

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

**November 2, 2009
Acton Town Hall
Francis Faulkner Hearing Room
7:00 P.M.**

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:00 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M. Room 126

Present: Paulina Knibbe, Peter Berry, Lauren Rosenzweig, Terra Friedrichs. and Mike Gowing, Town Manager Ledoux, Recording Secretary; Christine Joyce. The meeting was not televised until the Board entered Regular Session.

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to open the Public Meeting and to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Roll Call was taken, All Ayes and to adjourn to go into Regular Session at 7:00 in room 204

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Mary Donald speaking for the Salvation Army Acton Division. She noted that they need more volunteers. She asked the Board to support the need.

CHAIRPERSON'S UPDATE

Paulina noted that we have been working to get two rail trails in town and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail was granted additional funding.

OPERATIONAL MINUTE

Steve noted that Thursday the Governor announced his 9C cuts and noted it did contain cuts in important areas such as in regional transportation aid; 7 Million in circuit breaker funds was cut and reduced reimbursement for the Quinn Bill.

Steve spoke about our nursing service and the H1N1 inoculations. We have been receiving 100 doses a week. A clinic was held to give the vaccine to Pre-school children. Fire and public safety still has not received the inoculations for H1N1.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH ACTON COMMUTER TRAIN STATION OVERSIGHT MEETING

Peter introduced the committee members. Dore' Hunter, Michaela Moran, Sean Hanley, Jim Yarin (TAC) Rep, David Martin, Nick Zavolas the committee also has Pat Clifford from the Finance and Gretta Ekhardt. Peter said not much has taken

place over the last year. He noted the original design with the ramps and explained why that design was not well received by the community. He outlined the revised plan that was voted at Town Meeting, but explained that they have not yet been able to get a meeting with the pertinent MBTA officials. The dual platform concept with a bridge and elevators is the way to go, but we don't know the cost. The elevator concept eliminates the need for a bridge adjacent to the Main Street bridge for the Assabet River Rail Trail. Having one bridge for commuters and cyclists will save a lot of money.

Dore' noted that the meeting of the Fitchburg line group and the consensus is the money is here.

Jim Yarin stated that all the parking spaces at the South Fire were taken at 7:45. He wanted to have a resolution, maybe a shuttle might help.

Terra spoke about waiting for a really long time to have folks meet with us. Perhaps we could start meeting with the Feds.

Franny Osman spoke about ease of use of a shuttle and the shuttling people from other communities.

Bob Condon thanked the team and suggested going to the customers to see what they want

ASSESSORS ANNUAL OVERSIGHT MEETING

David Brown, Chair of the Board of Assessor spoke about the operation of the Assessors Office. Their mission statement was discussed. They try to be fair, equitable and accurate. He further noted that they are a non political group. David gave a slide show about their operation.

Peter asked about reassessments and the prices of houses, and the frequency of major reassessments. They are conducted every 2-3 years.

Overlay account has \$250,000 that we have to put aside as money for the telecom company's payments.

Terra asked about number of residential properties. Terra asked about Overlay being in the ALG Budget. Steve noted it is a set aside and is not available for any other use.

Charlie Kadlec asked for information to be put on the Web.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL OVERSIGHT MEETING

Jon Benson discussed how great it was to serve on the committee. He outlined the projects that have been completed. He noted Senate Bill 190; the bill is still in committee. The heart of the bill is to make this attractive to other communities and to have a Guaranteed State match. The suburban towns are interested in the correction of the pending discussion. There would be no money allowed for turf fields. Piper Lane House Parcel was discussed. He noted the missing of the

frontage. He felt we needed to go back to remedy this. Jon spoke about Windsor Ave Building and Dean's request to build two community meeting spaces. Jon felt we needed to get space at the schools, and noted Dean said that community Ed had not cooperated. Jon outlined the rooms available at the school when he went and toured the school. There is a janitor all night and that we need to vet with Dean when we have this space available as opposed to \$600,000 for two meeting spaces.

Mike asked about the match issue and asked if CPC had an amount of money to have available. He asked why they do not spend it all. Jon said that the history of the committee is to call them as they see them.

Lauren asked about the percentage that goes to open space, housing, etc, and if we roll money over for next year does that jeopardize the program.

Peter said the vetting process is valuable, there is criteria and asked how much money we have available to fund this years proposals \$732,763 and the State funds of \$250,473 and standing CPA fund after the Town Meeting of \$580,266 and the open space balance of over 1Million. Terra asked for a split for were the money has gone for housing, recreation, historic buildings.

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL OVERSIGHT MEETING

Bill Klauer and Brewster Conant were present. Bill went over their duties and discussed the good job staff is doing. Bill discussed how the money is expended toward the operation of the cemeteries. They hope that the increase in the stock market will bring the trust fund to a funding level where they can be more comfortable. Right now it is down significantly.

Bill spoke about the roadways and their conditions and settlement of the roads beginning to give way and they don't have the funding to maintain them. They are applying to list our three cemeteries on the National Register of Historic Places.

