

Selectmen Present: Ralph Dormitzer, Chairman
Robert Spofford, Vice-Chairman
Frederick Koed
Gary Vanderweil
Edwin Carr

Others Present: William Griffin, Town Manager
Paul Barrett
Peter Pratt
Suzanne Doherty

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

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Griffin announced that Acting Chief Robert Silvia had negotiated a reduction in the service fee for ambulance bill collections from 7% to 4%. Based on current billing levels, this should save the Town over \$10,000 annually. Mr. Griffin also suggested that the Board re-consider hiring a third party collection service to help increase the Town’s ambulance revenue.

Mr. Griffin also alerted the Board that he, Chairman Dormitzer and others would be meeting with Verizon to discuss their build out of their fiber-optic network in Cohasset. Verizon has recently completed doing this in Norwell, and plan on starting soon in both Cohasset and Hingham. After the meeting, they will update the Board and the community.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectman Carr reminded the public that the Council on Elder Affairs would be holding its Antique Appraisal Fundraiser on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at St. Anthony’s Parish.

Chairman Dormitzer stated that they are in the final stages of the Over Flight Noise Study. He stated that if the 30 communities that are part of this advisory committee go along with most of the recommendations, then there would be some relief for Cohasset. For example, the planes will be approximately 4,000 feet higher when they are coming in, and the planes will be more evenly dispersed in their approach along the South Shore; not all coming in up through Cohasset, Hull and Scituate.

Proclamation – Veterans Memorial Dedication

Chairman Dormitzer read the proclamation to honor the dedication of the new Veterans memorial taking place on November 11th, aloud. **Selectman Spofford moved the proclamation as read. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Griffin updated the Board on some of the Articles for the Special Town Meeting. First, he alerted the Board that a new version of Article 15, the Second Hand Jewelry Bylaw, has gone out to vendors. He expects to have the new version before the Board at their next meeting. Also, he stated that the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had not met as of yet to discuss what they want to recommend at the STM. In addition, he said that he believed that a request would be coming to the Board from the School's in regard to their computers under the Capital plan. And finally, there are the series of zoning articles that are up in the air until Attorney Richard Henderson presents more information to the Board.

Discussion on Cell Phone Reception & Wireless Technology

Selectman Koed stated that over the past few months, the Board has been in receipt of many letters complaining about the poor cell service reception in Town. He stated that back in August, he wrote a memo addressing these issues. Chairman Dormitzer and other members of the Board then discussed the areas in Town that have poor reception. Selectman Koed stated that they should look into bringing in professionals to assess the community and have them determine the area of weakness. He stated that he feels that poor service is a marketplace decision, and that he would not want to dismiss these issues until the Board has fully looked and gone after the providers to see if they wish to fix the problems. If the marketplace is not willing to address the issues, then they will have to take a different approach. Either way, Selectman Koed feels the Board has a responsibility to look into the problems and try to correct all of them. Paul Barrett of 738 Jerusalem Road then addressed the Board. Mr. Barrett stated that he felt this was a town wide concern, and that he did feel it was a Town issue and that it was important that the Town take a leadership role. He also feels this could be a revenue opportunity for the Town, and it should be addressed before an outside party takes over and generates their own revenue. First and foremost however, he feels that it is a safety issue. He cited that by law, the vendors couldn't be stopped from putting up towers, so the Board should address it first. There was then a lengthy conversation about what type of technology the Town should aim for and if the Town should wait for a better technology to come along. Selectman Koed and Mr. Barrett both stated that they felt the Town wants better reception now. Selectman Spofford then said that an RFP has to be put together by someone with experience. Mr. Griffin agreed and explained the many complicated issues that are part of putting together such an RFP. Mr. Wayne Sawchuck then addressed the Board and suggested that they contact Industrial Communications that is located in the Pembroke/Hanover area. He said that this company could shed some light on where the Town of Cohasset needs towers. Suzanne Doherty of 130 Linden Drive then addressed the Board and told them about her situation with her son's illness, and because of the poor cell service, she cannot leave her home during school hours. She stated that she did not want to be the one example, but that it is very important to make the Cohasset area safer with better cell service. Peter Pratt then reviewed what zoning affects new towers

in the area and where they can be set up. He stated that due to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Town couldn't say no to a service provider when they approach the Town and want to build a tower. He suggests that instead the Town find the areas that are problematic and then locate land where the towers can be built. Selectman Koed summarized that this issue will not be easy to address, but that the Selectmen are really the Board to start the process. The Board agreed to look into the Town's trouble spots, and Mr. Griffin stated that he would talk with the Cable Advisory Committee and begin looking for sample RFPs.

Discussion on Board of Selectmen Priorities

The Board reviewed the list of priorities composed by Selectman Vanderweil and organized by Chairman Dormitzer. The list had been broken down by "What" priorities the Board had, "Who" would address them, and then there was the "When", meaning 'when' did they hope to work on them in the next year. They reviewed the list of goals and agreed upon what their target would be in Calendar quarters, or in many cases, decided if the goal was ongoing. Under Committee Responsibilities, the Board agreed that these committees should update the Selectmen on a semi-annual basis so that the Board is up to date on what each committee is working on. Under "New Initiatives" the Board had lengthy conversations about looking into grant writing services for the Town. They also discussed whether the Technology Committee should be reinstated to research the needs of the Schools alone, or Schools and the Town combined.

Licenses & Permits

License Agreement – Massachusetts Electric (2 poles). **Selectman Spofford moved to approve the license agreement. Selectman Carr seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

One-Day Liquor License for Thursday, November 4, 2006 from 7-9:30PM at Rooms in Bloom. **Selectman Spofford moved to approve the one-day liquor license. Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

One-Day Liquor License for an Art Opening at the Paul Pratt Memorial Library on Sunday, November 5, 2006 from 5-7PM, **Selectman Spofford moved to approve the one-day liquor license. Selectman Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

Cohasset Road Race By The Sea – sponsored by the Cohasset Rotary Club on Sunday, April 1, 2007 at 1PM. **Selectman Spofford moved to approve the race, Selectman Koed seconded it, and the vote was unanimous.**

Minutes Approval – **Selectman Koed moved to approve the minutes for October 16, 2006. Selectman Vanderweil seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Selectman Spofford moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Koed seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph R. Dormitzer
Chairman