

Selectmen Present: Ralph Dormitzer, Chairman
Robert Spofford
Frederick Koed
Gary Vanderweil

Selectman Not Present: Edwin Carr

Others Present: William R. Griffin, Town Manager
Jennifer Oram, Recording Secretary

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

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager, William Griffin, reminded the Board and the community that this year, the Town Meeting will begin at 9AM, an hour earlier than in previous years.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectman Robert Spofford reminded the Board and the community that the High School Prom Committee will be selling concessions at the Annual Town Meeting.

Selectman Spofford then thanked the Board, the community, as well as William Griffin and his staff for their help and support during his term as a member of the Board. He stated that he had enjoyed his time as a Selectman, and that he was looking forward to his time as a private citizen.

Chairman Dormitzer then read a poem he wrote for Selectman Spofford.

Mr. Griffin told Selectman Spofford that he will be missed by everyone, and he hopes Selectman Spofford will continue to be involved in the Town.

Chairman Dormitzer stated that the Town had received its settlement from the MBTA in the amount of \$110,000 for the parking space dispute.

Article 20 – Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Mr. Griffin informed the Board that this Article has been withdrawn. **Selectman Frederick Koed moved to approve the withdrawal. Selectman Gary Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Article 23 – Funding for Stormwater Management Grant Match – Mr. Griffin informed the Board that they did not have any information before them regarding this proposed Article. **Selectman Vanderweil moved not to recommend this Article to Town Meeting. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Article 15 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment – DB and VB District Dwellings for More than One Family Allowed by Special Permit and Article and Article 16 – Zoning Bylaw – Amend Water Resource District Bylaw – The Board decided that these two articles will be discussed prior to Town Meeting where the Board will convene at 8:30AM.

Licenses and Permits - **Selectman Spofford moved to approve a one-day liquor license for a fundraising event taking place on May 5, 2007 at the South Shore Community Center, from 7PM – 1AM. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Long Term Debt Service – Mr. Griffin reviewed for the Board the current and future state of debt service for the Town. Mr. Griffin, with a great deal of help from Finance Director, Michael Buckley, provided the Board in their packets a long-term debt schedule and graph that shows the Town's debt service schedule for the period of Fiscal 2007 to Fiscal 2024. Mr. Griffin stated that over time, the amount of debt service is declining, and that by Fiscal 2010, the Town will dip down below the standard level of debt service. Mr. Griffin suggests that the Town begin to move away from bond financing and instead begin to plan for large scale replacements (i.e. trucks, ambulances, etc.) and that the Town should have the resources in its budget to pay for these needs. Instead, debt service should only be used for the major undertakings of the Town, i.e. drainage improvement, water pipe repair etc. Selectman Vanderweil stated that he felt this was a great piece of work. He said that for too long, the Town has been beyond the limit of prudent spending. Mr. Griffin stated that Mr. Buckley has spoken to Standards and Poors, and that the Town should have its negative standing removed within a year as long as this course is followed.

Stuart Ivimey- Article 7- Community Preservation Committee Recommendations

Annual Business of the CPC – **Selectman Spofford moved to recommend \$148,500 be moved to the CPC sub accounts (Historical Resources Sub Account, Open Space Sub Account and Community Housing Sub Account). Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Beechwood Ball Field - The Community Preservation Committee recommends that \$100,000 be transferred from the Community Preservation Fund Discretionary Sub account to retire a portion of the debt service incurred to rehabilitate the Beechwood playing fields. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend the transfer. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Cohasset Land Foundation – Selectman Vanderweil recused himself, and moved to a seat in the audience. The CPC is recommending to appropriate \$40,000 to obtain one acre of the Ozzy Ingram property to remain as open space, and possibly hold a parking lot for vehicles to park, and gain access to walk the property. **Selectman Spofford moved to recommend the appropriation of \$40,000. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Town Hall Sign – CPC recommends that \$4,120 be appropriate to be used to replace the painted Town Hall sign on the antique portion of the building. **Selectman Spofford moved to recommend the \$4,120 appropriation. Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Gulf River/Cohasset Harbor Culvert – The CPC is recommending an appropriation of \$20,000 for the purposes of performing a feasibility study, engineering work, permitting and other related costs associated with the restoration of this culvert that runs between the Gulf River and Cohasset Harbor. The condition is that the Harbor Health Committee and/or the Conservation Commission must demonstrate to the Town Manager that it has raised the necessary additional funds by December 31, 2008. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend this appropriation. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Historical Society Request – CPC recommends \$70,125.00 be appropriated to the Historical Society to do the following: performing restorative work to the Historical Society’s Maritime Museum to rehabilitate the roof, construct emergency access etc., as well as restoring and preserving the Historical Society’s archives including paintings and slides. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend the appropriation. Selectman Spofford seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