Terra asked about the dog fines and Bill said they have not had any problems of late. Terra asked about the use of cemetery –owned forest and other lands that have been reserved for future cemetery use. She wanted to check in and make sure the Cemetery Commissioners would be in the loop when discussing future recreation uses and other development of Morrison Farm which is adjacent to the cemetery.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OVERSIGHT MEETING

The EDC was present to discuss their oversight committee. They are looking at ways to help the businesses we already have in town. They had teams put together with tasks and they are meeting bi-monthly. They have had their demographics committee develop information with the purpose of putting the information in one place. The information we have on Acton is in planning now and asked that it be sent to other Boards for their input. What they would like to see is all the information being tied to a common link. They are marketing Acton and the information is brand new. They have given it to the Chamber of Commerce to

review. The Chamber will send the survey their members. Planning suggested that they include transportation questions, need, etc. it is in draft form.

Sara Fletcher from the Chamber noted that they have always had a good working relationship with EDC. She feels the marketing survey is a good place to start and they will go from there.

Doug talked about what they have been doing to get up and running, and the next wave is supporting existing business and supporting businesses moving to Acton. They want to be alerted regarding any proposed commercial development in the future. They want to come back through the liaison to get a temporary team to work on those issues.

Terra noted the reason they broke off into committees was because some of them were ready before others.

Lauren asked if Ann Sussman reached out to them for the workshop on Kelley's Corner -- they said she had. Lauren wanted to see them work on attracting development for parcels where we have been trying to encourage redevelopment., She felt they are on track to get redevelopment of some existing sites. She felt the Town's people will tell us what they want to see in Acton when we begin to do the new Comprehensive Community Plan.

Peter spoke about the Day Care, it did not need a site plan and we too were surprised. Peter asked about counseling business owners.

SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS

ALG UPDATE/BUDGET UPDATE

No special town meeting this fall. At the last ALG meeting the budget would be constructed reflecting a 0%, 3% or 5% budget. Paulina asked that the board give their input on unfunded programs and asked the Board to reply to the e-mail that Paulina will send and to have them send a united letter from the Town and Schools to Cory Atkins. Peter spoke about the option for towns to increase the meals and hotel tax. He recommends that we explore it as an option given the difficult budgetary times. Even if we choose not to do it, we should know what it would or wouldn't do to our revenues and what would be the impact to the businesses.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS

MMA and Health Insurance Trust --Peter noted he also went to the MMA breakfast with Steve and he noted that the State had the best economists gathered to predict this year's revenues, and they were wrong. They missed the mark and it makes it difficult to deal with it on the local level. Health Insurance Trust --they continue to monitor the expenses of the trust.

Acton Public Schools/ABRSD--Lauren reported that at their last meeting the Acton Public schools meeting enrollments were discussed. There are 47 students predicted above what they expected. Kindergarten enrollment was to settle off but will not with the increased kindergarten numbers. They will be going into contractual discussion and that is presently what is going on with the schools.

Water Resource Advisory Committee is working on the bylaw to prevent storm water. They need members. Lauren spoke about the community planning for Kelly's corner and is on the town web site. WANT met and discussed septic system and waste water and how it interacts with the ground water. It was well attended. They need to talk more about septic systems and their operations under title 5. WRAC will need to have bylaws on the Annual Town meeting Terra spoke about the land that she is to be working on with Peter Ashton and asked for legal support.

Mike noted that COA is drafting language to change the number of members and terms. Transportation Grants were discussed as they related to other towns. We want them to join in and have them go back to their communities for funding.

FINAL DRAFT BOARD HANDBOOK

The Task was to put together existing town policies in an effort to incorporate it so that all boards and committees have the same information and policies. Bob Ingram noted the posting of meetings section. Terra asked about what a liaison is according to the handbook. PETER BERRY – Moved to make the modification by the adding of the annual calendar and conducting hearings. MIKE GOWING – second. 4-1 Terra yes with reservations. Motion Passed UNANIMOUS

It was asked how often the handbook should be reviewed. It was suggested at the first board meeting when the new officers are elected that they review and see if it is what the committee/board wants. TERRA FRIEDRICHS – Moved to endorse the review policy. MIKE GOWING – second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

POWDER HOUSE, HISTORICAL COMMISSION, POSSIBLE CPC FUNDING

Bill Klauer representing the HC spoke of the future of the Powder House. It was moved to its current location in 1936. Bill said that they have looked into the options of moving it to Main/High Street. He asked for the Board's sanction. Terra said it was more a concept at this point, as they don't have financials. Peter was in favor of putting a place holder for CPC so all the details could be answered. It was noted that this a timing issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

CONSENT

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to approve the Agenda items PETER BERRY– second UNANIMOUS VOTE. . – Terra asked about the cost of the plowing

EXECUTIVE SESSION

LAUREN ROSENZWEIG – Moved to open the Public Meeting go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations. Roll Call was taken, All Ayes and to adjourn to go into Regular Session at 7:00 in room 204

Christine Joyce, Recording Secty

Lauren A. Rosenzweig
Clerk
Date: 12/21/09