

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 3, 2008
6:30pm Town Hall

At 6:30pm, Selectman O'Reilly called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Selectmen Jack O'Reilly and Jan Stuart, Administrative Assistant Beatrice Marconi, Code Enforcement Officer Charlie Smart, John Klanchesser, Dave Allen with the City of Portsmouth, Mark Phillips, Rick & Doreen Stern, Cliff Abbott, Charlie Brewster, Gail Pare and Road Agent Len Thomas. Chairman Iocovozzi arrived at 6:37pm.

Water Meter Replacement

Dave Allen gave a presentation of the latest technology in water meters whereas they have a transmitter (fire fly) that can go on the inside or outside of a house that sends the data to the readers (receivers) in Portsmouth. Right now, meters are manually read every 4 months. This makes it a lengthy process to identify a leak. Much better for tracking as you can now read a meter every 5 minutes. A letter will go to all water customers with 2 follow ups if necessary. You can go on line to schedule an appointment for the upgrade or call to schedule. No cost for installation as long as it is not increasing service. The City will take care of the alterations to make systems with no side shut offs work. All personnel will have badges with pictures and vehicle and individuals info will be forwarded to our Police Dept. This would be a good item for our newsletter.

Grave Radar/Cemetery Wall

Gail Pare spoke of the missing markers on the Cemetery side of the Meeting House. Ground radar will be used to identify slave location and unmarked resting places. Cost is around \$4,000 which they have money in their budget for however can see a need for about \$400 for next year. An architectural study would be beneficial as well. Selectman Stuart spoke up and stated that this was a waste of money for just to know where bodies are. Gail mentioned that at the last HDC meeting, much more information was introduced. (Jan was unable to attend that meeting).

The word is that there are slaves or indentured servants on the library side of the parking lot. Chr. Iocovozzi didn't feel any discovery efforts inside the cemetery wall was necessary but stated it was the Town's responsibility to maintain the integrity of burial grounds within the bounds of Newington. He continued by saying that if people are found to be outside the cemetery walls, he feels that area must be so designated. When asked if there were known grants available, Gail said none she is aware of. When asked about a second bid, because of so few companies offering this specialty service, no second bid was obtained. Both Selectmen O'Reilly and Iocovozzi felt if their bottom line does not go over, they saw no problem with proceeding but hoped they would begin with the area outside the cemetery. Historically speaking, it would be nice to know the numbers everywhere, said Gail. Regarding bodies buried in roadways within the cemetery, Gail thought both HDC and the Cemetery Committee can work hand in hand by locating and then either move or properly mark.

Regarding the Cemetery wall project, Rick Stern handed out the rock wall repair proposal and needed assurances that they could utilize the capital reserve. There is 450' along Little Bay which will cost around \$20,000. No trees growing in rock wall will be removed. Regarding the \$3,000 PO for the sale of lots from a deposit in 2006 that the Selectmen at that time stated they would transfer it to the General Care Fund for Cemetery overseen by the Trustees of the Trust Fund, Mr. Abbott says he has a letter dated 1976 that indicated sale of lots to go into the general maintenance fund, not the general fund. Chr. Iocovozzi felt that money is budgeted by the town annually and that the sale of lots money should come back to the general fund. Cliff will forward cemetery info. Selectman O'Reilly explained that the PO for use of funds from the Capital Reserve must be signed by the Selectmen prior to the work on the project beginning. The \$4,000 voted in at Town Meeting through a Warrant Article for Cemetery needs would be deposited at year's end but not for use this year after it has gone through the process with the Trustees deposit and such.

Survey of Town Owned Land near Pease Gate/upper end of Nimble Hill Road

Selectman Stuart informed the Cemetery Committee that the 'soccer field' notation on the Knight Hill survey map was altered to include "future cemetery expansion area" and recorded.

Mower Prices

Road Agent Len Thomas brought in several prices and packages of trims offered on various brand name mowers. Cub from Philbricks is a diesel with a 5' brush cutter - \$ 17,000

Coyote – was a 72" with heat and air and built in cab. The Kabota was \$36,000 with turf tires, 4 wheel drive. Shaw Ridge came in at \$24,500. Chr. Iocovozzi said that no matter what our needs are or what we buy, we should be ensured we can get parts. John Deer is very reliable. Len will bring in brochures so that we can analyze apples to apples as some companies offer some components, yet not others. We do need a brush hog and under belly mower. This equipment will be for the Highway Dept. Charlie Smart suggested Len to be sure that the different components could be interchanged without jacking the unit up.

