

Selectmen's Meeting
November 1, 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 and read the hearing notice aloud to open the hearing for NStar to bury the lines on Chappaquiddick Rd. from the ferry to Litchfield Rd. Present from NStar were Karen Corriveau, Fred Slade, and Dan Stiles.

Ms. Corriveau stated that it would be 4200' of conduit and cable to Litchfield Rd.

Mr. Peter MacRae asked about the fiber optic cables that were buried in front of the Chappaquiddick Beach Club by Farrisey a couple of years ago.

Ms. Corriveau replied that the cables were not NStar's but that the whole area would be checked by Digsafe before any digging happened.

Mr. MacRae asked if Comcast and Verizon would be joining NStar. He wanted to know if they owned the fiber optic cable.

Ms. Dolby replied that she didn't know who owned the cable. She didn't remember anyone coming to apply to lay it. It may have been done before she was Town Administrator. Comcast is working with NStar to make it happen.

The Selectmen could not recall anyone requesting to bury the cable.

There being no further public comment, Ms. Serpa closed the hearing.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve NStar's request. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the following items:

A One Day Liquor License for the Edgartown Firemen's Association for November 4th from 5:30 to 8:30pm for their monthly meeting and dinner.

To appoint Mr. John Black as Deputy Shellfish Constable for a period of 3 years with a probationary period for the first 6 months.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Ms. Marilyn Wortman, Personnel Assistant. Ms. Wortman requested that the Board vote to switch out everyone in the indemnity health plan to a more affordable plan. Switching all 46 people left on the plan to the "PPO" plan would save the town \$240,840. She stated that Blue Cross/Blue Shield is trying to get rid of the indemnity plan altogether.

Ms. Dolby stated that they were always looking at the bottom line and that the PPO offers the same level of services at a better price. She had spoken with Mr. Jack Collins and Mr. Ron Rappaport and they had both given the change a green light. She has referred to all town contracts and they state that whatever is offered as a replacement has to have an equal level of services. She feels that the PPO offers more services for less money. The town has been offering the PPO for 3 years now and there had been no problems or complaints from people who had switched over.

Ms. Serpa wanted to know if they had checked it out with the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group.

Ms. Wortman replied in the positive. The changeover would happen in May when open enrollment happened and effective July 1st.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that it seems reasonable and moved to approve to force the 46 people left on the indemnity plan to switch out during open enrollment in May. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Jim Joyce, MVC representative. Mr. Joyce was present to update the Board on MVC issues.

Mr. Joyce showed the Board a copy of the draft budget for FY2012 for the MVC. He thought the Board would be interested to know that the assessment was going up and that Edgartown's portion was the largest by far again. There was also included a 4.5% raise included for staff which he felt was unrealistic and excessive. He stated that the only way to change the formula would be for the other towns to agree and he didn't see that happening as that would make their assessments go up as they got more of an equal share.

Mr. Joyce stated that it seemed that the only option the Town had was to pull out of the MVC all together. The Town really can't afford the current system of assessment and he didn't think the town was being treated fairly. The only solution he could think of is to pull out completely and then negotiate a better formula upon re-entry.

Mr. Donaroma stated that he thought it sounded like an interesting idea for the Edgartown voters to vote out and not return until they agree to change the finance system. The MVC had been asked last year to reconsider the formula and they came back with an increase.

Mr. Smadbeck felt they wouldn't have to increase if they estimated their grants correctly.

Mr. Joyce stated that there was \$147,000 in their reserve fund. Any outside person would see the way Edgartown has to bear the largest proportion would think it was an unfair system.

Ms. Dolby reminded everyone that the Town had voted out once before in the 70's.

Mr. Smadbeck thought that maybe Mr. Joyce's concept was a good one. He didn't see the other towns volunteering to increase their portions.

Mr. Donaroma thought that taking a break might be a good idea. The town has the master plan, Upper Main St. plan, and the Harbor Plan to use as guidance.

Ms. Dolby stated that the town could use the \$300,000.

Mr. Joyce stated that he didn't think the towns people were aware of the unfairness of the current system.

The Board thanked Mr. Joyce for coming in and told him job well done.

Ms. Serpa then recognized Mr. Chris Scott, Library Building Committee (LBC) Chairman, who was present to give the Board an update. Also present from the LBC were Mr. Richard Knight and Ms. Ann Tyra.

Mr. Scott stated that he wanted to update the Board with some fairly important information. The Committee has evaluated the two sites and had a structural report done. They gathered a lot of information on each site including the original plans for the Old School from the State archives. The original report showed the Old School to be a sturdy building in great shape. Shortly after that report a new building code Chapter 8 came out. Under the new code the engineers do not recommend the Old School for a library. Due to seismic codes, there can't be an open plan for the library. The floor joists couldn't bear it. It could however, be used for other types of uses. They suggested demolishing the school and starting fresh.

The consensus of the Committee was not to tear down the Old School. There are lots of other uses for it and a lot of people are attached to it.

The Committee has for the Board the original analysis, the new analysis and the original plan to do with what they will when an appropriate use for the building has been found.

Mr. Scott finished his report by letting the Board know that they are on schedule for the deadline for the grant which is in January. The letter of intent was sent in October.

Ms. Serpa asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Donaroma told the Committee good work.

Ms. Dolby then asked the Board to appoint her as an alternate member to the Cable Advisory Committee. The regular member has gone to Florida for the winter. Mr. Smadbeck moved to appoint Ms. Dolby and Mr. Adam Darack as alternates. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby reported that the Cable Advisory Committee was at a point of hiring the attorney to do the negotiations. MVTV would be part of the ascertainment hearing. She asked the Board to approve the expense of \$3,000 for the Town's portion of the attorney fees. The Board had already approved \$2,000 and it turned out being a bit more. Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve the \$3,000. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby stated that she had spoken with Ms. Mary O'Keefe at Comcast and the talks between them and NStar are going really well.

She then let the Board know that Ms. Liz Argo, consultant, is coming to the island with a bunch of bidders tomorrow (November 2) to look at the possible solar energy sites. Ms. Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent, is going to show them around. She has been very helpful on this project.

At 4:35 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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