

Selectmen Present: Ralph Dormitzer
Robert Spofford
Frederick Koed
Gary Vanderweil
Edwin Carr

Others Present: William R. Griffin, Town Manager
Jennifer Oram, Recording Secretary
Samantha Brown, Cohasset Mariner
Drake Lucas, the Patriot Ledger
Chief of Police, James Hussey

Chairman Ralph Dormitzer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager, William Griffin, reviewed the memorandum and report the Board had received in their packet in regard to the finances of the Cook Estate. In total, after returned deposits, the Town’s total expense on this project was \$411,727.94.

Mr. Griffin also alerted the Board and the community that he, and other members of the community had spent the day at Quincy District Court for the appeal of the Board’s decision on the Dean Dog situation. Mr. Griffin stated that the court upheld the original order of the Board, and that the clock on the order(s) had officially begun. Mr. Griffin also thanked all of the people who spent the day in court.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectman Fred Koed informed the people at home that the reason for the loss of power was due to a transformer on Sohier Street catching fire. Selectman Koed also mentioned that during the past rain storm; the Town saw a resurgence of floodwaters. He suggested that the Town continue to look into how to address these problems.

Selectman Robert Spofford congratulated all of the Cohasset Juniors and Seniors who had been inducted over the past weekend into the National Honor Society. Selectman Spofford also congratulated the many spring sports teams that were doing so well this season. Selectman Spofford also said that the team had its first meeting to discuss what should be done with the surplus school building funds. He stated that they had a lot of work to do, but that he felt they had made good progress.

Selectman Carr talked about the great event he attended that was hosted by the Council on Elder Affairs. It was a celebration for the people of Cohasset that had turned eighty and ninety years old. Selectman Carr then mentioned the number of calls he had received from citizens who want to get involved with the budget process.

Chairman Dormitzer reiterated what Selectman Koed had mentioned, and that is the Town once again saw significant flooding, and there really needs to be a focus, by perhaps a new committee, on flooding and drainage issues. Chairman Dormitzer also thanked the DPW, the Fire and Police Departments for all of their hard work during the storms. Chairman Dormitzer also alerted the Town that it has gone into Dispute Resolution with the MBTA over parking and curbing near Pleasant Street. He also updated the Town and Board on the status of the Downtown Revitalization, and stated that they are looking to get more grant money so other parts of the downtown can be paved and receive new sidewalks.

Public Comment Period

Mr. Russ Bonetti of 20 Parker Avenue asked the Board if there would be any insurance monies for loss of business to the merchants downtown due to construction. Mr. Griffin explained that he did not believe there was any kind of insurance benefit, and also, that even during the “Big Dig”; this type of benefit was not distributed.

Chief Hussey

Police Chief James Hussey introduced the Board and the community to the newest member of the Cohasset Police Department, Police Officer Christopher Goodman.

Committee Interview – Conservation Association Member

Mr. Richard Perkinson of 274 King Street came before the Board to express his interest as serving as an Association member for the Conservation Commission. **Selectman Carr moved to support the appointment, Selectman Koed seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.**

Police Chief Hussey – Lamberts Lane

Chief Hussey updated the Board on the situation on Lamberts Lane. The Chief had met with the residents, as well as the President of the Gold Club, Melissa Brown, to address their concerns with speeding on the street. Chief Hussey explained that the Golf Club had already been addressing the issue, and would like to do even more to help. The residents of the area and the Chief agree that the speeding is not so much from the club, but in fact visitors to the area and the club. To address the issue, Chief Hussey is looking to put signage up and to increase the speeding enforcement in the area. The Club will continue to work with the residents and the Police Department, and the Chief is looking to conduct traffic studies of the area, and also possibly purchasing a flashing speed limit sign/trailer.

Karen Quigley – Harbor Health Committee Action Plan

Karen Quigley, Chairman of the Harbor Health Committee, updated the Board on what the Action Plan was to study the harbor over the next few months. She and Mr. Christian

Krahforst, of the Massachusetts Bays National Estuaries Program (MBNEP), explained how sensors would be placed throughout the harbor to gather data on various locations in the harbor. The sensors will track how environmental conditions, both natural and manmade, affect the harbor. These studies will also help forecast what kind of impact the new wastewater treatment plant will have on the harbor. Ms. Quigley reminded the Board that Mr. Krahforst was doing all of this work for the Town at zero cost. Ms. Quigley then reviewed the many other projects the Harbor Health committee is tackling. She would like to initiate a task force that would look at the storm water drainage issue and would like people in the Town to use organic lawn products. Selectman Vanderweil suggested that for all of these issues, a formal proposal be submitted to the Board.

Susan Galligan – Home Rule Petition

Ms. Galligan presented a few ideas she had to generate revenue to the Town including a 1% transfer tax. The Board agreed that many of these suggestions were very good, but due to the complex nature of what is considered to be a tax, it could prove very difficult to get such proposals passed by the Massachusetts Legislature. Mr. Griffin agreed to do some preliminary research to see if the Legislature is now more open to such creative revenue generating, and if they are, then work can begin on developing the petition.

Strategic Planning for Town Finances

Chairman Dormitzer asked Selectman Vanderweil to review the idea of discussing a different area of Town Finance at each meeting to really take find a way to increase savings and efficiency. They both suggested that only one department per meeting be discussed. Selectman Vanderweil suggested they begin looking at the Fire Department.

Board Liaison Assignments

Selectman Carr took over all of the liaison assignments once held by Selectman Michael Sullivan. Selectman Carr added Elder Affairs and the Economic Development Committee as well. Selectman Spofford will be liaison to the School Department, along with Chairman Dormitzer.

Board Meeting Procedures

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting procedures put together by Chairman Dormitzer. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to adopt the procedures with the small changes made during discussion, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Licenses & Permits – Transient Vendors

Selectman Vanderweil moved to approve the two additional transient vendor licenses (both for ice cream trucks at Sandy Beach), Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Minutes Approval

Selectman Vanderweil moved to approve the minutes for April 24, 2006, Selectman Spofford seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Selectman Carr moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Dormitzer
Chairman