

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 13, 2008

At 6:31 p.m., Chairman Kathleen W. Weld called the meeting to order with members Carol Lisbon and David W. Heinlein present. Also present were David W. Ramsay, Town Administrator, and Greer Pugatch, Administrative Assistant.

ATTENDANCE: Justine Kent-Uritam, Open Space Committee; Robyn Hunter & Joseph Melican, Warrant Committee

PRESS: Jen Roach, D-S Press

Open Space Committee re: Warrant Article

Mrs. Weld welcomed Justine Kent-Uritam, Chairman of the Open Space Committee, to this evening's meeting to discuss that committee's warrant article.

Mrs. Kent-Uritam explained that the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs requires communities to update their Open Space & Recreation Plans every 5 years to maintain eligibility for state grants. The Open Space Committee (OSC) is requesting \$5,000 at this year's Town Meeting which will be combined with the approximately \$3,000 in unexpended article monies from Dover's 2002-2003 plan update project to accomplish this. The OSC will also use these funds to provide educational materials to the public regarding water and septic issues, other land use issues and trail maps.

Mrs. Kent-Uritam told the Board that these responsibilities are in keeping with the OSC's charge. She said the OSC also serves an advisory role to the Planning Board, Board of Health and Conservation Commission on a variety of land use matters, and works with the environmental community generally.

The Open Space & Recreation Plan lists all of Dover's critical land tracts which have been deemed to be significant open space, and the OSC gets involved in property transfers to effect desirable outcomes when possible. All Dover properties under the Chapter 61 abatement program (lowered valuations in exchange for not developing open space with a Town right of first refusal purchase option) are also contained in the plan. The plan is distributed to the relevant land conservation groups such as Dover Land Conservation Trust, Mass Audubon, Hale Reservation and The Trustees of Reservations for their common efforts. The plan also covers both passive and active recreation issues, and a member of the Park & Recreation Committee is appointed to the OSC.

Mrs. Kent-Uritam told Mrs. Lisbon that rather than broad implementation of the goals outlined in the plan, the OSC focuses on specific issues. Recent examples include parking on Powissett Street to make open space more available to the public, the community-supported agriculture program at Powissett Farm, forestry management at the Wylde Woods and educational walks.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Mrs. Weld commended the Open Space Committee for their great work.

Warrant Committee re: Ballot Question(s)

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Mrs. Weld thanked Robyn Hunter and Joe Melican of the Warrant Committee for coming in to discuss the need for any ballot questions on this year's Town Election warrant. Mrs. Hunter reported an approximate \$1.8 million deficit for FY09, with some adjustment expected upon receipt of the Dover School Committee and Capital Budget Committee's final budgets. Mrs. Lisbon provided Mrs. Hunter with the capital budget figure of \$452,473, which may decrease slightly, which was voted by that committee this morning. Using conservative estimates for projected revenues in FY09, Mrs. Hunter believes the deficit can be funded out of Free Cash. She recognized the efforts of department heads to keep costs down while delivering the level of services to which citizens have grown accustomed.

Review Article Motions

The article motions will be reviewed by the Board at its next meeting.

Review Revised FY09 Operating Budgets: 171, 199, 292, 422 & 439

Mrs. Weld noted that several FY09 operating budgets under the Selectmen's jurisdiction have been revised due to minor adjustments in longevity, extra days, etc. Town Accountant Juli Colpoys was recognized by Mr. Ramsay for her quality control efforts.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve revised Budget No. **171 Conservation Commission** for a department total of \$58,129, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve revised Budget No. **199 Building Maintenance** for a department total of \$237,113, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve revised Budget No. **292 Animal Control** for a department total of \$23,927, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve revised Budget No. **422 Highway Maintenance** for a department total of \$549,562, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve revised Budget No. **439 Solid Waste Disposal** for a department total of \$353,954, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Pan-Mass Challenge Sign Placement Request

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a request from the executive director of the Pan-Massachusetts Challenge fundraiser to install two permanent signs to mark the bicycle route at the intersections of Dover Road/Main Street and Farm/Junction Streets, and to extend awareness of their mission. This event, which benefits the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, has passed through Dover with temporary signs marking the route for many years without incident.

This item was continued to the March 27, 2008 meeting, at which time the Board will consider the request after reviewing the sign bylaw language including permissible signage and locations (e.g., intersections).

Dover Community Center Building Committee Update

Dover Community Center Building Committee Chairman Ford Spalding will attend the next Selectmen's meeting to share details of the March 25th meeting between the DCCBC and its subcommittees at which interim reports of each committee will be presented.

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Mrs. Weld said that Mr. Ramsay is asking the Board to waive the \$2,500 building permit fee for the Caryl School selective roofing project. Mr. Ramsay suggested to Mr. Heinlein that he be authorized to waive the fee if Don Mills, the architect overseeing this work, finds it appropriate to do so.

It was so moved by Mr. Heinlein, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

Mr. Ramsay informed the Board that two addendums to the roofing project manual and drawings have gone out to all contractors who have picked up specifications, and therefore the bid opening has been extended one week to March 25, 2008.

Other Business:

Prior Notice – Law

Mr. Ramsay felt it was prudent to put in a Prior Notice for the law budget since more than half of the original budget has been expended at the halfway point of the fiscal year. Expenses include the Chickering School litigation closeout, and ongoing civil lawsuits and union negotiations.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve \$35,000 for the law budget, Department 151, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Cable Franchise License Hearing

Mrs. Weld announced that tonight is a continuation of the Verizon cable franchise license hearing. She thanked Cable T.V. Advisor Bob DeFusco for coming in this evening to update the Board on the status of his negotiations with Verizon.

Mr. DeFusco told the Board that he recently spoke with Verizon's attorney, who informed him that a proposal should be submitted to him within the next 60 days. Mr. DeFusco said that recently a neighboring community reached an agreement with Verizon which was within 90% of its existing agreement with Comcast, and he intends to do the same since Dover also has a good package with Comcast. Mr. DeFusco said that if he accepted lesser terms with Verizon, Dover's position could be eroded with Comcast during those renegotiations in four years. He asked the Selectmen to continue the hearing to May 1, 2008, by which time Verizon should have made an offer for their consideration.

Mr. DeFusco expressed frustration that Dover obtained waivers from the Department of Telecommunications and Energy when first approached by Verizon in order to expedite this process, only to have Verizon delay it in recent months while attempting to get legislation passed which would override municipal control. All necessary fiberoptic infrastructure is in place except for 10 – 15% which is underground. Mr. DeFusco cautioned that Verizon does not offer packages which support community television, and Comcast is gradually withdrawing financial support for these non-profit programs in its contract renewals.

Mrs. Weld extended the Board's appreciation for all of Mr. DeFusco's efforts to date in trying to bring the Verizon option to Dover's residents.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to continue the cable franchise license hearing to May 1, 2008 at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Reserve Fund Transfer – Building Maintenance

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Superintendent of Building Maintenance Karl Warnick is requesting a Reserve Fund Transfer to cover replacement of the leaking boiler at the Highway Garage.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer for Building Maintenance Department 199 for \$22,000, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Early Closing of the Town House

Mrs. Lisbon moved to close the offices [at the Town House] at 2:00 p.m. on Good Friday, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Approve February 28, 2007 Open & Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2008 as amended, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Mrs. Lisbon moved to approve the executive session meeting minutes of February 28, 2008 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Heinlein; it was unanimously voted.

Citizens' Comments

Mrs. Lisbon reminded citizens that Saturday, March 29, 2008, is the annual roadside clean up sponsored by the Recycling Committee. The Recycling Committee is looking for volunteers to organize and work in the neighborhoods. Interested persons can get more information on this event on the Town website (www.doverma.org) or by calling the coordinator, John O'Keefe, at (508) 785-0866.

Adjournment

At 7:40 p.m., Mr. Heinlein moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Lisbon; it was unanimously voted.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Carol Lisbon, Clerk