

Selectmen Present: Edwin G. Carr, Chairman
Paul Carlson
Frederick Koed
Karen Quigley

Selectman Absent: Ralph Dormitzer

Others Present: William R. Griffin, Town Manager
Jennifer Oram, Selectmen Clerk

Chairman Edwin G. Carr called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager, William Griffin, noted that seven of the establishments that have liquor licenses in Town have not met the fire safety requirements as of this meeting. The Board will therefore not be signing those licenses until the establishments are in compliance.

Selectmen’s Comment Period

Selectman Frederick Koed asked for an update on 45 Pleasant Street. Mr. Griffin stated that he has asked the Board of Health to ensure the house is sealed up. He stated that the two vehicles at the house are legal.

Selectman Paul Carlson congratulated the High School Football team and Girl’s Soccer team on their respective victories.

Selectwoman Karen Quigley stated that she attended the annual Senior Center Luncheon at Atlantica. She stated that it was a great event and that during it, the Cohasset Chamber of Commerce presented a donation to Elder Affairs out of the proceeds of Cohasset Day.

Chairman Edwin Carr mentioned a very positive letter from a Mr. Pyfrom praising Harbormaster Lori Gibbons. Chairman Carr also mentioned that he was able to get a copy of the Proclamation that was presented to Captain Stephen G. Bowen at the Town Meeting, sent up to the Space Shuttle for Astronaut’s viewing. He then asked Mr. Griffin if he could place on future agenda the Selectmen’s Priorities Discussion as well as a discussion on Wind Energy and how it works under the new laws.

Minutes Approval – Selectman Koed moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2008 as written. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0). Selectwoman Quigley moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2008 as written. Selectman Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0). Selectman Carlson move to approve the minutes of November 10, 2008 as amended. Selectwoman Quigley seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0, Selectman Koed abstained as he was not present at this meeting).

Straits Pond Update – President of the Straits Pond Watershed Association, Mr. Lawry Reid along with Dick Avery addressed the Board. Mr. Reid reviewed the extensive history of the watershed for the Board. He stated that as far back as 1848, it has been documented that the Straits Pond Watershed area has had quality of life issues. Recently the Association had several meetings with scientists to see

what changes could be made to reduce the odor of the area, as well as reduce the large amount of sediment in the pond. After a few changes with the tidal gates, they are for the first time seeing an improvement in the area. They are seeing fewer midges and more snails and sea worms are beginning to inhabit the pond. He expressed the associations' thanks to Cohasset, Hull and Hingham for their continued support. Mr. Reid also stated that there may be a chance of creating a water fowl park around the pond. He said the area is home to over 90 types of birds. After further discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Reid and the other members for their update. Chairman Carr asked if they could come back with an update in a year or so.

Cable Advisory Committee – Committee Chairman, Pat Martin, as well as members Mike Zoto and James Morrison addressed the Board (Selectman Carlson is also on the committee and remained in his seat). Ms. Martin explained that the Town's public access contract expires in February 2009. She reviewed the steps that the committee has made in regard to negotiations with Comcast. Mr. Zotos reviewed the Town's equipment issues and needs, and the fact that the Town may need to create a public access studio in Town Hall as the Norwell studio will be closing in 2009. The committee then reviewed the surcharge that is proposed by Comcast, as well as other financials. After further discussion, Chairman Carr suggested they confirm that they are asking for enough money upfront from Comcast. The Board thanked the committee for all of their efforts on behalf of the Town.

Stormwater Management Committee – Committee Charge – Sarah Charron, Stephen Bobo and Lawry Reid addressed the Board. The Committee had submitted a proposed charge to the Board of Selectmen as per their request. Selectman Dormitzer, who was not present at this meeting, also submitted suggestions in regard to the charge via email. Chairman Carr reviewed Selectman Dormitzer's suggestions. Ms. Charron said that she felt that the additional wording suggested by Selectman Dormitzer was fine. She did suggest adding wording that would cover grants, public education and outreach and asked that not only stormwater flooding be suggested as a focus, but also stormwater pollution. Selectman Dormitzer had suggested that the committee be sunsetted in three years. Selectwoman Quigley stated that she did not see the need of the Stormwater Committee going away with all of the Federal Guidelines etc. that have been put into place. Chairman Carr stated that at this point it seems the charge is nearly there. The language will just need to be combined and more research done about who will be members of the committee; then a vote can be taken. The Board thanked them for their time.

Tax Classification Hearing – Deputy Assessor, Mary Quill, as well as Board of Assessor members, Elsa Miller and Michael C. Patroliia, addressed the Board. Ms. Quill reviewed the hearing procedures for the Board. She explained that calculations are done to see if the Town would want to do a uniform tax rate for the residents and businesses, or split it and have the businesses pay a higher tax rate. She reviewed the calculations and stated that the savings the split rate would give the residents would not be worth it as the increase would be severe for businesses. She and her Board recommend a uniform tax rate of \$10.78. **Selectman Koed moved to adopt the uniform tax rate of \$10.78, Selectman Carlson seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (4-0).**

Charles Humphreys –Medical Building Parking – Attorney Humphreys addressed the Board on behalf of his client, Dr. Roger A. Pompeo. Dr. Pompeo will be constructing a 2,200 square foot medical building at the rear of 55 South Main Street. Due to its proximity to the public parking lot, it is not required by Zoning to have additional parking. However, Dr. Pompeo would like to add ten (10) additional parking spots around the building for convenience to his patients. He will also not be placing any restrictions on the parking spots so they can be used by people other than patients when the spots are open or during

the evening. Attorney Humphreys stated that where the Board acts as road commissioners for the Town, he needs their vote of approval to give to the Planning Board. After a brief discussion, Chairman Carr asked if both Chief Silvia and Chief Hussey could confirm they approve of the plan. After further discussion, **Selectman Carlson moved to approve the proposed parking plan pending approval by Police Chief James Hussey and Fire Chief Robert Silvia. Selectwoman Quigley asked that the motion include the wording “unrestricted”, Selectman Koed seconded the motion as amended and the vote was unanimous (4-0).**

Setting Date of Annual Town Meeting and Election – Selectwoman Quigley moved to approve Saturday March 28, 2009 at 9AM as the date for the annual town meeting and Saturday, April 4, 2009 as the date of the annual town election, with the deadline for petitioned articles for the annual town meeting being Monday, January 12, 2009. Selectman Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

Annual License Renewals – Selectman Carlson moved to approve renewal for all annual licenses except for those who have not met the fire department safety inspections (Cohasset Food Mart, The Red Lion, Atlantica, Bernard’s, Cohasset Golf Club and Papa Gino’s) Selectman Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0).

Executive Session – Litigation Strategy - Chairman Carr moved that the Board go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing the value of real property. The Board will only come out of Executive Session for the purposes of adjourning the meeting. Selectman Koed seconded the motion.

**Selectman Koed – Aye
Selectman Carlson – Aye
Selectwoman Quigley – Aye
Chairman Carr – Aye**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Edwin G. Carr
Chairman