Mowing Proposal-Town Owned Properties

Selectman O'Reilly explained that the reason it was a good idea to include Fox Point as an extra in the proposal is for cost comparison. Are we deducting enough from the tenants rent? Too much? It is to help determine the value. The mower currently shared can be for Fox Point and Highway's back up. Tabled until meeting November 17.

Carter's Lane Paving Project

A triangular piece of former hot top was not repaved by CLD. Before sending final payment out, the AA is to call CLD to get a promissory note from them 'to do' and to hold back partial payment.

Meeting House LCHP Stewardship Agreement

This latest update shows the lot consisting of .168 acres and designated on the tax maps and describing only the foot print of the Meeting House. It is a 10 year agreement. Charlie has all 4 signed copies to submit into packets. Annually, LCHP must be notified of condition and or changes.

Meeting House Rte 1 Carpet Rug Proposal

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve Rte 1 Carpets proposal not to exceed \$6,400. (this was the middle grade selected) Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0

Carriage House Foundation Work Proposal

Charlie Smart indicated that he will contact Wastrom to send over a 2009 proposal so that the Board could consider encumbering some of the Fox Point funds.

Health Plan Variation Proposal

After analyzing the extra costs affiliated with the prescription end of the Health Plan only, the Selectmen felt we should stay as we are at this time.

Town Garage Engineering Proposal

Due to additional site work needed 'if' the Town built the Highway Bldg at the location of the current transfer station, it was discussed that perhaps that may not be a suitable area to consider. Selectman Stuart asked about the water pressure costs of \$300,000 vs. the cost for a cistern or booster pump. It was decided that the engineers should analyze the need. Traffic and night alarms could turn out to be a problem if moved as the terrain may magnify the noise. Chr. Iocovozzi said it would be nice to have the two entities combined as there is a need to consolidate but the changes required may prohibit us from doing so. Issue tabled however storage was discussed and perhaps that bldg could be utilized rather than razed.

Gundalow Landing Engineering

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve \$9,600 for Gundalow Landing. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Election Day Stipend Increase

Selectman O'Reilly stated that this presidential election day will be a very very long one for our workers and looked to the Board for support in giving them all a \$25.00 bonus due to the fact that most of them will be there 14 to 16 hours and felt this was a nice sign of appreciation. Our stipend line could support this increase. There were no objections.

Fox Point Building Steering Committee

Selectman Stuart reports that Brian Haberstroh strongly suggests that the town have an architectural analysis done to help determine building, kitchen and bathroom placement. The Board suggested a workshop to discuss this and their findings.

Town Web Site Maintenance

As it stands now, Planner Tom Morgan maintains the Town's web site. In case of sickness or absence, the Town should have a back up to handle basic updating. The Selectmen asked that Beatrice follow through on seeing that Theresa learn the basics.

Facility Use Applications:

Thermo Nov 6 - 11am – 12noon - meeting - Town Hall Auditorium

Watson-TH Audi & Kit - Nov 29 - 1:00-8:00pm - Reception

Yoga - OTH - Wednesdays - Rec Sponsored - 5:30pm til 6:30pm - Candice Cantelupo

City Soccer Apr 18 & 19 OTH 2nd fl 8am-6pm - Ref Clinic - Sarah Frizzell

City Soccer Feb 14 and April 6 - OTH - Noon til 4:00pm - Soccer Clinic

Seacoast Wind Ensemble - TH Audi - Nov 11 (Tues) Luanne O'Reilly

Farmer's Market- Jan 10 & March 7 - TH Auditorium

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve Thermo's request and Watson's request (with fees) Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve the Yoga request (fee waived) Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Motion passed 3-0.

Selectman Stuart moved to approve the Seacoast Wind Ensemble request (fee waived). Selectman Iocovozzi seconded. Motion passed 2-0. (Selectman O'Reilly abstained)

Selectman O'Reilly moved to approve the Soccer's requests (fee waived) Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Motion passed 3-0.

The Selectmen would like Michelle Luzoaway to come to the next meeting to speak to the Board regarding their request for a Farmer's Market/Eat Local event and bring with her the certificate of insurance as Selectman Stuart had room use concerns.

Selectman O'Reilly moved to adjourn at 8:15pm. Selectman Stuart seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectively Submitted,

Beatrice Marconi
Administrative Assistant