

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

July 24, 2017

Francis Faulkner Room 204

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

To view the full meeting, please [click here](#)

Present: Janet K. Adachi, Katie Green, Joan Gardner, Chingsung Chang, Peter J. Berry, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Citizen Concerns

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – reporting town owned cars in lot taking up space in the parking lot (10) and should be moved to fire department parking lot across the street, 40 B manual, security cameras in public buildings and how many buildings have them, parking hearing in West Acton.

Bob Miller, 84 Windsor Ave – thanks the Board for the letter to the MBTA Board. Wondered if the Board received any feedback from the Representatives of the MBTA Board. No feedback received as of yet.

Chairman Update/Operational Update

Ms. Adachi –

Mr. Ledoux – Still moving forward with electric aggregation by the end of September – working with the consultant on public education i.e. television show, reverse 911 and mailings. Two new fire employees due to promotions and retirements. Still have not commenced ALS service due to state has not finalized the regulations – hope to have that resolved relatively soon. New hire with the Police Department which brings the department to full capacity – Ryan Matte.

Public Hearings

Fire Service Assessment – Peter Finley from Municipal Resources Inc. presented the Fire Service Study. Representing Fire Department is Chief Robert Hart. Ms. Green inquired about (Municipal Resources Inc.) interviewing staff about the current stations and did (the company) mostly interview fire leadership or the firefighters? Mr. Finley interviewed leadership, but also spoke informally to firefighters on duty. KG understands the needs that are there. If we opened a 4th fire station about redeploying the apparatus but maintaining the same number of firefighters on duty. Currently respond with a 2 person per apparatus, but with a 4th station we could be up to 10 person response as needed utilizing a swing shift. There would not be a need to hire more personnel. What would be the projected cost of immediate need for safety matters. Would make sense to looking into the South and West stations to upgrade sooner rather than later. Mr. Ledoux is looking to involve the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and using some gift funds to assist in upgrades. Also the property next door on Harris Street is for sale for possibly using it for Fire Administration. Ms. Green is in favor for moving forward with that, and the Historical Commission is looking for ways to preserve the old school next to Harris Street and is supportive of putting a fire station in North Acton.

Ms. Adachi and Ms. Gardner thanked Mr. Finley for the reports and are in favor of a North Acton Fire Station, Mr. Berry questioned if the ladder goes to every structure fire Chief Hart explained that it performs many different functions aside from the 100' ladder. Mr. Chang had no further questions. Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – thinks Harris Street is a great site. Wants to know how many surrounding towns require the 4.5 minute response. Mr. Finley stated that was not part of the study and would have to do some research on that.

Bob Miller, Windsor Ave – thinks the North is an area in need.

Bill Klauer, Harris Street – Town keeps growing since he was on the FD and since the study in 1981 there has been so much growth, also is in favor of the project.

Ms. Green moved to authorize the Town Manager to pursue the possibilities of North Acton with greater detail, Ms. Gardner second. All Ayes.

Selectmen Business

Acton Carbon Neutrality Initiative – Mr. Berry gave an overview regarding a 3 page letter to the BOS wanting to assess the Green Advisory Board to lead the town into zero carbon emission and secure a carbon emission specialist for \$40,000 a year (part time).

Dennis Loria from Green Advisory Board added a few words that the town and schools have done a great job over the past years. Several comparative towns have already started this process. Mothers Out Front and Green Acton support this initiative. Felt we should take the action to make the town a net zero town and not wait for federal government. Looking for support from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Berry mentioned that there is a green fund to put the funds we save on the solar array into an account – some restrictions on how the funds can be used. Mr. Ledoux stated the town passed a special act with legislation on the Energy Efficiency fund – to provide energy savings funds on town buildings. May want to discuss this with Town Counsel.

Ms. Green is supportive of moving forward with using the money in energy efficiency fund and questioned if we need to wait for Town Meeting to appropriate the funds – Mr. Ledoux stated that the Board of Selectmen can approve. Suggested to authorize Town Manager to use the money from the fund and bringing it back to the BOS and establish what the next steps are and hiring a consultant.

Mr. Chang questioned about the 40K for a part time employee and if there were additional costs for a consultant. Mr. Lorie stated that the \$40,000 was based on what other towns have paid for a consultant; if staff were involved then they would be compensated as well.

Ms.. Adachi wanted clarification that this is for everyone in town – not just town buildings.

Terra Friedrichs, West Acton – questioned if the \$120,000 includes solar array savings and that she does not want to wait for Town Meeting to hire a part time employee to get working on it.

Debra Symes, Concord Road – thanks the GAB for this incentive and supports the initiative.

Mr. Ledoux will work on the next steps in appropriating the money.

FY18 Sewer O+M Rates – Steve Barrett presented the FY18 sewer rates. Sewer service is in 11% of the town. Operating costs are very stable. ABRHS and the plaza at Kelly's corner are the biggest customers.

Ms. Green mentioned that the increase is due to increase in usage and decrease in conservation.

PB – is there a capital repair plan since it has been 15 years for future repairs of the treatment plant.

Terra – does the percentage of the budget go into a set aside fund or a one-time vote to get specific chunks of money and what is the capacity of the underutilized sewer. Board was unsure.

Ms. Green moved to approve the FY18 Sewer O+M rates per the memo from Steve Barratt, MR. Chang seconded. All Ayes.

Sustainability Goals Implementation Discussion – Jim Snyder Grant from Green Acton gave an overview of a Sustainability Goal Implementation Plan to assist drafting a policy. Came up with guidelines for drafting a Sustainability Policy – read a list of recommendations. Requests that the Town Manager submit a report every year, etc.

Ms. Green commented it was good to see a policy that is broader and not focused on specific action over a detailed one to serve us in the long run. Ideally having something that focuses on the state of affairs now and how to get where we want to be. Having a tracking mechanism makes sense. Perhaps also mention Green Advisory Board report as well. Should it go beyond municipal properties.

Mr. Berry addressed item 2 on the background material presented by Green Acton. Seems that with the goals of sustainability and the carbon neutrality initiative that the Town Manager looks to hire staff to assist with these goals. Mr. Chang agrees with the direction of the scope of the sustainability policy with fellow Board members.

Ms. Gardner commented that she met with Ron Beck with the Water Resource Advisory Committee and the need to be fully staffed (with volunteers) by September which will affect the sustainability goals.

Ms. Adachi commented it would be helpful do have a history of the formation of the sustainability policy through bullet point markers. Would be helpful for people to see the progression of the policy.

Terra Freidrichs, West Acton – happy about the discussion about sustainability. Feels that Acton should be the first town to implement a sustainability implementation and not wait for other towns to be the first. Support to have staff on board.

Green Acton will draft a policy. Mr. Snyder Grant will work closely with a couple key committees with the draft.

Discussion on Naming Rights - Mr. Ledoux gave an overview regarding naming a town facility. There has been a request for naming the Senior Center after a resident. Mr. Ledoux stated there was a resident that in exchange of naming rights to the building the Board accepts a gift of \$100,000. Ms. Green questioned if the town builds a new senior center in 10 years does the name go with it – Mr. Ledoux will have that discussion with the gifter.

Mr. Berry commented for \$110,000 we (the town) would accept it as a gift rather the procurement center.

Terra Friedrichs – the policy states that town building are named not after living people – Ms. Green stated that it is persons living or deceased. Doesn't like the thought of people buying naming rights like commercial property.

Bob Miller – disagrees with Terra – a \$100,000 gift donation and regarding hiring a FTE for sustainability projects would be a disgrace if the town were to walk away from that gift.

Danny Factor – has misgivings about naming a public building for a private benefactor and that it sends a message that money can buy naming rights.

Charlie Aaronson – in favor of putting a name on a room or building especially if it is for \$100,000. It is not a commercial donation but a non-profit. It is a statement that we support them and they support us.

Ms. Green commented that it was acceptable as long as it is in our policy and that we are not selling the rights for naming a building for a private corporation – it must follow under the policies on the naming of town buildings for extraordinary support for the town and is comfortable moving forward and recognizing them publicly. Mr. Berry suggests that the COA put the item on their upcoming agenda and have the Town Manager write up a memo explaining the criteria regarding the gift donation and naming rights.

Ms. Adachi commented that both the COA and BOS have to vote on the naming rights as well. Mr. Berry moved to support the general concept Ms. Gardner second. All Ayes


Consent Agenda

Ms. Green moves to approve consent items 7-14, Mr. Berry second. All Ayes

Ms. Green moves to adjourn, Mr. Chang second. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM



Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary



Joan Gardner, Clerk