

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 6/14/10

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
6/14/10**

The Board of Selectmen met this evening at the Oliver Ames High School Room #107, 100 Lothrop Street, Easton, MA with Chair Colleen Corona presiding.

Members present: Colleen Corona, John Haederle, Irwin Cohen, Ellen Barlow, Sean Noonan and Town Administrator David Colton

Corona called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review

ARTICLE 9. FY 2011 OPERATING BUDGET

Colton referenced the budget article and the presentation for town meeting. Noonan suggested \$4,106 restoration to the Library budget. He suggested that next year's budget could be much worse and he would support the Library seeking a waiver from the State at that time. After reviewing the budget, Noonan suggested money could be taken from the Office Supply Budget, Building and Grounds, School Expense Budget line items - School Playgrounds and School Materials and Supplies, General Government Postage Meter Account.

Colton referenced the 2.5% increase for the Library and clarified that the Library Budget was not cut, their request was cut. All other Town departments know not to ask for more money under the current budget conditions.

Barlow referenced the paperwork for the Library to receive the needed waiver and suggested the process to be cumbersome.

Colton reviewed the department percentage increases. All departments are getting a budget within range. Departments are not filling positions. The DPW has already been cut as well as Recreation and the Treasurer/Collector.

Corona noted that the Library Board expects to be granting waivers to libraries during these difficult budget circumstances. Noonan agreed the Library could get the waiver but noted we are not sure what will happen next year.

DPW Director Wayne Southworth was present and noted that his DPW bottom line budgets will be spent down; all the money will be gone. The School budget line items continue to be spent down and this money will be depleted by the end of the fiscal year.

Colton referenced the Office Supply budget. This is the first year of consolidation and he is not sure we have enough experience to know if we can cut this line item again.

Cohen suggested we not make a change at this late date, so close to town meeting noting that other budgets have been cut. The Library can get the waiver they need.

Haederle sees this as a perception issue more than the actual money itself. Haederle credited Noonan for doing his homework on this issue.

Corona noted that this is more about equity and fairness within departments

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Colton suggested that this late in the process it would be very unfair to cut other budgets to provide additional funds for the Library. The Reserve Fund Transfer is an option for the Library.

Noonan motioned to restore \$4,106 to the Library. Haederle seconded the motion for discussion purposes. Motion did not pass. 1 – 4; Noonan in favor.

Voted: (Barlow/Haederle) voted unanimously to approve the budget as proposed by the Town Administrator

See below:

FD-DPT	DEPARTMENT NAME	AMOUNT
01.120	SELECTMEN	334,423
01.131	FINANCE COMMITTEE	2,000
01.132	RESERVE FUND	60,000
01.135	ACCOUNTANT	187,528
01.140	ASSESSORS	216,648
01.145	TOWN COLLECTOR/TREASURER	282,193
01.150	TOWN COUNSEL	160,000
01.155	DATA PROCESSING	187,200
01.160	TOWN CLERK	219,532
01.175	PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	223,847
01.210	POLICE	3,818,249
01.220	FIRE	2,852,162
01.231	AMBULANCE	413,620
01.240	INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	284,106
01.310	SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SCHOOL	779,978
01.400	DPW ADMINISTRATION	2,688,636
01.510	BOARD OF HEALTH	214,831
01.541	COUNCIL ON AGING	227,227
01.543	VETERANS DEPARTMENT	260,195
01.610	LIBRARY	445,575
01.630	RECREATION DEPARTMENT	16,550
01.700	MATURING DEBT & INTEREST	4,992,270
01.910	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS & INSURANCE	10,538,409
01.920	OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT	110,600
61.450	WATER DIVISION	2,358,634
62.430	SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING	810,500
01.300	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	31,860,839
	TOTAL FY 2011 BUDGET	\$ 64,545,752

Bid/Contract Award for the Docks at the Town Pool

Colton noted the Invitation to Bid for three modular floating docks for the Town Pool. Colton noted one bid was received from FWM Docks in the amount of \$36,500.

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously to award the contract to FWM Docks in the amount of \$36,500

Selectmen's Notes

Corona referenced the draft support letter to the Easton Zoning Board of Appeals re: Beacon Communities. The Board agreed to submit the letter as drafted. See attached.

Corona spoke of the proposed 40B project off Williams Street and proposed a neighborhood meeting to address concerns of the residents. The Board discussed this at length and agreed to hold a public meeting within the next few weeks. Abutters will be notified.

Voted: (Corona/Haederle) voted unanimously by roll call to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation, not to return to open session (6:40pm)

Cohen-yes; Corona-yes; Noonan-yes; Barlow-yes; Haederle-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Southworth

June 14, 2010

Mr. Walter Mirrione, Chairman
Board of Appeals
136 Elm Street
Easton, MA 02356

Dear Chairman Mirrione:

I am writing to express the unanimous support of the Board of Selectmen for the proposed amendment to Comprehensive Permit #08-07 as submitted by Beacon Communities on May 19, 2010. The proposed amendment represents the fulfillment of months of hard work on the part of town officials to ensure the historic preservation of one of our most cherished sites. Beacon Communities has, by this proposed amendment, shown that it is committed to develop this site in a manner consistent with the goals of the town and is living up to all of the representations made to the people of Easton over the past several months.

Beacon Communities has a stellar reputation in the field of adaptive reuse and preservation of historic structures. They are highly regarded at the state and local level and have a track record of successfully working with communities to achieve their goals. They also have access to capital for this project - an impressive fact that demonstrates the strength and confidence of their reputation among lending institutions. Beacon Communities has the integrity, reputation, values and ability to make this project work.

Historical preservation is not the only benefit this project offers the Town. The proposal is also projected to create new public green space in Easton's center, increase *net* tax revenues from the site, and provide much needed wastewater treatment capacity in the downtown. The project will be accomplished with existing CPA resources and not result in any tax increase on our citizens; in fact, it will result in future tax revenues to the town through the sale of the condo units - a fiscally prudent long term consideration that we must acknowledge in these uncertain economic times.

The Ames Shovel Works Complex represents the heart and soul of this community, and is central to the architectural and historic fabric of Easton. There are simply no relevant comparisons to be made with proposed developments in any other part of town. This proposal is a unique opportunity to accomplish something of real significance that will be viewed by future generations with pride.

Thank you for your attention to this project and for all the work you and the Board of Appeals do on behalf of our community.

Sincerely,

Colleen A. Corona, Chair
Easton Board of Selectmen