

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Library Meeting Room
May 25, 2010

Present: Chairman Duncan Ross, Selectmen Gail Barmakian, Kathleen Burton, Gregory Coogan, Ronald DiOrio. Also present: Town Administrator Michael Dutton, Administrator Alice Ryan Butler.

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m.

Public Announcements

The Friends of Oak Bluffs and the Animal Shelter will be the recipients of funds raised from a Ramsay Lewis Trio concert on July 3, 2010.

Report on the Police Department. Chief Erik Blake

Chief Blake reported that despite the decisions made at the Annual Town Meeting, the department would continue to perform in a professional manner. However, one officer will have to be furloughed for thirty one weeks. Local agencies have been notified that there will be a cut back in services. The department has applied for a Federal "Cops" grant which would ensure the salary for one officer for three years. Five officers and two parking and traffic officers were hired for the summer, they will receive three weeks of training at their expense.

The department won fourth place in the Massachusetts Chief's Challenge Award. It is a statewide competition, and the department is judged on areas from traffic enforcement to community outreach. The department is also the recipient of several grants.

A meeting was held at the station to review alcohol regulations with license holders.

Detective Currelli was congratulated for his skill and dedication while involved in several high profile cases.

Hearing: Taxi Regulations.

Chairman Ross opened the Hearing by reading the proposed changes to the regulations made by the All Island Selectmen.

The changes included identifying letters and numbers on the outside of the cabs, a dress code, increase in the amount of liability insurance, cabs inspected twice a year, and a decrease in the charge for night differential.

The owners explained that there would be a great expense to increase liability insurance significantly. The State only requires \$20,000/\$40,000, which admittedly is too low.

At the Steamship Authority, cabs will be parked behind the busses. This is a problem for the taxi owners.

These new regulations will be effective on June 15, 2010.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Barmakian. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ross explained that in order to discourage intoxicated people from driving, taxis would only be allowed to charge an additional \$5 per taxi two hours after the bars close. This resulted in a lengthy discussion.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to close the Hearing, seconded by Selectman Barmakian. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman Ross will meet with owners Diane Habekost and Jennie Pye to further discuss insurance policies and night differential fees.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to table the hearing until the next meeting on June 8, 2010 when a final decision will be made, seconded by Selectman Burton. Vote was unanimous.

Appeal Hearing: regarding the issuance of a taxi driver's license. Robert Parkhurst. Mr. Parkhurst explained that his offense had occurred two years ago. However, Oak Bluffs regulations have a three year "look back"

Selectman Barmakian motioned to deny the appeal, seconded by Selectman Burton. Vote was unanimous.

Request to open a new business, Becca Rogers
Selectman Coogan motioned to grant the request for a new business, seconded by Selectman DiOrio. Vote was unanimous.

Request for an entertainment license. Fishbones
Attorney Sean Murphy represented Fishbones.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to approve an entertainment license for Monday through Saturday until 9:00p.m., seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was unanimous.

Harbor DCPC, site plan review. John Lolley.
A small building which is currently located behind Fishbones will be moved thirty feet toward the jetty so it can be used by the car rental business.

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

Selectman DiOrio motioned to approve the use of white cedar shingles on the building, seconded by Selectman Barmakian. Vote was unanimous.

Minutes

May 11, 2010

Selectman Coogan motioned to accept the Minutes of May 11, 2010, seconded by Selectman Burton. Vote was unanimous.

May 11, 2010 – Executive Session

Selectman Coogan motioned to accept the Executive Session Minutes of May 11, 2010, seconded by Selectman DiOrio. Vote was unanimous.

Selectmen's Update

Selectman DiOrio spoke of all the favorable comments about the new sidewalks down town. He also suggested that the parking near the harbor remain as is until a plan can be formulated in the fall.

Selectman DiOrio motioned to request a parking plan for Lake Avenue near the Harbor to be ready by September, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was unanimous.

There will be an Open House for the Noyes Building on June 19, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Selectman Burton congratulated the student journalists at MVRHS for being given the New England Scholastic Press Association Award.

The joint Lagoon Pond Association is investigating re-opening the Lobster Hatchery.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be a joint meeting with Tisbury.

Selectman Coogan commented on the Steamship Authority ribbon cutting.

Selectmen's goals will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Chairman Ross announced that the Division of Marine Fisheries closed Sengekontacket Pond for the season.

Town Administrator's Report

The RFP for Sengekontacket Pond is complete. It has been placed with the Central Register.

The Personnel Board has initiated a process to review the process and pay issues in the Fire Department.

A draft of the Committee Handbook and the Selectmen's Committee Appointment Policies are in the packets for the Selectmen's review. Action will be taken at a later date.

Changes relating to the loss of an employee in the Board of Health have been reviewed with the new Chairman of the Board of Health.

Work flow and office staffing will be discussed at a later date. Trash stickers will no longer be sold at the Board of Health Office.

A Town Hall staff meeting was held to discuss the changes as a result or reduced staffing. Cross training and simple knowledge of the forms etc. that each department uses, the consideration of four ten hour days for the employees, digitizing of records in the Board of Health office. Publication of office hours, etc. Review of the Finance offices to determine how the work will be accomplished with a reduced staff. A committee consisting of some members of the Finance Department and interested citizens with some financial knowledge or experience will be formed.

Executive Session

Selectman DiOrio motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiation, not to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Selectman Burton.

*Chairman Ross Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Burton Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman DiOrio Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Ryan Butler
Administrator