

Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 23, 2007

Library Meeting Room

Present: Chairman Duncan Ross, Selectmen Gregory Coogan, Ronald DiOrio, Kerry Scott, Roger Wey. Also present: Town Administrator Michael Dutton, Administrator Alice Ryan Butler.

Meeting called to order at 4:40 p.m.

Workshop. Personnel Board

The Personnel board was represented by Mimi Davisson and John Lolley.

Ms. Davisson announced that there are 16 personal contracts including 5 wastewater contracts.

The Committee recommends:

The Town confers contracts that are consistent and equitable.

As soon as possible commission another Classification and Compensation Study.

The Town Meeting approves the results of the study.

The results of the study would apply to all employees of the Town.

They would also like all aspects of Personnel reviewed by the Board of Selectmen, the Personnel Board and the Town Administrator.

That the Town establish a policy about when or if personal services contracts are appropriate. And when necessary, a standard contract be developed.

Review the Personnel By-laws.

Consider increasing the size of the Personnel Board.

Consider creating a professional Human Relations function, not necessarily full time.

Determine when Vineyard residence is necessary.

Determine when employees can hold elective or appointive office.

New/Old Business

Town Administrator Dutton discussed an article that had been in the newspaper concerning bonuses and the "Building Inspector. Bonuses are not illegal or unethical but not necessarily wise. Department Heads do not authorize bonuses. In some cases, the prior Town Administrator added amounts to salary line items in anticipation of awarding merit increases. This money was then used to award bonuses. Bonuses are subject to appropriations at Town Meeting, internal controls and an end of the year audit by independent auditors. All employees given a bonus received outstanding evaluations.

Concerning the Building Inspector, he requested a specific salary amount during his interview. He was told that the salary adjustment could not take place until FY07. The increase was voted at Town Meeting. In August, Mr. Wiener inquired about the pay increase. In October, the Town Administrator made the salary adjustment and also removed Mr. Wiener from the bargaining unit. Later, the Union informed him that no agreement had been made to allow Mr. Wiener to leave the bargaining unit. Mr. Wiener has been placed back into the Union retroactive to October. Mr. Dutton's efforts to have the title changed to Building Commissioner did not involve salary or the Union. It was an effort to assist the public dealing with land use.

Mr. Dutton made two points, any money given as bonuses or salaries was voted at Town Meeting. Town Meeting is the appropriating authority. The salary adjustment for the Building Inspector was negotiated in good faith in 2005. Department Heads do not authorize their own bonuses. Also, all financial matters are audited each year by an independent audit team.

Selectman Wey asked to have the warrants available the day before the meeting.

Selectman Coogan suggested that employees should speak to the Town Administrator rather than the newspapers when they have questions or problems.

Report: Emergency Management Committee

There will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on January 24, 2007 at the Oak Bluffs School. More volunteers are needed to make the program successful.

Selectman DiOrio suggested that Mr. Martell look for grants to fund the Emergency Management Committee projects. Mr. Martell assured him that he was aware of grants and had been successful in getting a boat for Oak Bluffs.

Report on their presentation at the Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. Conservation Administrator Liz Durkee, Shellfish Constable David Grunden.

Constable Grunden reported on restoration projects that he has been involved in on the Island. These were projects that involved the cooperation of all six towns and achieved large and small wetlands and water quality protection successes. They distributed the "Blue Book" that gives advice on healing the Island environment. Conservation Administrator Durkee gave an overview of the meeting and later wrote an article for the Vineyard Gazette.

Hearing: Request for a special permit for a home based business. Richard Coutinho

Mr. Coutinho needs a special permit for a sign at the end of his driveway to advertise his home business.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to approve the request for a special permit, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was unanimous.

Since the Hearing was not closed before the vote, Chairman Ross suggested it be done.

Selectman Coogan motioned to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Scott. Vote was unanimous.

Selectman Coogan motioned to approve the request for a special permit, seconded by Selectman DiOrio. Vote was unanimous.

Presentation: Parking and Traffic in the harbor area. Parking and Traffic Committee.
Renee Balter explained the newest plan for parking and traffic in the harbor area. The layout concept is attached.

Selectman Coogan motioned to approve the plan, seconded by Selectman DiOrio. Vote was unanimous.

Selectman Wey reported that at the MMA meeting, he had spoken to a company about a parking plan for Oak Bluffs. It could potentially raise \$1M for Oak Bluffs. The information will be forwarded to the Parking and Traffic Committee.

Report: Boardwalk to Beach Taskforce.

Nancy Phillips reported that the Committee needed a survey of the area before they could continue with the project. She pointed out the value of having someone on the Island do the survey. MVC Executive Director Mark London said that it is very hard to plan without a survey.

Comment [a1]:

Selectman DiOrio motioned to either identify \$12,000 – 16,000 in the current budget or prepare an Article for the Town Meeting for this project, seconded by Selectman Scott. Vote was unanimous.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of parking fees for the area along the beach.

Selectmen's Update

The media was rebuked for an article that appeared in the Vineyard Times concerning the audience at Selectmen meetings.

Selectman DiOrio questioned the possibility of creating an Oak Bluffs Affordable Housing Trust, it would be as comprehensive or as limited as the town desires. The Trust could receive and dispense funds and apply to Federal agencies. He further suggested that the "Camp Ground" ninety-nine year lease could serve as an example.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Dutton met with representatives from East Chop in an effort to resolve some problems namely the use of the Town Landing owned by the East Chop Beach Club.

Education Wealth formula has been subject of debate over the last few months, it potentially pits town against town on the Island. The Department of Education will eventually use this formula. The Finance Committee endorses this formula.

The first meeting involving the parties involved in the Regional Refuse District was held to investigate the possibility of an Island wide refuse district.

The new hazard insurance policy and premium on the old Library has been received, it is in the \$4,000 range which is considerably higher than it had been.

The Steamship Authority charges the town 50% of the published rate for municipal travel.

The Lake Avenue reconstruction project held its first meeting. The project is scheduled to be completed by October, 2007.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to send a letter to the School Superintendent and the Regional School Board endorsing the wealth based formula for education, seconded by Selectman Scott. Vote was four in favor. Selectman Coogan abstained.

Town Meeting Warrant Proposals

Proposed Article for the Annual Town Meeting.

Should the Town continue to allow the use of town property for the activities that surround shark tournaments?

Public Comment

Buddy de Bettencourt thanked the Town Administrator and the Building Inspector for resolving the problem concerning his Class Two license.

Adjourn

Selectman Coogan motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Selectman DiOrio. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ryan Butler
Administrator