

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Swampscott, MA 01907

Attendance: Chairman, Naomi Dreeben, Vice Chair, Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Patrick Jones, Peter Spellios, and Interim Town Administrator, Gino Cresta.

Resident Comment: / School Budget concerns:

Parents brought their questions and & concerns to the Board regarding school teachers new contract/ budget concerns / possible cutback of free kindergarten from full time to part time.

Selectman Spellios stated that the school department has control over their budgets. Selectman Spellios commented that the first recommended Town Budget has not been issued as of yet, however guidance has been offered on what is to be believed is available at this point.

Selectman Spellios commented on the teachers rejecting a proposal for a new contract. Selectman Spellios commented that in his opinion that members of the School believe the Town has more money out there for raises which is not the case, the Town does not have extra funding. Selectman Spellios commented that he believes that paid full time kindergarten is the best worst option.

Selectman Spellios commented he would not and could not support cutting other programs until the teachers ratify their contracts. Selectman Spellios commented that all five Board members have children in the system and it is the Boards goal to figure something out and all are sympathetic.

Selectman Spellios spoke on the following items, reasonable projections have been given to the school, 80% of the School Budget is payroll, school has to budget their own expenses, Town Administrator creates and recommends the budget.

Selectman Dreeben commented that she understands the value of a full day kindergarten and is supportive.

Selectman Jones stated that the Board is committed to try and work this out.

Comments from TV Production teacher Joe Douillette informed the group that the Union presented the financial issue as the third item among other priorities for not approving a new contract.

Parent Adrian Rodriquez feels that the Town is putting the parents in the middle of a contract war.

Parent Katie Holt spoke on the kids and how they are depending on the parents and does not want the kids to suffer.

Resident Jeff Chelgren spoke on the funding gap for the school and questioned if it was correct.

Discussion Beach Fires:

Beach Fires were briefly discussed with the Board and a notice of intent will be submitted to the Conservation Commission which will allow rules to be looked and reviewed to allow beach fires on Phillips Beach. Having a fire at Fisherman's Beach requires a permit.

Discussion/ Disability Commission:

Member Nico Flannery-Pitcher of the Disability Commission spoke a request to have two members have an extra year added to their current term, resulting in a more even staggering of the current terms. Selectman Dreeben spoke on the Disability Commission that will now have a full complement of Board members now. Proposed membership term changes were approved by the Board. Term changes approved – Nico Flannery – Pitcher changed from 2017- Trisha Malphrus changed from 2018.

White Court update:

Chairman Dreeben spoke on the Sisters of Mercy's property that they are interested in selling. A question was spoken of if the Town was looking to purchase the property.

VFW POST 1240 update –Chairman Dreeben gave a brief update on the status of their liquor suspension and their appeal to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission.

Greenwood Avenue RFP:

Selectman Dreeben spoke on the Greenwood Avenue RFP and announced that a new RFP is being issued which will be open for two proposals , one for land and one for a 40B Project –this would open up for more choices for the property . Timeline was given by Selectman Dreeben.

Boards/ Committee:

Deborah Bogardus, Chair of the Andrew's Chapel Restoration Committee spoke on adding two additional members to the current seven member Board. Some current members are on inactive status at this time and would still like to continue until the Andrews Chapel is completed.

The board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve the increase of members from seven to nine members on the Andrew's Chapel Restoration Committee, seconded by Selectman Spellios.

Selectman Spellios commented on the committee and all the awesome work they have done at the Andrew's Chapel.

Vote of the Board:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to approve meeting minutes from December 7, 2016, December 21, 2016 and January 4, 2017, seconded by Selectman Jones.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spellios to open Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Selectman Jones.

Town Administrator's Report:

Gino Cresta, Interim Town Administrator spoke on the following:

- *Town Administrator's Budget to be presented at the next scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectman.*
- *Turf Field bids update.*
- *C & L Lease has been advertised / RFP.*

Executive Session:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to enter into executive session to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel-New Town Administrator, Mr. Sean R. Fitzgerald, seconded by Selectman Jones. A roll call was taken. The Board will not be returning to open session.

Adjournment:

True Attest:

*Maureen Shultz,
Administrative Assistant*