

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes 8/10/09

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
8/10/09**

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, Ellen Barlow and Irwin Cohen. Town Administrator David Colton was not present.

Corona called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Contract with Comtronics Corp – dispatch radio console

Chief Krajcik was present to explain the proposed contract for a new radio system. Grant funding was sought and we received approximately ¼ million dollars from the Bristol County Homeland Security Grant for a new system at no cost to the taxpayers. Part of what was missing from the package was the radio control console. Krajcik submitted information relating to the new system. The new system will give the town better communication internally as well as with Stonehill College and surrounding police departments.

Corona noted that after 9/11 it was acknowledged that emergency responders need to be able to better communicate with outside agencies. Krajcik agreed and noted that if the town transitioned to central dispatch, this would help with that transition.

Barlow asked about the universality with other countries. Krajcik noted that it is pretty close to universal.

King noted that he is impressed that we are pursuing grants aggressively. Krajcik noted that Sergeant Gary Sullivan has been helping with this effort.

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve the contact with Comtronics in the amount of \$40,538.64

Contracts with MHQ Vehicles – police cruisers (2)

Chief Krajcik explained the contracts for the two new cruisers. Corona noted that these were approved as part of the capital budget at town meeting.

Voted: (Haederle/King) voted unanimously to approve the contracts in the amounts of \$30,015 and \$29,775

Special Town Meeting

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009 at the Oliver Ames High School Auditorium at 7pm

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously to open the town meeting warrant and to close it on Friday August 28th at noon

All article requests are to be submitted to the Town Administrator David Colton by August 28th.

Road closing request – Scotch Dam Road

Corona explained the request to close the area of 24-26 Scotch Dam Road on September 12th from 2pm to 8pm for the purpose of holding a block party

Voted: (Haederle/Cohen) voted unanimously to approve the road closing request as requested

Appointment to the Water Resource Advisory Commission

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously by roll call to appoint Michael Somers of 12 Park Street to the Water Resource Advisory Commission for a term expiring 6/30/2012

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Cohen-Somers; Haederle-Somers; Corona-Somers; King-Somers; Barlow-Somers

Verizon New England easement – Pump Station #3

Voted: (King/Haederle) voted unanimously to grant the easement as requested

Amended Order of Taking – Foundry Street, Depot Street and Bay Road

Corona referenced the document submitted by Town Counsel.

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve the Amended Order of Taking as submitted

Minutes

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to approve general minutes dated 7/27/09

Voted: (King/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve executive session minutes dated 7/27/09

The Board took a brief recess at 7:12pm and reconvened at 7:15pm

Verizon New England, Inc./Massachusetts Electric Company - Pole location hearing – Poles P210S and P244S Foundry Street, Easton, MA

Rights of Way Manager JoAnn Robidoux was present.

Haederle read the notice of hearing into the record.

Karen Graney of 1 Walden Drive was present and reviewed the proposed plan for the new poles.

Voted: (Barlow/King) voted unanimously to grant the pole locations as requested

Verizon New England, Inc./Massachusetts Electric Company - Pole relocation hearing – Pole P67 on Poquanticut Ave, Easton, MA

Haederle read the notice of hearing into the record.

Voted: (Cohen/King) voted unanimously to approve the pole relocation as requested

Discussion with the Easton Community Access Television, Inc. re: draft agreement

Corporation Board Members Paul DiNicola, Len Berkowitz, Howard Miller and Director Steve Harrington were present to explain the attached draft agreement between the Town of Easton and the Easton Community Access Television Corporation.

Corona asked the status of the corporation and if the leadership has been finalized. Miller noted that the corporation has been in effect since 7/29/09.

Miller explained the history of the Cable Advisory Committee while negotiating with Comcast. It was noted that they would not be paid as part of the Paid Access Programming (PEG).

He explained the initial two channels and then during the fourth year of the contract, they will have a third channel.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Ed Hands, Rick Hudson, Steve Harrington and Bob Buckley. Each of the members will serve on various committees and their goal is to create a paid access studio for the town. They are planning on a radio station as well. They will most likely lease property for the studio and they are in the process of negotiating a lease. Miller noted the most important decision is how to use the studio. A full time Executive Director and a full time Program Director will be hired to run the studio. They plan to be proactive in the area of program planning. The details on the programming taping were discussed. More live programming will be likely. Because each channel has audio channels, they plan to have a radio studio which will allow for questions regarding important Easton issues.

Corona asked if they will be looking for people with program ideas. Miller replied yes and noted that this will be the key to the studio's success. They are not sure what the web component will be yet. Miller noted that the goal is to begin broadcasting January 1, 2010. They have interviewed a consultant to help design and build out the facility and to help purchase the equipment.

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Barlow asked about budgeting and how they will fund the two full time positions. Miller noted that they have a very clear budget; they know what they want to spend and what the salaries will be. Barlow asked about an educational component for anyone that wants to learn how to tape events. Miller acknowledged yes that this would be part of the plan. DiNicola and Berkowitz noted training and workshops which they intend to hold.

Berkowitz noted that they have filed the articles for the corporation. Berkowitz explained that the operating revenue is from Verizon fees. The corporation already has capital coming in; money is accruing in the current year.

Corona noted that it is required that we have PEG access; the 4% that was negotiated is purely for this reason. Easton seems to be behind in the process compared to other communities like Norton.

Cohen asked what will happen to the current studio. Miller noted that he asked the same question and Comcast really didn't answer; they assume that it will become office space. Cohen asked if the studio will be exclusive to Easton. DiNicola confirmed yes; it will be Easton events and the Program Director will validate what Easton residents want to view.

Corona referenced the agreement for the Board's review and stated that the agreement has been reviewed by Special Counsel. An annual hearing will be required to show that they have been audited each year. Corona asked about the membership, specifically the clause to include that the Selectmen appoint one person. Berkowitz noted that if the Board wanted to you, they have the choice. DiNicola noted that three members who are currently part of the Cable Committee are intending to serve for a short time just to get the corporation up and running.

Corona noted that if there is a clause in the agreement that states that the Selectmen have the right to take over the corporation if there is a breach in the agreement.

King referenced the "Periodic Reporting" section of the agreement. Berkowitz explained this section.

The Board thanked the members for coming forward with the agreement.

Voted: (Haederle/Barlow) voted unanimously to approve the ECAT Agreement as submitted

Town Administrator's notes

None

Press notes

None

Selectmen's notes

None

Public participation

None

Voted: (Haederle/King) voted unanimously by roll call to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations, not to return to open session (7:50pm)

Cohen-yes; Haederle yes; Corona-yes; King-yes; Barlow-yes

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Southworth*

