

WESTBROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 24, 2011

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, Selectman Ehlert and Selectman Hall. Also in attendance were residents and members of the Press.

Bathhouse Concessions

Mr. Bishop reported that the Town was approached last year by a vendor interested in operating the Bathhouse Concession Stand at Westbrook's Town Beach. As a result, an RFP for the Concession Stand was developed and posted appropriately. Two bids were received by the 3/14/11 due date.

The first bid received was from Mr. John Annello, 88 Elm Street, Old Saybrook. The amount of the bid was \$1,525.00.

The seconded bid received was from Mr. & Mrs. Pfaff, Westbrook, CT. The amount of the bid was \$50.00.

The bids were distributed to the Selectmen and reviewed.

Mr. Hall commented that the Pfaff's have been operating the stand for many years. He felt it appropriate to allow them continual operation of the stand. He added that he had heard concern regarding the condition of the restrooms. Mr. Ehlert agreed with Mr. Hall's comments and added that he did not feel the financial differences in the bids would "break the Town's budget".

There was some discussion regarding the fee for beach passes. More data will be collected and this issue will be discussed at a future BOS meeting.

Mr. Hall made a motion to accept the bid from the Pfaff's for the Bathhouse Concession Stand. Mr. Ehlert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appropriations

Included in the BOS packet was documentation from Andrew Urban regarding a Grant for \$20,000 received from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. The purpose of the grant is to fund

a Historic Preservation Survey. The grant was awarded 7/1/10 and approved at a Town Meeting dated 9/28/10. It is now necessary to appropriate the balance of \$10,000.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to forward this supplemental appropriation to the BOF. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Urban reported on additional monies required for audit preparation and annual report printing.

Mr. Hall made a motion to forward the request for an appropriation in the amount of \$5,100.00 for annual report printing and additional audit work. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop reported that a letter of approval from the State of Connecticut has been received regarding LOCIP funding of Old Clinton Road. The amount of funding is \$300,000. This will be an item on the 4/27/11 Town Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Bishop reported that Westbrook hosted an area Selectmen meeting on March 23, 2011. Mr. Gabe Jiran, Westbrook's Labor Counselor gave a presentation regarding negotiations. Information from Mr. Jiran will be distributed to the Selectmen. There was no cost for Mr. Jiran's presentation.

Mr. Bishop reported that a wage/salary survey has been received from CCM. This information was distributed to Mr. Gabe Jiran and Mr. Rich Annino.

Harbor Dredging

Mr. Bishop reported that the Harbor Commission recently met with area marina owners to discuss possible funding from the marinas for the dredging. The town is still aggressively working with our legislators to secure state funding for the project.

The outer channel will be dredged by the Currituck in the spring. There is no cost to the Town for this portion of the dredging.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Annual Town Budget Hearing is scheduled for 4/12/11 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for 4/27/11 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Town Budget Meeting is scheduled for 5/11/11 at 7:00 p.m.

The date for the Budget Referendum has not yet been finalized.

The BOF budget workshops are on-going. Mr. Urban distributed a copy of Adjustments to BOS recommended budget.

Vacancy and Nominations

Mr. Bishop made a motion to appoint Ronny Stevenson to the Harbor Management Committee with a term to expire 3/28/14. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to appoint Brian Faucher to the Harbor Management Committee with a term to expire 3/28/14. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hall made a motion to appoint Keith Rich to the Harbor Management Committee with a term to expire 3/19/14. Mr. Ehlert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bishop made a motion to appoint Dave Russell to the Marine Patrol with a term to expire 4/1/12. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ehlert made a motion to appoint Sandy Bannon-Rankin as Animal Control Officer with a term to expire 4/14/12. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ehlert made a motion to appoint Margaret Rohner as Animal Control Officer with a term to expire 4/14/12. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Jones reported on a Treasurer's Conference she attended hosted by Denise Nappier. The poor quality of computer systems throughout state agencies was discussed.

Ms. Jones reviewed the process for signature cards.

Director of Finance Report

Mr. Urban reported that the Chairman of the BOF has requested that he present the Budget to the Town at the annual meeting. He continued that the preliminary CIP Plan has been given to the BOS for their review. Mr. Ehlert suggested that some of the Energy projects may be appropriate for the CIP Plan.

Mr. Urban has met with the Pension Board. They are currently interviewing Pension Plan Managers.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Bishop reported on the many levels of need throughout the community as evidenced when he delivered meals for the Meals on Wheels program.

Mr. Bishop reported that when he is out of the office for an extended period of time, the remaining members of the BOS are responsible to act in his absence. According to Atty. Wells, it would require a Town Ordinance to allow Mr. Bishop to designate another individual.

Mr. Bishop reported that Vision Appraisal will have office space downstairs at the Town Hall beginning in April. Vision has scheduled a meeting with the Beach Association to discuss the appraisals.

Mr. Bishop reported that at an FOI hearing held Wednesday, March 23, 2011, the Town prevailed regarding the complaint about Executive Session. He also indicated that the Town had withdrawn the lack of proper referencing of Executive Session in discussions regarding Vision Appraisal.

Ms. Jones took exception to the interpretation of the FOI ruling. Mr. Bishop will secure clarification from the Town Attorney.

Status of Westbrook Constable

Mr. Bishop reported that a Constable has been put on administrative paid leave. Mr. Bishop is awaiting the report from the State regarding the issue.

State Trooper Contract

A copy of the State Trooper Contract was included in the BOS packet. No action taken at this time.

Minutes

Ms. Jones reported that the 3/14/11 BOS meeting minutes should reflect that she discussed revenue accounts and interest payments at the Middle School and High School.

Mr. Ehlert made a motion to approve the 3/14/11 meeting minutes, as amended. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Custodial Fees at Schools

Mr. Ehlert reported that last fall; the BOE policy regarding the use of school buildings, custodial staff and fees for same was changed. This change in policy has had a negative effect on the Park & Rec budget. Mr. Ehlert suggested that the BOS should review the policy and ask the BOE to consider adjusting the rate for town sponsored programs.

Mr. Bishop will request additional information from the BOE. Upon receipt of this information, this issue will be addressed at a future BOS meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Ehlert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski