

Selectmen's Meeting
October 18, 2010
4:00 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman; Arthur Smadbeck; and Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator.

At 4:00 p.m Ms. Serpa opened the meeting the first item on the agenda was the annual review for Mr. Adam Darack, Computer Systems Manager.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the town has a lot of new computer related things in place now because of Adam. He is very helpful and helped out the School just that day with a server issue because their computer person was out of town. He also put the new phone system in place.

Mr. Donaroma agreed with Mr. Smadbeck and added that he hopes Mr. Darack is around for a long time.

Ms. Serpa agreed with all that her fellow board members said and added that he is very people oriented and helpful. She is glad to have him.

Ms. Dolby stated that Mr. Darack had established the emergency texting system which has worked very well so far. He helped her create a budget spreadsheet that can show back budgets to 2007. She depends on him too much sometimes.

Mr. Darack thanked the Board for their kind words and stated that it was a pleasure to work with all the departments.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to give Mr. Darack a favorable review. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Ms. Alice Boyd of Bailey, Boyd, & Associates. Ms. Boyd and Ms. Melissa Vincent were present to speak with the Board about the Community Development Grant. Ms. Boyd reported that so far Martha's Vineyard is doing a great job with the grant. So far there have been 25 projects 15 of which were in Edgartown and most of them have been able to use the maximum level of assistance which is \$35,000 per house for help with septic, roofs, doors, and windows. In addition they have child care subsidies for 150 children island wide with up to \$5000 available per household.

Ms. Boyd was present to find out if the Board would like to continue with the program, which doesn't cost the town anything, and authorize Ms. Dolby to sign the application.

Ms. Dolby added that this was a nice tool for the Board of Health and the Police Department for when they found people who needed this kind of help.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to continue the CDBG program and to authorize Ms. Dolby to sign the application. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized the group from Nstar. Present were Ms. Karen Corriveau, Right of Way agent; Mr. Dan Stiles, Engineer; and Mr. Fred Slade, Manager of Electric Operations for the Cape and the Islands. Also present was: Mr. Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendent; Sgt. Craig Edwards; Mr. Peter Wells, Chappy Ferry owner and several residents of Chappaquiddick.

Mr. Slade started by explaining why they were there. There are currently two submarine cables that feed electricity to Chappaquiddick. Recently, one of the cables failed and was found to have a hole in it. Upon examination, it was found that the cables are floating instead of lying on the ground because of the increased current from the breach. Nstar would like permission on an emergency basis to do "phase 1" of the project which is to replace those cables with underground conduit by "directional drilling" under the harbor floor. There would be 4 new 6" conduits and a new manhole and pole on the Dock St. side. The Chappaquiddick side would get a new manhole. They only ask for emergency permission because there is an "urgent need" to replace the lines before the remaining line has issues and all of Chappaquiddick loses power.

The 2nd phase is to bury the lines from the ferry to Litchfield Road. That hearing is on November 1st at 4pm.

The 3rd item that Nstar is doing is forming a new circuit that goes up Meetinghouse Way. There will be an installation of new poles and that hearing is scheduled for October 25th at 4:00pm.

Mr. Wells voiced his concern that there would be a big transformer box where the pole is now abutting the ferry slips.

Mr. Stiles replied that there would just be a manhole. The transformer will be 400' up the road.

Mr. Alan Wilson asked what would be done about the street lights that are on the poles now.

Mr. Fuller responded that the Town would install lantern style street lights that would use the new lines.

Ms. Edith Potter asked what the dimensions of the transformers were and how far the underground wire would go.

Mr. Slade answered that the transformer boxes are 3' wide and 3' tall. The underground wire would go to Litchfield Rd.

Ms. Potter thought that was great that it would go that far.

Ms. Claire Thacher asked about the possibility of having Comcast involved.

Mr. Slade responded that Nstar was in discussions with Comcast and Verizon. The easement they own is for electrical lines only. Nstar is willing to co-operate if they get the permits.

Mr. John Dropick stated that he was in favor of Comcast working with Nstar.

Ms. Serpa asked who they needed to get the easement from.

Mr. Slade responded that they needed several permits. Chapter 91, the Army Corps of Engineers, DEP 401 Water Quality, Mass. Historic. He stated that it could probably be done. They are willing to work with them when they get their permits.

Ms. Dolby asked if there was anything the Board could do to help it along.

Mr. Slade stated that he did not know where in the process they were and to talk to Comcast.

Ms. Serpa asked if Mr. Fuller had any questions.

Mr. Fuller answered that Nstar was keeping him up to date and the line of communications was open. He had talked to Verizon and they seemed very interested in joining in.

Ms. Potter then asked about the tip of Caleb's Pond and whether the conduit would still be ok in a swamp like environment.

Mr. Stiles answered that they were used to conditions like that and that was the engineers job.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to grant "phase 1" on an emergency basis. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Donaroma pointed out to the Nstar contingent that it was in history of the Board to require burying of all new lines referring to the next weeks hearing on Meetinghouse Way.

Mr. Slade pointed out that there were all poles on Meetinghouse and that burying the lines would cost \$600 per lineal foot.

The board then approved the following items:

A letter with the Board of Health regarding tick management.

A Planning Board request to consult Town Council.

An Amendment to the collective bargaining agreement with the Police Department

Ms. Dolby stated that Ms. Liz Argo, Consultant, had come down to assess locations for the solar panels and she seemed excited about the locations. The deadline for submissions is Thursday.

The Board considered this exciting news.

Ms. Dolby referred to a letter the Board had received in reference to the 6th St. lots from the Wastewater Department that they wanted to use them for a leaching field. She had talked to Mr. Matt Poole, Health Agent, and he thought it was a little congested there and suggested coming up with alternatives.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to write a letter to the Wastewater Commissioners suggesting that this area was not appropriate and that they would like to use 6th Street for affordable housing.

Ms. Dolby informed the Board that there would be a FINCOM meeting on Wednesday and think about question #3 on the ballot November 2nd and how it would affect the town finances.

At 4:52 pm Mr. Smadbeck moved to adjourn. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

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