

Selectmen's Meeting

October 5, 2009

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 Michael Donaroma, Chairman; Margaret Serpa & Arthur Smadbeck. Also present was Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator.

At 4:00 pm Mr. Donaroma opened the meeting and recognized Ms. Mary O'Keefe, Senior Manager of Community Relations for Comcast. Ms. O'Keefe was present to update the Board on the feasibility of wiring Chappaquiddick for cable.

Ms. O'Keefe stated that Comcast had hired an engineer to see what would be involved with putting a cable under the harbor. The price for the underground cable and running the cable to the 535 homes on Chappaquiddick is estimated between 1.95 and 2.15 million dollars. Due to the cost Comcast has determined that it is not financially feasible. The difference between what Comcast is willing to pay and the actual cost would have to be covered by the residents who sign up. The minimum required to sign up would be 60% of the 535 households on Chappaquiddick and they would have to sign a 2 year/year round contract. At 60% it would cost each household \$5,900, at 80% it would cost \$4,400, and at 100% it would cost \$3,500. Any reduced construction costs would be passed on to the customers.

Ms. O'Keefe mentioned she would contact the residents via the CIA. Ms. Dolby suggested the Selectmen form a committee since the CIA is a private association. Ms. O'Keefe agreed.

There was a question as to how the new sign ups would be handled after the project was complete. Would they share some of the cost?

Ms. O'Keefe stated that she was unsure how that would work out, but would look into it.

At 4:10 pm Ms. Barbara Prada, Animal Control Officer, was in for her report on the summer. She had been skunked twice. The first one was stuck in a crab net and the second had a yogurt cup stuck on his head. There had been a period where there were a lot of dogs attacking dogs, but lately it seems to be cats attacking cats.

Ms. Serpa moved to accept Ms. Prada's report. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:14 pm the Library reminded the board that they had spoken in September about getting an extension from the State on raising funds for the new Library and the deadline for a letter from the Board was in November.

Ms. Dolby replied that the Board had already decided to send a letter and it would be done before the deadline.

Mr. TJ Hagerty from the Dukes County Pest Program was present to report that his sales were significantly down from last year. He hoped to meet with FINCOM and make the pest budget part of the general budget.

Joe Alosso and the Waste Water Commissioners were present to discuss the warrant article for special Town Meeting to sewer Island Grove. The Commission wants to apply for a USDA grant, but the project needs approval from the Town before it can apply. The reason they want to apply now is that the Commission has been told that the money will not be available in April. This would be part of stimulus money and it could only be considered "shovel ready" with Town Meeting approval. According to Mr. Alosso the Town cost would be zero with the grant money and the rest would be assessed to the homeowners in Island Grove as a betterment.

Ms. Serpa stated that the information the Board had was that the stimulus funds would be available until after the Annual Town Meeting in April.

Mr. Timothy Connelly, Wastewater Commissioner, responded that the Federal Government was asking for applications by February.

Mr. Donaroma wanted to know what wizardry got the Town down to paying nothing and what the consequences were if the Town did not act now.

Mr. Alosso answered that there would be continuing water quality issues in the great pond and the State may issue a mandate.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the Board supports sewerage Island Grove. However, there are timing issues in putting it on a Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Board doesn't typically put large items on Special Town Meeting unless it is an emergency. They feel that Annual Town Meeting is the place for such decisions. There are other complications involved that the Town Clerk will explain that include a ballot vote after the Town Meeting vote. That would hold up the tax rate certification.

Ms. Wanda Williams, Town Clerk, stood to explain the technicalities involved with having a ballot question. Notification has to be given 35 days prior. Ballots have to be printed. Absentee voters get 20 days and the Handicap voting machine has to be programmed. Ms. Williams voiced that this is not a good time to have a ballot vote. There will be a low turnout because a lot of voters are gone for the winter.

Ms. Serpa pointed out that the tax rate couldn't be set until after the vote was certified. She was not in favor of this article at Special Town Meeting. She supported the project, but not the timing.

Mr. Smadbeck asked for the Waste Water Commissioners' opinion.

Mr. James Carter stated that they only brought it to Special Town Meeting because they believe that the stimulus money will be gone by the time of Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Donaroma stated that he understood.

Ms. Serpa stated that it was not an emergency and that it was not for Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Smadbeck agreed.

Ms. Serpa moved to hold the article until the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

The following items were then approved by the Board:

For the film company from the German Love Boat could film and set up a fruit stand behind the Paper Store from 10/23-10/25. They have permission from the Police Department and the owner of the establishment.

An aquaculture license renewal for Scott Castro.

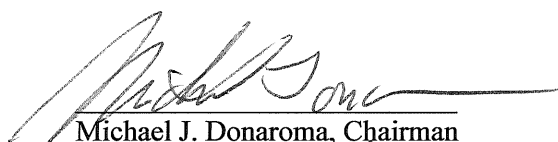
A permit for Michael Creech to occupy part of the sidewalk to maintain buildings on Main St. from October 19- November 15, 2009.

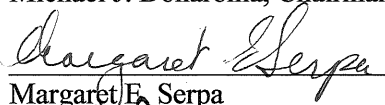
Yard Sale Permits for: Janice Serge, 23 Oliver St on October 10, 2009 from 9am-3pm and Amanda Termini, 11 Katama Dr. on October 10, 2009 from 9am-2pm.

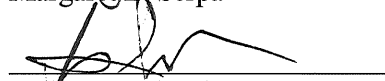
The Board then opened the one bid for the RFP for CDBG Grant administration and voted to take it under advisement.

Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn at 4:46 pm. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:


Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman


Margaret E. Serpa


Arthur Smadbeck
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant