

Unapproved

WESTBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 24, 2011

Multi-Purpose Room, Mulvey Municipal Center, 866 Boston Post Road

Call to Order

First Selectman Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A quorum was established with the following Board members present: First Selectman Bishop and Selectman Hall.

Also Present: Residents and members of the Press.

Energy Committee Presentation

Chris Ehlert, Chairman of the Westbrook Energy Committee, was present and gave an overview of the Committee's work to date. The Committee was established in 2009 and is charged with influencing, developing and supporting energy management and sustainability initiatives throughout Westbrook.

A copy of the Westbrook Energy Committee Strategic Energy Management Plan was distributed.

2011/12 Budget

A copy of the Preliminary FY12 Municipal Budget was distributed along with Budget Notes from the First Selectman and Director of Finance.

Mr. Bishop reported that the several Budget Hearings with town departments were held and departments adhered to the 0% guidelines developed by the BOF. No services have been reduced.

The overall budget represents a net decrease of \$57,297 or -0.52%.

Ms. Jones expressed concern that her request for additional staff and salary for the Treasurer's office was not included in the proposed budget. Mr. Bishop directed Ms. Jones to the February 15, 2011 meeting minutes. These minutes indicate that her request was denied and include other budget hearing discussions. Mr. Bishop commented on the rationale of why the BOS denied her request. Mr. Bishop encouraged Ms. Jones to take her requests directly to the BOF.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to recommend to the BOF a budget of \$11,231,327 which represents a 0.52% decrease from the current fiscal year. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Status Report from the Ad Hoc Shellfish Committee

John Rie reported on the work of the Ad Hoc Shellfish Committee to date. The Ad Hoc Shellfish Committee has been testing water to determine if recreational shell fishing would be possible. The Committee has also investigated shellfish leases and oyster grants. A map of the proposed shell fishing areas was presented.

Dredging Update

John Rie reported that a Notice of Dredging was recently posted in the New Haven Register. The hope is to have the Army Corps of Engineers and the Currituck do additional dredging at the entrance to the channel. If additional dredging is not completed, 30 to 40% of the boats using the harbor will have difficulty in the next several years. This would result in a significant economic "hit" to the town.

Gary Gavigan, BOF member, commented that dredging, like road maintenance, should be considered as part of the town's infrastructure. Reduced business at the marinas would be critical to the town's economy.

Hazardous Waste Contract

The draft Household Hazardous Waste Contract, along with Atty. Wells' comments, was included in the BOS packet.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to approve the contract as presented, including Mr. Wells' recommendations. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Communication Plan - Tabled

Bills/Invoices

Mr. Bishop made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from W&C in the amount of \$857.04 for the Community Center Feasibility and Financial Analysis. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations

First Reading - A letter of endorsement from the Republican Town Committee was in the BOS packet. This endorsement is for Mr. Vincent Neri, ZBA Alternate.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Mark Daminai from the ZBA, TCRC and Town Garage Committees. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

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Ms. Jones distributed the Statement of Cash Balances as of 1/31/11. She briefly reported on monies received for the Boat Tax.

Director of Finance Report

Mr. Urban briefly reported on the Governor's proposed budget and the effect of same on Westbrook's budget. The Governor's recommendation is to keep the ECS (educational funding) intact.

Mr. Bishop commented that the Governor's budget has been discussed among area Selectmen at recent meetings.

Mr. Urban reported that he expects Department Heads to develop and submit their revenue projections early next week.

The BOS briefly discussed the town's Capital Improvement Plan.

Selectman's Report

Included in the BOS packet was information from the Conservation Commission urging the BOS to support legislation that will restore liability protection for municipalities that have invested in open space acquisition.

At the 1/10/11 BOS meeting, the BOS referred municipal parking issues to Zoning. Included in the BOS packet was a response from Zoning indicating that municipal parking is not under the authority of Zoning Regulations. The BOS took no action on municipal parking. The long standing practice of allowing parking in the municipal lot will stand.

Mr. Bishop reported that two Special BOS meetings have been scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to appoint an individual to fill the vacancy on the BOS. The second meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Representatives from MIRMA and the BOF are invited to this meeting.

Mr. Bishop reported that the DOT recently presented their plans for the new railroad station. They anticipate starting construction in the Fall and no disruption of service is expected.

Minutes

Mr. Bishop made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the following meetings as presented: January 20, 2011, February 1, 2011, February 3, 2011, February 7, 2011, February 10, 2011, February 14, 2011 and February 15, 2011, February 17, 2011. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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Mr. Bishop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski

Recording Clerk