group - FY'10 – 11 award of office supplies

Voted: (King/Haederle) voted unanimously of those present to approve the office supply contract award to WB Mason for FY'10 - '11

Colton noted that this contract still allows us to shop for the best prices.

Budget update

Colton referenced the newly distributed budget memo dated June 1, 2009. See attached. The budget detail was discussed. The uncertainty in state aid was discussed at length.

Cohen arrived at this point of the meeting (7:20pm)

Colton suggested that if the state aid is much different than what we are predicting, we will need a special town meeting some time in the fall before we set the tax rate. Corona discussed the difficulty in balancing the budget.

Barlow asked the basis for coming up with this budget. Colton spoke of the sales tax increase to help with local aid; the senate passed the same increase but did not allocate this to local aid; they instead allocated a 2% meals tax. Colton feels that there are not enough votes in the House to pass the meals tax. Colton feels that both the Senate and House has proposed about the same in local aid; just a different way of coming up with the money. Colton feels we will have a budget in July.

Corona suggested that the budget put forward is conservative. The expenditures have decreased \$1.6 million. Colton spoke of the other complication of getting the unions to agree to concessions. The largest union, the Teachers Union, has tentatively agreed. We will not know until June 8th if they have accepted

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 6/1/09

the concessions. Colton noted the Police Union will vote on Wednesday and a meeting is scheduled with the Fire Union on Tuesday. If all goes well by June 8th, we will present a budget that does not lay off Police and Fire, or further reduce the School Department. This will reduce the health insurance budget; if not, we may need to lay off four police officers, six firefighters and the school's budget will be reduced. Corona noted that these are extraordinary times and we need to ask for these concessions. Colton also noted that if there is no agreement with the unions, there would be a cut to the Library and we would have to apply for a waiver of the certification.

Colton explained the new proposal for the budget line item dealing with the Board of Health. The Director of Public Health position is still being eliminated and this position will be replaced with a Public Health Agent position; the reorganization will still take place. We will ask for a cooperative effort in office coverage. He spoke of the current Assistant Director of Public Health who has all the credentials of the Director. The Assistant Director will provide coverage until the Public Health Agent's job is filled. The proposed new agent will not supervise the department and Colton expressed concern with the Board of Health doubling their fees to take care of the budget problem. The Public Health Agent will report to the Town Administrator for administrative matters and will provide communication to the Board of Health.

Colton noted that we need to look at office coverage within the Town Offices and he gave examples of how certain departments or department heads cover for others when necessary or when an office needs to be closed for short periods of time. Corona noted that we will be looking restructuring other smaller departments. Colton noted we will be doing more of this cooperative effort.

Traffic Safety Committee recommendations – 53 Main Street and the Sheridan/Spooner Street intersection

Traffic Safety Committee members Police Chief Tom Kominsky, Fire Chief Tom Stone and DPW Director Wayne Southworth were present.

Recommendation for the Ames Free Library – 53 Main Street

Southworth referenced the committee's recommendation of placing high visibility signs and placing northerly facing "blind driveway" and "crosswalk ahead" signs. The committee also recommended that removal of the wall and tree at the end of the driveway would improve the site distance significantly. The options of speed bumps was discussed. The committee noted that this is illegal and dangerous. Corona asked about a traffic light. Stone noted that this area doesn't meet the warrants for a light.

Library Director Madeline Holt was present and asked what kind of signage would be more visible. She expressed concern with speed. Southworth noted that the newer signs are lime green and highly visible. Crosswalk painting was discussed and it was noted that the crosswalks are repainted on an annual basis. Holt asked if the crosswalk could be painted further south to more directly coordinate with the location of the library's cottage house. Southworth noted that we need to look at this; we would have to have handicapped accessibility if we move the crosswalk. Holt asked about the Police mobile radar unit. Kominsky noted that this is being repaired now; Corona asked about the wall and driveway and if it was an option to remove. Library Director Donna Richman noted that we would talk about this. Colton noted that unless you deal with the removal of wall and tree; nothing would be effective. Colton suggested a cone with pedestrian crosswalk and asked if that could be an option for the library employees to put out when the library is open. Holt agreed with this option. Holt suggested that the wall and tree issue should be discussed after the signage is installed.

Sheridan/Spooner Street

Stone noted that the Sheridan Street has been reviewed and discussed a few times over the last several years. He referenced the report submitted to the Selectmen in 2008. He spoke of the stop signs in the area and the impact on the response times for public safety. The committee looked at the citizen's request for a four way stop sign and concluded that the four way stop sign was not warranted this time last year.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 6/1/09

Corona asked about the accident statistics. Kominsky noted one accident per year in the last three years in the area. Corona asked about the busses. Stone referenced the bus route and suggested that if a four way stop sign was installed at Sheridan and Spooner Streets, it would cause more congestion for the busses leaving in the afternoon. Southworth noted that this location does not warrant a four way stop sign. Kominsky noted that there needs to be five accidents per year to warrant a stop sign; we have had only one.

Corona spoke of the original request and the four way stop was put at the intersection of Sheridan Street and Columbus Avenue. Corona referenced the possibility of installing pedestrian cones in the crosswalks. Corona asked if the crossing guards could put the cones out during the high volume times. Kominsky agreed to do this. Corona noted that there are discussions regarding the traffic patterns at the high school at junior high. Southworth noted that the Town of Easton might have the option for Federal funding for the town's new walk to school program. Talks are taking place for a different way to access the middle school. The Traffic Safety Committee would like to see two-way traffic at the high school.

Juliette Coughlin of 34 Spooner Street distributed a list of suggested recommendations. Kominsky spoke of the proposed 20mph speed limit and feels it is too low. Kominsky noted you would have to do an extensive traffic study to change this. Kominsky feels this would be more of a problem than good. Colton spoke of the 85th percentile test. In order to lower the speed limit to 20mph, 85% of the people would have to be driving 20mph. 35mph is the speed limit in a residential area.

Corona suggested a meeting with Colton and the Traffic Safety Committee to talk about the school area circulation to see if this will help resolve this issue. Coughlin offered to help in any way.

Beth Eaton 83 Sheridan Street spoke of the area as a school zone and asked if temporary stop signs could be installed just during the school times. Stone suggested that this would be confusing. The four way stop signs can be very confusing without installing temporary signs just during the peak times. Stone suggested that after reading Coughlin's suggestions submitted this evening, some things in the letter can be considered.

Colleen Less of 2 Guinevere Road suggested that the added stop sign at Columbus Ave helped the traffic in this area. She agreed that the traffic flow in the school area needs to be addressed.

Coughlin spoke of some grant information and volunteered to initiate a speed watch program if the town would consider this.

In summary, a meeting will be called by the Town Administrator after town meeting to discuss the traffic around the schools.

Ed Hands of 20 Purchase Street spoke of the IKEA shopping area in Stoughton; people have purchased slow down signs on put them on their front lawn. This could be a temporary resolution.

Corona thanked Coughlin for bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

Bristol County Selectmen's Association update

There was no discussion regarding the Bristol County Selectmen's Association.

Town Administrator's notes

None

Press notes

None

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 6/1/09

Selectmen's notes

None

Public participation

None

Voted: (Corona/Haederle) voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a property purchase, contract negotiations and litigation, not to return to open session (8:15pm)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Southworth