

TOWN OF HOPKINTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Date: January 30, 2007
MINUTES

Members Present: Muriel E. Kramer, Chairman; Mary C. Pratt, Vice-Chairman; Leonard A. Holden, Michael W. Shepard

Member Absent: Ronald M. Clark

Others Present: Robert Falcione, HopNews; John Hilliard, MetroWest News; Theodore D. Kozak; Selectmen's Office: Anthony Troiano, Town Manager, and Geri Holland, Executive Assistant

Public Meeting opened:

7:00 p.m. Mrs. Kramer opened the public meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting is to present potential warrant articles for the 2007 Annual and Special Town Meeting. The Board will vote potential articles that are discussed at this meeting at a later date for placement on the 2007 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Troiano first gave an update regarding the Town's legal account and stated that \$7,000 is the total remaining amount in the legal account; and stated that there would be more legal costs pertaining to the Weston Nurseries property court hearing. He also talked about the legal fees for the Whitehall issue that totals \$46,924, and that a portion would be paid through the Community Preservation funds. He added that this fee would be made in one payment. He added that the Weston Nurseries property legal fees are at approximately \$45,000. Mr. Troiano said that the Board could request a Reserve Fund Transfer from the Appropriation Committee; and recommended reviewing this issue again at the next Selectmen's meeting scheduled on February 13.

Mr. Troiano also talked about rescinding the Department of Public Works vote that was made at the May 2006 Town Meeting to form a three member elected DPW Board. He said that the recent establishment of the Town Charter created a Town Manager position which states that the DPW Director is under the jurisdiction of the Town Manager. He said that this creates a conflict and that the Board could sponsor an article at the 2007 Town Meeting to rescind Act 262 of the Acts of 2006 which would require a 2/3 vote. It would then have to go to the ballot for a simple majority vote. This change would revert to the original legislation that formed the DPW.

The Board discussed the issue of rescinding the original legislation forming the DPW and determining whether or not to keep the current appointed DPW Advisory Board which would report to the Town Manager.

The Board also discussed the issue of three openings on the newly elected DPW Board on the Ballot, which is the same ballot that would nullify last year's vote for an elected DPW Board. The Board agreed to research this issue and Mr. Shepard recommended contacting the Attorney General's Office for advice.

Mrs. Kramer said that the Board would first need to make a decision about moving forward with this article, and then educate the public about the issue. She also commented that the Board should research the legality of this issue. Mr. Kozak said that he would check the original vote that created the DPW in 1998.

The Board discussed an article that would make the Personnel Committee an advisory committee, making all paid staff, with the exception of school, fire, and police, report to the Town Manager. Mr. Shepard said that this would allow the Town Manager's form of government to be structurally sound.

The Board agreed to hold a workshop with the Personnel Committee to further discuss its role; and to discuss this with the Department Heads at the next Department Head meeting scheduled on February 7th as recommended by Mr. Troiano. Mr. Troiano also talked about putting in a place a "code of conduct".

Mrs. Kramer talked about the restructuring the way the Public Library reports with in Town Government. Mr. Troiano plans to attend the next Trustees of the Public Library meeting and will discuss their issues with them at that time.

Mr. Troiano commented that he would like to discuss the capital items at the February 13th Selectmen's meeting, as the submittal deadline of capital items to the Capital Improvement Committee is March 15. Mr. Troiano also wished to hold a policy session about the budget such as funding priorities and to discuss the school budget.

The Board agreed to meet on Monday, February 5th at 6 p.m. to hold a work session to discuss the school budget.

Mrs. Pratt would like to place an article on the warrant to petition the General Court to permit the town to establish an Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) which would have the authority to formulate economic development plans for the Weston Nurseries property.

Mrs. Pratt also would like to place an article on the warrant an inter-local agreement with Hopkinton, Milford, Upton and Hopedale that pertains to the Lake Maspenock Dam. Mrs. Pratt offered to volunteer contacting the area towns for their support.

Mrs. Pratt stated that she would like to place an article on the warrant an inter-local agreement with Hopkinton, Ashland and Southborough pertaining to the Weston Nurseries property and property located in East Hopkinton. Mrs. Pratt stated this would not create anything except to be able to enter into agreements and create financing without have to go back to Town Meeting. Mr. Kozak pointed out that this agreement could prevent the town from future projects with the Weston Nurseries property.

Mrs. Pratt presented her idea to petition the General Court for debt exclusion (30 years) regarding the Weston Nurseries property should it be purchased by the Town.

Mr. Shepard requested to place an article on the warrant to adopt a portion of Chapter 121 to allow expedited permitting procedures that pertains to video or audio taping public hearings for members.

Mrs. Kramer presented Mr. Clark's recommendations for articles on the warrant some of which were already heard by the Board. The recommendations follow: To eliminate the Open Space Preservation Committee (OSPC); that the Whitehall Estates property be approved for active recreation and rolled into Reed Park under the P&R; The Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) (reviewing committee) cannot also chair of one of the CPC funds requesting committees (P&R; Housing; Historical; OSPC/CC/BoS). Mr. Clark also requested additional construction funding for the Fruit Street WWTF; and that the Fruit Street Conservation Restriction meets/bounds. He also recommended legal funding for the Special Town Meeting.

Mrs. Kramer wished to place an article on the warrant a procurement bylaw article on the warrant, as she would like some structure to the procurement law. Mr. Troiano commented that this is not necessary to place this as an article on the warrant; but, that they could follow the town management process. He added that he would contact some town's to request how they handle the procurement law, specifically the Town of Barnstable.

Mr. Troiano requested to hold an executive session at the February 13th Selectmen's meeting for the purpose of contract negotiations and to discuss strategy for the Weston Nurseries property. He recommended inviting Mr. Perry, Chairman of the LUSC, and Attorney Dennis to the meeting.

Mr. Troiano recommended that the Human Resource position be funded for a 40 hour position rather than 20 hours. He stated the importance of the position and the difficulty in hiring a HR person for only 20 hours.

Meeting Adjourned:

9:25 p.m Vote: Mrs. Kramer entertained a motion to adjourn the public meeting. **So moved Mr. Holden. Second Mr. Shepard. Unanimously voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Holland, Executive Assistant
Date approved: 2/13/07