

Selectmen's Meeting
November 22, 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 the hearing for NStar to install conduit and cable under Simpson's Lane to connect 37 Simpson's Lane. Representing Nstar was Ms. Donna Haworth. She stated that it was pretty straight forward. They would bore under the road to connect the electrical.

Mr. Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendant, stated that he would like the handhold to be on the private property of the homeowner. Simpson's Lane is quite narrow and there is no room in the street layout.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to approve with the condition that the handhold not be in the public layout of the road. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to the next item which was Mr. Fuller's annual review. She started by stating that Mr. Fuller handled his position well and was always responsive to the Board. She also always ran into the Highway guys working in Town keeping it looking nice.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that it had been a good year and that the Town looked good. He had no complaints.

Mr. Donaroma agreed with Mr. Smadbeck and added that he's been doing a good job trying to get the rocks and trees off the right of ways.

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

Ms. Serpa then moved on to a letter received from the Mass. Department of Transportation that referred to the Town taking over some of the responsibility for the State roads in town.

Mr. Fuller stated that the letter was ambiguous. It didn't address day to day maintenance such as trash and road kill. The dollar amount and plan for reimbursement from the State was unclear. The letter included line painting, drain cleaning, and brush cutting.

Mr. Smadbeck thought the responsibility was best left to the state.

Ms. Dolby pointed out that up island the highway departments consisted of one or two people.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to decline the invitation from the state and to have Mr. Fuller and Ms. Dolby to write a letter. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Fuller asked about the salt contract of which he provided a letter.

Mr. Smadbeck moved to award the road salt contract to American Rock Salt at \$88 a ton delivered. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Serpa then moved on to an update on the Town Solar Project. Present was Mr. Ron Rappaport, Town Council.

Mr. Rappaport started by explaining that Mr. Kitt Johnson had been working on behalf of the town with the Cape and Vineyard Energy Co-op to get contractors to build solar energy panels for municipal use. Nineteen other towns are involved. The contractors have shown interest in Katama Farm as a site as well as two sites off Pennywise Path. Mr. Rappaport felt that to pursue this project further the Town should have a vote as it involves leasing town land for 20 years. He has drafted a warrant article for Special Town Meeting on December 14th and would like the Board to add it to the warrant.

Mr. Smadbeck agreed with Mr. Rappaport he also felt that Special Town Meeting would be an opportunity to explain the project and allow it to move forward. Mr. Smadbeck moved to amend the Special Town Meeting Warrant for December 14, 2010 at 7:00pm by adding the article provided by Mr. Rappaport. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then explained that the town uses 2 megawatts of power per year. If this project is economical, more sites would be looked at. He wanted to publicly thank Ms. Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent for all her assistance with the project.

Ms. Dolby echoed Mr. Smadbeck's remark on Ms. Varkonda and the big help she has been.

Mr. Roger Becker, resident, asked about the cost of the project.

Mr. Smadbeck replied that there was no money involved yet. The warrant article is just to move forward.

Mr. Rappaport responded that the article gave permission for the Board to proceed with the project. They can also back out if it turns into something that is not in the Town's best interest.

The Board then approved the following items:

The minutes from November 15th.

To set a public hearing on the draft noise bylaw on December 13, 2010 at 4:00pm.

A One Day Liquor License for the Federated Churches annual Festival of Wreaths on December 2, 2010 from 6-9pm.

To sign the loan resolution water system improvements not to exceed \$265,000.

Ms. Dolby then gave her weekly update. She started with a reminder that budgets were due in for FINCOM fairly soon: Personnel budgets were due November 30th and Expense budgets are due December 15th.

She stated that she had been working with Mr. Rappaport and Mr. Darack about the new state regulations on posting meetings and agendas. The Attorney General has decided that posting agendas and meeting notices on the website is acceptable and would be in compliance.

Ms. Dolby then stated that the Board had always had an open agenda, but due to these new rules, the agenda would close on the Thursday before the meeting at 12 noon. If an item was not on the agenda, it could be discussed, but not decided upon until it was on a posted agenda. Emergency cases would be considered on a case by case basis.

At that point Mr. Becker stated that he had an issue with the MVC article on the Special Town Meeting warrant. He wanted to have hearings before hand and was concerned about the affect withdrawing would have on the Chappaquiddick DCPC in which he resides.

Mr. Smadbeck replied that the question on the warrant will give a good feel for how the Town wants to proceed.

Ms. Claire Thacher, Mr. Becker's spouse, asked if it was just the one vote and then the town is out of the commission.

Mr. Smadbeck answered that the process was a long one and that this was only the first step. The next step was approval of the legislature and then another town meeting vote and ballot question.

At 4:15 pm Mr. Smadbeck moved to adjourn. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman

Arthur Smadbeck

Michael J. Donaroma
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant