

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 5/16/11

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes 5/16/11

The Easton Board of Selectmen met this evening at the Oliver Ames High School, Room #109, 100 Lothrop Street, Easton with Chair Colleen Corona presiding.

Members present: Colleen Corona, Ellen Barlow, Sean Noonan, Dan Murphy, Todd Gornstein and Town Administrator David Colton

Corona called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

South Coast Rail Mitigation Update

Planning Director Brad Washburn was present and referenced the recently revised draft mitigation list. Comments have been solicited by Town departments, boards and committees. The intent of the mitigation list is to incorporate the suggestions into the comment letter to the DEIR by May 27, 2011. Corona noted that we will be discussing our concerns with the MBTA.

Corona welcomed Todd Gornstein as a new member of the Board of Selectmen.

Vote to approve the issuance and details of notes and bonds to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust under Loan #CW-10-05 and sign related closing papers

Collector/Treasurer Teresa DeSilva was present. Colton declared that \$302,000 was approved at last year's annual town meeting and referenced the .25% interested rate of borrowing through the Trust.

Voted: (Barlow/Corona) voted unanimously that the Town shall issue a bond or bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$302,000 (the "Bonds") pursuant to Chapters 29C and 44 of the General Laws and a vote of the Town passed May 17, 2010 (Article 18), which authorized a total borrowing of \$302,000 for construction of sewers and other water pollution control facilities (the "Project");

Voted: (Barlow/Corona) voted unanimously that in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds the Treasurer is authorized to issue an interim loan note or notes (the "Notes") from time to time in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$302,000;

Voted: (Barlow/Noonan) voted unanimously that each Bond or Note shall be issued as a single registered security, and sold to the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (the "Trust") at a price determined pursuant to the Loan Agreement;

Voted: (Barlow/Noonan) voted unanimously that the Treasurer is authorized to determine the date, the form, the maximum interest rate and the principal maturities of each Bond and Note, and to execute a Loan Agreement (or Agreements) with the Trust with respect to the sale of the

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 5/16/11

Bonds and Notes, such date, form and maturities and the specific interest rate or rates of the Bonds and Notes to be approved by a majority of the Board of Selectmen and the Treasurer and evidenced by their execution of the Bonds or Notes;

Voted: (Barlow/Noonan) voted unanimously that all action taken to date by the Town and its officers and agents to carry out the Project and its financing, including the execution of any loan commitment or agreement by the Treasurer, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; and

Voted: (Barlow/Noonan) voted unanimously that the Treasurer and the other appropriate Town officials are each hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary or convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including execution and delivery of the Loan Agreement(s) and the Project Regulatory Agreement(s) relating to the Project.

Award Audit Contract

Town Accountant Wendy Nightingale was present. Colton referenced the Audit Committee's request for quotations for auditing services. Five audit firms submitted and the committee recommended award of the three year audit contract to the preferred vendor and low bidder Melanson Heath & Company, PC in the amount of \$\$86,500

Voted: (Noonan/Gornstein) voted unanimously to award the contract to Melanson Heath & Company, PC

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review – Article 8

Colton referenced the most recent budget memo dated May 16, 2011 and thanked Noonan for presenting the Finance Committee with the Town Administrator's new proposal which reduces the DPW budget by \$45,000, moving the funds to the Fire and Ambulance budgets. Colton thanked DPW Director Wayne Southworth for his cooperation and spoke of the anticipated vacancy in the DPW most likely in the next six months due a health related issue involving one of the employees. The plan would put \$40,000 into the Fire Department to fund a firefighter beginning in September and \$5,000 would be placed in the ambulance budget. This timeframe should coincide with training opportunities at the fire academy. Colton also suggested that the one of the firefighters may return from active duty in September which would bring the fire staff to full complement of 8 for each group which should curtail the station closings after September. Colton stated that the Finance Committee may have another suggestion of cutting the Assistant Building Inspector's position. Colton acknowledged that he already considered this option but chose to cut clerical in that department instead because of at least two major projects coming up requiring the oversight of inspections; Shovel Works and the Southeastern Regional School renovation.

Murphy asked the length of time for a new firefighter to attend the academy. Colton replied 12 weeks. Colton recapped the cuts as proposed for the FY'12 budget; 2 DPW positions, 2 Fire positions; 2 Police positions, two clerical positions at Town Hall and three positions will be impacted by a reduction in hours.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 5/16/11

Voted: (Noonan/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve the budget as proposed by Colton.

Colton noted that Collector/Treasurer Teresa DeSilva was present to answer any questions about the function of her department.

Murphy summarized that his understanding is that the cut to the clerical position in that department did not work out. DeSilva confirmed that this was the case and spoke of the amount of money taken in by the two clerks on tax day as well as the amount of money handled through the drop box. Colton also noted the tens of thousands of excise bills generated each year.

Corona thanked DPW Director Wayne Southworth for his help with the budget and emphasized the importance of the DPW and how it is also considered a public safety department.

Town Administrator's Notes

None

Press Notes

None

Selectmen's Notes

Corona announced the annual Memorial Day Parade and the gathering beginning at 10:30 at the Church Street Cemetery.

Public Participation

None

Voted: (Barlow/Noonan) voted unanimously to adjourn (6:20pm)

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Agenda Notes

Proposed Mitigation Measures South Coast Rail Project

Interim Loan Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust Memo and Proposed Votes

Budget Memorandum Update May 16, 2011