

TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES
August 28, 2007

Vice Chairman Sandra D. MacFarlane opened the meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on August 28, 2007 at 7:00 pm in Room 200 at the Town House, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston. Present were Paul M. Gallagher, Joseph D. Kelleher, Jean Landis-Naumann and Town Administrator Kevin R. Donovan. Chairman Mark S. Beaton was absent.

The Vice Chairman announced the dates to note and the Open Forum. Selectman Jean Landis-Naumann came to the podium to speak on behalf of the Agricultural Commission and acknowledged the success of the Agricultural Celebration held on August 21st and thanked fellow Committee members as well as participants and attendees.

Jennifer Reed from Bridgewater State College Institute for Regional Development was present to provide an overview of programs offered by the College relating to Civic Leadership and Community and Economic Development. Ms. Reed stated that the courses were offered to Towns and citizens at nominal fees to encourage participation in the courses offered; Community Development Program, Civic Leadership, Local Government Customer Service, and a Summary of Public Administration.

Mr. Gallagher stated that the College was a great resource and that they should consider sponsoring people to attend. Mr. Kelleher expressed an interest in the Customer Service seminar for employees and Mr. Gallagher stated that it would certainly be a benefit. Mr. Donovan was requested to contact Ms. Reed for more information on offering the seminars.

Mr. Lloyd Geisinger was present from Thorndike Development to request the Board's support of a Warrant Article for the proposed Route 3 ramp. Mrs. Landis-Naumann recused herself from participating by leaving the table. He advised that the two articles not acted upon at the Annual Town Meeting had been consolidated to the one article before the Board. Mr. Geisinger summarized the article explaining that two parcels of land would be swapped between the Town and Mass Highway giving the Town a flat parcel of land adjacent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and giving Mass Highway sloped land needed for ramp access.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the article was in proper form. Mr. Donovan advised that it would be reviewed by Town Counsel who would review it with Senate Counsel to be sure it was. Mr. Gallagher requested that the parcel numbers of the lots be incorporated into the article so that it was easily identifiable. Mr. Geisinger's Attorney Bob Davis was present and advised that the article referred to a plan that identified all the lots and said plan would be available to all voters to review. He further stated that the Town would make the application for permits from DEP for the uses described in the article and that the land would not be conveyed until the permits were obtained.

Ms. MacFarlane asked if Mr. Geisinger was working with the Town Planner on the article and Mr. Donovan advised that Mr. Geisinger was working through him.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 3-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To place the article for the ramp on the Fall Special Town Meeting.

The Board reviewed the Town Administrator's report. Items discussed were; Elm Street Bridge and the need for a permanent replacement; Health Insurance and review of coverages; and the Special Town Meeting and the fact that there is no funding available to raise and appropriate and any funding requests approved would have to come from transfer of funds previously appropriated.

Mrs. Landis-Naumann expressed her dissatisfaction with the quality of the local broadcasts on channel 14. She advised that she had spoken with a representative of PAC TV who advised that the problem was with the Comcast equipment and needed to be corrected by them.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he was not suggesting that the Elm Street Bridge was not safe but suggesting that it be re-inspected since the last inspection was early in the year when snow and ice covered part of the bridge. The Board supported sending a letter to Old Colony Planning Council and Mass Highway to move the project up on the priority list and to focus on replacement of the bridge.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To send a memo to Town Departments, Boards and Committees advising that there is no funding available for the Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Kelleher stated that he wanted to propose that Kingston host a summit meeting of all the Plymouth County Towns to discuss; casino gaming, health insurance and items that are of interest to all the communities. He suggested inviting the Boards of Selectmen from all 27 Plymouth County communities along with; a representative from the Governor's office, State Representative Thomas Calter, Senator Murray, and representatives from the County offices. Mr. Kelleher further suggested that the meeting take place in early November. Mr. Gallagher suggested working with the Plymouth County Selectmen's Association to organize the meeting.

Ms. MacFarlane stated that there was a regional task force in place to deal with the casino and that seventeen communities are participating along with the Old Colony Planning Council and SRPED. She stated that the purpose of the task force was to identify the main impacts of the region. Ms. MacFarlane stated that a study of the traffic impact was being conducted in a 10-12 mile radius of the proposed casino and the task force was seeking the study to be widened to 30 miles. She stated the State Representatives for the Town in the Task Force have been invited to the next meeting on September 12 and as always is open to the public. Mr. Kelleher stated that he wanted the regional meeting to focus on more than just the casino; insurance, finance, etc.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he agreed with Mr. Kelleher that a meeting was needed to focus on regional issues. Mrs. Landis-Naumann stated that they could invite members of the Boards of Selectmen and the Planning Boards of the communities to create a dialogue. She

further suggested that Bridgewater State College resources could be utilized to help put the event together.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To host a regional meeting for the purpose of discussing future impacts on cities and local governments.

Ms. MacFarlane stated that any concerns for the County will be exaggerated with the construction of a casino and provided an update from the Task Force. She stated that a letter had been sent from the Task Force to the Governor detailing the main points of concern; mitigation of traffic concerns; environmental impacts; mutual aid of the abutting communities; hazmat concerns; the KEMA evacuation route, social costs, addiction, housing and education. She reported that nine members of the Regional Task Force held a meeting in Boston with Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, Daniel O’Connell on August 27th and that the outcome was encouraging. As Chairman, he noted to the group that many of the group’s concerns were in the process of review. Ms. MacFarlane stated that two not considered by the Governor’s Task Force were Plymouth Airport and the “night skies” which is of particular concern for the town of Plympton. She further stated that they are looking into slowing down the permitting process, which due to Federal process is estimated to be about five years, according to Secretary O’Connell.

Mr. Gallagher asked if the Task Force was keeping minutes of the meetings and if so, that a copy of the minutes be on file in Selectmen’s office. He further expressed concern that the process could take less than the five years considering how quickly the Town of Middleborough negotiated and accepted the deal with the Indians. Ms. MacFarlane stated that the minutes that are available would be emailed as soon as possible

Ms. MacFarlane stated that she hoped the Board would accept her resignation from the Conservation Land Study Committee because the Casino Task Force was taking more of her time than expected. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To accept Ms. MacFarlane’s resignation from the Conservation Land Study Committee; and further

VOTED: To appoint Mr. Kelleher to the Conservation Land Study Committee.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 3-0-1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the August 14, 2007 public and executive session meeting.

Mrs. Landis-Naumann abstained from voting since she was absent from the August 14th meeting.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint Travis Roberts as a KEMA Volunteer and Steven Sapir to the Technology Advisory Committee, and further;

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Flora McDowell from the Council on Aging.

Mr. Gallagher stated that he wanted the Board to discuss a specific charge for the Landfill Reuse Committee. Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: For the Landfill Reuse Committee membership to work with the Engineering firm to determine potential reuses of the capped landfill and said study/engineering costs to be funded by Thorndike Development.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 3-0-1 vote, it was—

VOTED: To appoint Selectman Gallagher to represent the Board of Selectmen on the Landfill Reuse Committee.

Mr. Gallagher abstained from voting.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the payment of \$260.00 from the NOI funds for wetlands delineation performed by Anderson & Kreiger LLP.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 vote, it was—

VOTED: To approve the request to use Gray's Beach for the Buddy Walk to be held on October 6, 2007, and further;

VOTED: To waive the ambulance fee due to a financial hardship, and further;

VOTED: To approve the request to close the road to hold a block party on Wilder Road where it intersects with Harvest Drive and Winslow Drive on September 9, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion made and seconded, following a discussion and a 4-0-0 roll-call vote, it was—

VOTED: To enter into executive session¹ for the purpose of discussing the disposal or sale of real estate and not return to public session.

Respectfully Submitted:

¹ The public session adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and the executive session adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Nancy M. Howlett, Assistant to the
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen