

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

Others Present: William R. Griffin, Town Manager
Jennifer Oram, Selectman’s Clerk

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

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Griffin asked the Board to reappoint the two Associate Members of the Conservation Commission for a period of one year. **Selectwoman Karen Quigley moved to reappoint Richard Perkinson and Jack Creighton as Associate Members to the Conservation Commission for one year. Selectman Frederick Koed seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (4-0, Selectman Ralph Dormitzer not present for this vote).**

Mr. Griffin announced what vacancies are open on various Boards and Committees.

Mr. Griffin also informed the Board and the community that he and Selectman Paul Carlson met with representatives from Hingham and Hull to discuss the Aquarion rate increase petition. The three towns agreed to hire a consulting service to provide expert witness assistance etc. Mr. Griffin stated that if the Board approves, the cost of the consultant will be shared by the three towns, however the legal fees will be carried by Hingham and Hull due to the small amount of Aquarion users in Cohasset. Mr. Griffin added that a public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 16th at Hull High School to discuss the proposed increase.

Selectmen Comment Period

Selectman Carlson stated that he felt the Cohasset Triathlon went very well.

Selectwoman Karen Quigley stated that there had been a ceremony dedicating the new sign at Mariner’s Park. She also stated that it was her third month anniversary on the Board and she has found it very exciting thus far.

Chairman Carr announced that Governor Patrick will be coming to the South Shore on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 to speak at the Bernie King Pavilion in Hull. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Selectman Ralph Dormitzer joined the meeting. He asked the Board to review the letter to the FAA and asked if they would support such a letter being sent. He added the Hingham Board of Selectmen have already sent a similar letter. The letter asks the FAA to analyze the recent shore crossing patterns against what was supposed to be implemented post the FAA Overflight Study. Selectman Dormitzer read the letter aloud and the Board agreed to sign and send it.

Chairman Carr then read aloud the meeting protocol that he would like to implement at the Board's meetings. It reads, "Discussion during Board meetings should always be courteous and respectful, and should be confined to the subject under consideration. Sarcasm is generally not respectful, and the subject under consideration does not include the individuals involved in the debate. All statements and questions should be directed to the Chairman, who will ask the appropriate person to respond".

Selectwoman Quigley moved to approve the statement of meeting protocol. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

Pole Hearing – 51 Deep Run – Aileen Darois of National Grid addressed the Board. She was joined by Mr. Graham Sida, owner of 51 Deep Run. Ms. Darois explained that she has met at the site many times with Mark Brennan and the land owner. The petition requests the removal of tree guy from a dying tree and the installation of a new pole. Although Mr. Sida requested this be removed, he is hoping that another alternative could be agreed upon without using a pole. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the hearing be continued. Selectman Dormitzer stated that he would meet at the location with all parties and see what compromise could be reached.

Committee Interview – South Shore Vocational Technical School Committee Representative – Mr. Kenneth Thayer of 19 King Street addressed the Board. Mr. Thayer reviewed his background and his extensive involvement with the school. After a brief question and answer period, **Selectman Koed moved to appoint Mr. Kenneth Thayer to the position of South Shore Vocational Technical School Committee Representative. Selectman Carlson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).**

Finance Department Review – Finance Director Michael Buckley addressed the Board. Mr. Buckley reviewed the history of his department, explaining that about ten years previous, Town Meeting voted to combine the Assessors, Accounting and Treasurer Collector into one department. These departments all report to him. He explained how the assessments are done and the tax levy is determined. His department also processes eighteen million dollars a year in payroll. The Treasurer Collector office is presently staffed with three full time people and they are always very busy. Mr. Buckley stated that one of the biggest threats facing the Town is if a question goes on the ballot where people could vote to discontinue the income tax. Other possible financial problems for the town could be increasing fuel costs, the lack of new growth, and the need for large capital expenditures (school buses, fire and police vehicles and technology). The Town also has to budget for health insurance and life insurance for retired employees. All of these issues point to a very difficult FY 2010. Members of the Board asked if there had been signs of the recession with people not paying their taxes. Mr. Buckley stated that where most people arrange payment of their taxes through their mortgage companies; tax payments have not declined. He has seen issues with excise and water / sewer bills. The Board thanked Mr. Buckley for his time.

Recreation Department – Recreation Director Ted Carroll addressed the Board. Mr. Carroll thanked the Board and Mr. Griffin for his recent appointment to the position. He stated that he has been working over the last few months to get the Recreation office using computers on a regular basis. He also announced that they would be launching a web site in the fall at www.cohassetrecdepartment.com. Mr. Carroll explained how the various programs work and how revenue is returned to the Town. Mr. Carroll would also like to introduce a fee schedule for use of the fields and other Town facilities. He is working with the schools and Facilities Manager, Brian Adams, and is looking forward to making some changes to help cover the costs of the facilities use. He also plans on utilizing the teen center building and the Town Hall auditorium more frequently. Selectman Carlson suggested that Recreation work with

Elder Affairs to utilize the Teen Center space on a shared basis. The Board thanked Mr. Carroll for his time.

Town Hall Restoration – Update – Chairman of the Town Hall Restoration Committee, David Farrag, addressed the Board. Mr. Farrag reviewed how this project came to fruition. He then introduced Town Archivist, David Wadsworth, who gave a brief history of the original Town Hall building and Auditorium since its being built in 1857. Mr. Jim Sandell and Mr. John Hecker of the hired architect firm, Carr, Lynch and Sandell addressed the Board. Mr. Sandell reviewed how the team of Architects worked to put this extensive proposal together. Mr. Hecker then addressed the Board and reviewed the problems with the present building. He stated that it is their goal to make the building a better environment for employees, utilize the interior space more efficiently, improve the energy efficiency of the building and correct the present code violations; all while maintaining the historical integrity of the building. Mr. Hecker then reviewed the recommendations of the preservation consultants and the engineers. He stated that nearly all of the buildings systems need to be replaced. Presently, there is no sprinkler system, bathrooms need to be added, and the building does not have any ventilation and is in great need of archival storage. The first phase of the project will be window replacement as well as gutter and chimney repairs. This has already been funded by Town Meeting and is moving forward. Mr. Hecker then reviewed, in great detail, the two schemes they have designed. Scheme A keeps the offices on the second floor but with all of the improvements outlined. Scheme B flips the offices to the first floor and puts the stage back on the second floor (this is how it was originally until 1928). Mr. Hecker also stated that with a better facility, the Town could possibly generate revenue from the rental and use of it. There was then a brief discussion about how such a large project like this could be funded. The estimates range between 4 – 5.5 million dollars depending on the scheme chosen. There could be a chance for a 20% Federal tax credit as well as grant opportunities. Mr. Farrag asked if the Board could vote on which scheme they would like the committee to move forward with by the end of July. The committee needs this information so they could begin looking into the tax credit and grants. Selectwoman Quigley suggested that they hold a public forum to gain input from the community. They agreed this would be a good idea and will try to schedule one. Selectman Carlson stated that he felt the presentation was excellent and that it should go on the next agenda. He added that at the end of the day, it would be the citizens who will decide if the project will move forward. Selectman Dormitzer added that the funding of it will need to be looked at where the Town is heading into a difficult FY 2010. The Board thanked everyone for their time.

Selectman Carlson moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectwoman Quigley seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin G. Carr

Chairman