The Maritime Institute – The CPC is recommending an appropriation of \$50,000 for the purposes of doing restorative work to the boat house located at 40 Parker Avenue, which is owned by the Town and leased to the Cohasset Maritime Institute. There was a lengthy conversation between the Board, Stuart Ivimey and Mr. Jack Buckley, who runs the Institute. Chairman Dormtizer stated that he did not like seeing CPC funds being used in this manner, stating that it would be like giving \$50,000 to a private club. Mr. Buckley stated that the Institute was open for memberships. Selectman Koed stated that he felt it was a Town owned building, and the work should be done. **Selectman Koed moved to approve the CPC recommendation of \$50,000. Selectman Spofford seconded the motion. Selectmen Vanderweil, Koed and Spofford voted in favor, Chairman Dormtizer against for a vote of 3-1.**

Restoration of the Antique portion of Town Hall – CPC recommends appropriating \$35,000 to retain a historical preservation architect and engineers to prepare drawings for restoration and rehabilitation of the antique portion of Town Hall. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to approve this recommendation. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Mr. Ivimey then stated that after all of the aforementioned allocations, the CPC had enough funds left over to pay \$100,000 towards the Town’s debt service for previously bonded CPC projects. **Selectman Spofford moved to recommend this appropriation. Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Steve Gaumer – Capital Budget Committee (CBC)- Mr. Gaumer addressed the Board and stated that the Capital Budget Committee felt they are getting a fuller understanding of the capital funding needs for the Town. He stated that the CBC is still unclear about what the depreciation of the Town’s capital items currently is, but it is their hope to come back at the Special Town Meeting with an Article that will address this issue. Mr. Gaumer then reviewed how the Committee came to their expenditure recommendations. He stated that the requests for FY 08 were in the amount of \$942,000 and that the total funds available is \$150,000, with the potential of additional funds at the Fall Special Town Meeting. The CBC recommended the following expenditures: \$59,000 for Facilities Management, and \$92,000 for the Department of Public Works. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to support the CBC recommendation of \$151,000. Selectman Spofford seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Senator Robert Hedlund & Representative Garrett Bradley – updated the Board and the Community on the State of the State, and Governor’s pending budget. Representative Bradley reviewed the many negative issues that face the Commonwealth including a 1.3 billion dollar deficit and a loss of over 200,000 jobs in 2002; a loss that is not quickly rebounding, with only 65,000 gained in five years. In addition, the State of Massachusetts is the only state to see a loss of population. Other topics discussed by the Senator and Representative included: Communities that have been hard hit by local aid assessments, Health Care and the impact the costs have on Towns like Cohasset, Chapter 90 Funding, Chapter 70 State Aid, the financial status of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, the Status of the FAA Overflight Study, and those opposed in Marshfield. The Board thanked Senator Hedlund and Representative Bradley for their time.

Forest Avenue Tree Removal – Mr. Mark Brennan and Mr. Tom Gruber updated the Board on this hearing. Mr. Brennan stated that this evening was a continuation of the hearing that was held on

Tuesday, March 20, 2007. The hearing was advertised in the Patriot Ledger, and notice was given via postings along the tree route as required by State Law. At the hearing, there was one resident who expressed opposition to the tree removal and plans for the sidewalk installation. Mr. Brennan explained to the Board that a decision needed to be made soon by the Board as the timeline is tight for the tree removal. After the trees are removed, the Town is set to begin the Forest Avenue drainage project and sidewalk installation. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to hold another open hearing on Monday, April 2, 2007 to further discuss the Tree Removal on Forest Avenue – the public is encouraged to attend or send their views in writing.

Selectman Spofford moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph S. Dormitzer
Chairman