



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Board of Selectmen October 19, 2009

Present: Tom Corbett, Chairman, Rich Cunningham, Jerry Corcoran, Chris Aiello, Andy Burbine

6:30 p.m. It was announced that the Taste of Abington fundraiser for the Senior Center was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended. It was also noted that the trash routes change this week.

6:35 p.m. Acceptance of George H. Gillespie Way – Received a recommendation from the Planning Board to accept the roadway. Jim Burke of Decelle Group and Bob Meisterman, developer, were in attendance for questions. This 40B project goes back to early 90's. Joanna Sullivan, George Gillespie Way - things look better, they have done what they should, but they were not told that they would not be plowed. They have trash pickup. She didn't know why they are considered a private way. Jim Burke - doglegs are not part of roadway acceptance. Revised lot lines have been approved by Land Court. J/Corcoran still had concerns. A/Burbine suggested they be continued to meeting before STM; the Board is not ready to vote on this at this time. Bob Meisterman – felt they have done a good job, have complied with PMP list. Board should come down and take a look. Feels town counsel has gone back and forth on some issues as far as easements. His attorney is working on remaining items. The Board will get final recommendation from Planning Board for next meeting, and they are on agenda for October 26, 2009.

M/Aiello to continue to October 26, 2009

S/Burbine

Voted 5-0

Acceptance of gift under MGL C44 s53A with regard to the Senior Center. The Board had previously received a letter from Diane Keith, Friends of Abington Seniors offering to pay for gas and electric for remainder of year. Fund has to be established so bills can be paid. Only rental fees can go into revolving account. Director of Senior Center will manage the new account. Donations can be placed in that account. David Klein and Suzanne Djusberg are the co-interim directors. A letter of thanks will be sent.

M/Cunningham to accept the generous gift from the Friends of Abington Seniors

S/Burbine

Voted 5-0

Establish general senior center gift account for donations \$100 or less. This allows directors to handle this account. Directors would prefer it be to Council on Aging rather than Senior Center. Could be Senior Center/Council on Aging, to benefit seniors and programs run by COA.

M/Cunningham to establish a general gift account for Senior Center/Council on Aging

S/Corcoran

Voted 5-0

Appointment of tax title custodian – appointment of Leo Provost, Treasurer/Collector. M/Cunningham to appoint Leo Provost, Treasurer/Collector as tax title custodian
S/Aiello
Voted 5-0

Appointment of Ethics Commission liaison – Due to conflict of interest law changes, all employees, paid or unpaid need to take on-line training program, every two years. Linda Adams will track this information, and notices will go out to employees, boards and committees.
M/Cunningham to appoint Linda Adams
S/Aiello
Voted 5-0

Discussion on ambulance fees – Town Manager has met with Fire Chief, Town Accountant, FinCom. More research needs to be done before a decision to increase rates is made. Find out what funds this generates and how much it costs to operate. Collection has to be looked at. A/Burbine asked for 30-45 day time line on recommendations, which was agreed to. Updates will be given as they occur prior to the deadline.

Approval of minutes – October 7, 2009
M/Corcoran to approve
S/Aiello
Voted 4 with one abstention (Corbett)

Search Committee Update – A/Burbine reported the notice for town manager position has been published in the Globe, MMA, Beacon, monster.com. Deadline for applying is November 30, 2009. They have gotten quite a few resumes. Committee has also sent flyer out to all cities and towns in MA.

Discussion on Website – T/Corbett reported problems with the site at this time.

Discussion on expired employment agreement for position of Town Manager – Board wants a review of any contract that expires. Two Board members are to review contract and come back with suggestions to board. It should be prepared before new town manager comes on. C/Aiello and J/Corcoran volunteered.

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2010 Budget cut recommendations – No votes were taken at previous BOS/FinCom meeting. Town Manager was told to concentrate on police, fire school. There are now less cuts in fire, no layoffs in police. Most recommendations remain the same – it is balanced. There is a reduction in waste budget. BOH chair is going to try to get cost down. Overtime budget vs. hiring 5 fire fighters was discussed.

Street lights – K/Connell contacted National Grid. There are options – temporary shut off, complete shut off, lower wattage bulbs. He will be meeting with them next week.

Town report – includes warrants, annual report, postage. Will probably only print 100 annual reports this year. Could possibly be put on website when that is up and running.

Park and Rec – privatize mowing?

Library – D/Grimmett - if less than 40 hours, there is automatic loss of certification. Have voted to reduce hours to 45 hours, and are looking at further reductions. Will solicit for donations of books and materials.

COA – David Klein and Suzanne Djusberg – there needs to be a distinction between Sr. Center and COA. Provided list of programs and how much they have helped the community, and is largely served by volunteers. Feels town is misguided by doing away with budget for COA. Bill Kendall – there is no budget for senior center – comes under COA budget or volunteers. Urged the preservation of COA, and offered some cost-saving suggestions – close on Wednesday, eliminate Thursday luncheon temporarily, suspend Senior Informer, keep director part time. Felt any talk of regionalization with Whitman should stop. A/Burbine – this won't close down the COA. D/Klein – doesn't want to rule out regionalization, they are meeting with Rockland this week.

School Superintendent Peter Schafer – appreciated communications with Town Manager and Town Accountant. Went over areas of the most concern that were being hit.

Paul Mollica – the cuts shouldn't be across the board. Suggested closing the library for six months to a year. Town shouldn't close COA. A/Burbine – there are no easy solutions, they are trying to preserve core services. It is not across the board.

Henry DiCarlo, Chairman of Library Trustees – accreditation is critical to the library to borrow and share resources. If library closed, the town would immediately have to pay back to the state with interest the remainder of the grant money due.

M/Burbine to approve the budget cut recommendations

S/Aiello – important to note that shortfall of revenue is due to economy, not mismanagement

Voted 5-0

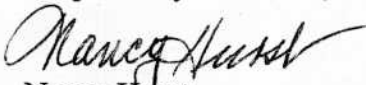
Review of STM – Town counsel is coming to Wednesday meeting at no charge to go over the warrant. FinCom recommendations will be available by Monday morning 10/26. Town Manager thanked all departments, committees, boards for their time and effort in getting through this.

M/Corcoran to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

S/Cunningham

Voted 5-0

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst