

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

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

Town Manager’s Report

Town Manager, William Griffin, advised the Board that he has appointed Captain Robert Silvia as acting Fire Chief.

Mr. Griffin informed the Board that The American Legion has asked for permission to use the traffic islands at the corner of Summer Street and Border Street, as well as Elm Street and Cove Road for a “Veterans Healing Field”. The event would held from May 20 – 27, 2006 and would consist of at least 200 American flags dedicated to veterans. **Selectman Robert Spofford moved to approve the use of the islands for the field, Selectman Frederick Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Mr. Griffin then updated the Board on the many grant applications that have been, or will be submitted by the Town.

Mr. Griffin also suggested that the Town look into purchasing the streetlights in Town from National Grid. The savings for the Town could be substantial. However, to be sure this would be beneficial to the Town, Mr. Griffin would like to hire a consultant to look into what the costs, benefits, and upkeep would be for the Town. Mr. Griffin would like to go to the Special Town Meeting and request \$8,000.00 to hire George Woodbury of LightSmart Energy Consulting. The Board agreed.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectman Spofford asked when the paving would be done on Forest Ave. Mr. Griffin explained that there were many paving jobs to done in Town, and that they were being done simultaneously so that the paving company would need only to come to Town once. Mr. Griffin also explained that sidewalks would be finished on Forest Avenue in the future, and the completion the sidewalks will depend on if the Town is given grant money. Selectman Spofford also mentioned that he would like to have members of “Together Cohasset” come before the Board at a future meeting to discuss their concerns. Selectman Spofford also mentioned that he and Selectman Edwin Carr attended Chief Roger Lincoln’s retirement party and that it was a really nice event. He stated that Chief Lincoln had served the community for 37 years, and that he will be sorely missed.

Selectman Carr announced that Cohasset Elder Affairs will be holding an Antique Appraisal Day on November 4, 2006 as a benefit, and encouraged people to attend.

Chairman Dormitzer alerted the Community that the first phase of the Boston Logan International Airport Over Flight Study has concluded. He said that another \$5 million in grant money would be coming, but it is focused particularly on noise effects in communities within a 5-mile radius of the airport.

Authority to File Sewer SRF Loan Applications

Mr. Griffin explained to the Board that the Town had applied for SRF Funding, and asked the Board if they would authorize a resolution allowing him to be the signatory on these time sensitive documents. **Selectman Vanderweil moved that - 1) William R. Griffin, Town Manager and Chief Contracting Officer is hereby authorized on behalf of the Town of Cohasset (the Applicant) to file applications and execute agreements for grant and/or loan assistance as well as furnishing such information, data and documents pertaining to the applicant for a grant(s) and/or loan(s) as may be required; and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the Applicant in connection with this application; and 2) that the purpose of said loan(s), if awarded, shall be to fund construction activities. And 3) that if said award is made the Applicant agrees to pay those costs which constitute the required Applicant's share of the project cost. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Special Town Meeting Article Review

Bylaw to Regulate the sale of Second Hand Jewelry (Currently Article 15) – Chief James Hussey addressed the Board and explained that the purpose of this article is to update the existing Town's existing Bylaw that addresses this issue. With this new language, the people who purchase the second hand items now have to wait 14 days and submit a report to the Police Department. Adding these procedures will slow down the process of unknowingly selling stolen goods. **Selectman Spofford moved to endorse the article as amended by Town Counsel, Selectman Vanderweil seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.**

Special Legislation – Tax Deferral Income Limits (Currently Article 7) – Assistant Deputy Assessor, Debra Krupczak, addressed the Board and explained that this article came before Town Meeting in 2002 and was supported by the Town. She explained that somehow it did not make it before the Legislature, and that Representative Bradley asked that they bring it before the Town again. The Article would allow the Assessors to increase the gross receipts for tax exemption for seniors from \$40,000 - \$50,000. This would only apply to seniors 65 and older. **Selectman Spofford moved to endorse the article, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Sewer Inflow & Infiltration Projects (Currently Article 19) – Dan Coughlin of Coughlin Environmental, LLC and John Beck of the Sewer Commission, addressed the Board about this article. They are asking that the Town Raise and Appropriate One Million dollars to allow them to do comprehensive updates to many parts of the existing system. They explained that after the “Mother’s Day Storm”, the plant experienced serious flow issues, and that those issues need to be addressed very soon. The funds to pay back the appropriation will come through rate increases. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to endorse the article, Selectman Carr seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Easements for Sewer Expansion (Currently Article 20) – Mr. Coughlin and Mr. Beck explained that this was a “clean up” article that would put the appropriate language into the existing Articles 12 and 13 that were passed at the Annual Town Meeting on April 1, 2005. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to endorse the article, Selectman Carr Seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Amendment to Previous Seawall Repair Article (Currently Article 8) – Mr. Griffin explained that by changing the wording in the existing Article 9 from the December 6, 2004 Town Meeting to say “Cohasset Harbor”, instead of “on Border Street between Atlantica and the Mill River Marine”, the scope of the article would change. This would allow the Town to possibly get enough grant money to reconstruct the multiple seawalls in the harbor. **Selectman Carr made a motion to recommend the article, Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Discontinuation of Old Road (Currently Article 9) - The Board of Water Commissioners asked if the Board would approve the discontinuation of Old Road as a public way in light of the fact that the land in question is being used to protect the watershed. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to support the article, Selectman Carr seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.**

Water Commission Land Acquisition (Currently Article 10) – Upon examination of the Title on the purchase of this lot, it was discovered that there were actually two lots, not one. On the advice of Town Counsel, this article would clarify this. **Selectman Spofford moved to recommend this article, Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Rescind and/or Reduce Past Bond Authorizations (Currently Article 11) – Mr. Griffin reviewed the many authorizations that were approved at past Town Meetings, but have not been used. This will help to improve the look of the Town’s debt. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend the article, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Create Sewer Betterment Stabilization Fund (Currently Article 13) - Mr. Griffin explained that establishing this fund would improve the look of the balance sheet. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend the article, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Transfer Funds into Stabilization Fund (Currently Article 14) – This article would place the funds from the Pension Reserve Account, into the newly created Pension Reserve Stabilization Fund. This account can then be used to offset the pension costs to the Town. **Selectman Vanderweil moved to recommend this article, Selectman Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

Bylaw on Start Time for Annual Town Meeting (Currently Article 16) – This article would update the current Bylaw to start the Annual Town Meeting at 9AM, however Town Counsel suggested that the language be such that the Selectmen could change the time as needed. **Selectman Spofford recommended the article as amended by Town Counsel, Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Bylaw on Schedule for Annual Town Election (Currently Article 17) – This article would allow the Board of Selectmen to change the dates of elections to avoid having multiple elections whenever possible. After a lengthy discussion, the Board chose to table his vote until a future meeting.

Minutes Approval

Selectman Vanderweil moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2006 as amended. Selectman Carr seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph S. Dormitzer
Chairman