

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008

Present: Chairman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Vice-Chairman William J. Keller, Jr., Selectman John C. Drobinski, and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:31 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 7:31 p.m., Chairman O'Brien opened the meeting. He thanked everyone who helped make Sudbury's Memorial Day Parade an enjoyable and meaningful tribute. In particular, he thanked Veteran's Agent Peter Harvell, who served as Master of Ceremonies for the events, Winnie Grinnell and Spencer Goldstein. In addition, Chairman O'Brien thanked the Department of Public Works for preparing the Town streets and parade route so well.

Chairman O'Brien asked the community to drive cautiously and to be mindful of more pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to local proms, graduations and the end of the school season.

Council on Aging - Transportation Discussion

Present: Council on Aging Director Kris Kiesel and Council on Aging Chairman Pat Mullen

Council on Aging Director Kris Kiesel asked the Board for guidance regarding FY09 transportation goals. She presented to the Board recommendations for the FY09 Metrowest Regional Transportation Authority (MWRTA) service for Sudbury. Ms. Kiesel noted that, since March 2008, the Town has contracted services for all costs associated with the operation of the Council on Aging van with MWRTA. Services provided today by MWRTA are the same as were previously provided, and paid for, by the Town.

Town Manager Valente highlighted that prior to this agreement with the MWRTA, taxpayers were paying an assessment to the MBTA in recent years of approximately \$100,000, but received no services in return. Ms. Valente clarified that now that same assessment of \$100,000 will go to the MWRTA to cover expenses for the van as well as additional programs. Ms. Kiesel and Ms. Valente noted that, in future years, the assessment can also be leveraged for up to three times in additional funds, which could bring \$400,000 to Sudbury for transportation needs. Thus, the Council on Aging has begun to consider what other services can be beneficial for Sudbury residents.

Ms. Kiesel presented a few of the Council's recommendations, including developing an "overlay" service to supplement the Council on Aging van, which would operate until 5:00 p.m., accept overflow rides that the van cannot accommodate, require wheelchair-lift equipped vehicles, handle demand response, serve seniors and people with disabilities and travel to surrounding destinations in Framingham, Natick and Wayland in addition to Sudbury. Town Manager Valente stated that to implement such a program it would only be necessary to establish a contractual agreement with MWRTA. Ms. Kiesel emphasized that no Town money would need to be budgeted for this new service since the funds are already available from the Town's assessment. In response to a question from Vice-Chairman Keller, Ms. Kiesel confirmed that current expenses for operation of the van service are approximately \$40,000.

Ms. Kiesel further stated that the Council also recommends the addition of a share-a-ride service for adults, which would handle demand response, use vans and serve Sudbury homes to Logan Express. Ms. Kiesel clarified that such a program could begin to serve the greater Sudbury community beyond senior and disabled citizens.

In response to a few questions from the Board, Ms. Kiesel stated that times of operation and service parameters would need to be determined with the MWRTA. Although the MWRTA cannot operate as a taxi company servicing one client at a time, there is flexibility to implement programs where groups of individuals can be accommodated in an efficient manner.

Town Manager Valente opined that these recommendations seem worthy, as preliminary programs, to pursue in addition to the current van service. However, Ms. Valente also noted that a more thorough assessment is needed to determine the needs of the community. Ms. Kiesel concurred, and she stated that the Council plans to conduct a public forum in FY09 to gather citizen input regarding short-term and long-term transportation needs.

Vice-Chairman Keller suggested that an additional driver be considered to expand the scheduled hours of van operation as opposed to contracting an outside vendor for those services. Town Manager Valente suggested that a financial comparison be prepared for both options for further review.

Town Manager Valente reiterated that implementation of these recommended programs, and their accompanying budgets, will need to be discussed with the MWRTA administration.

Selectman Drobinski stated, and the Board concurred, that he favors pursuing the recommended programs in a flexible manner with the MWRTA.

In response to a question from Chairman O'Brien, Ms. Kiesel stated that, to date, she has found working with the MWRTA to be a favorable collaborative process. She noted that payments to the Town have been timely, and she and the Council support many of the MWRTA's current initiatives.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To support the expansion of transportation opportunities for Sudbury by pursuing initiatives such as a Share-A-Ride program and developing an "overlay" service to supplement the current Council on Aging van service, and other options, with the MetroWest Regional Transportation Authority.

On behalf of the entire community, Town Manager Valente thanked Ms. Kiesel, Mr. Mullen and the Council on Aging for their diligent pursuit of efforts to enhance transportation services in Sudbury.

Minutes

Selectman Drobinski noted that the May 6, 2008 meeting minutes should be amended on page three to note Chairman O'Brien closed the meeting instead of Mr. Drobinski.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular session minutes of May 6, 2008 as amended this evening, and the regular and executive session minutes of May 13, 2008.

Fire Department - Permit Fee Increase

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an increase in Fire Department permit fees from \$20 to \$50, for the following

categories: Sprinkler/Commercial Sprinkler, Oil Burner, Tank Removal, LPG and Tank Truck, as requested by Fire Chief Kenneth MacLean.

FY08 Bus Revolving Fund - Fee Increase

In response to a question from Vice-Chairman Keller, Town Manager Valente clarified the limit increase policy for revolving funds.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an increase in the limit of the FY08 Bus Revolving Fund, established under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2, from \$300,000 to \$350,000, as fees have increased and expenses exceed the established limit, as requested by the Sudbury Public Schools' School Committee in a letter dated May 19, 2008, from Mary M. Will, Director of Business and Finance.

FY08 Instrumental Music Revolving Fund - Fee Increase

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve an increase in the limit of the FY08 Instrumental Music Revolving Fund, established under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53 E 1/2, from \$50,000 to \$75,000, as fees have increased and expenses have exceeded the established limit, as requested by the Sudbury Public Schools' School Committee in a letter dated May 19, 2008, from Mary M. Will, Director of Business and Finance.

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization - Municipal Elections

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Lawrence W. O'Brien, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Chief Elected Officer of the Town, to sign and absentee vote for the 2008 MPO Ballot, which document had to be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 27, 2008.

Sudbury Cultural Council - Appointment

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Michele H. Latimer, 45 Old Lancaster Road, to the Sudbury Cultural Council, for a term to expire April 30, 2009, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Ellen Hoffman, as requested in a letter dated May 14, 2008 from Bronislaw Dichter, Chairman of the Sudbury Cultural Council.

Ponds and Waterways Committee - Resignation

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Michael C. Fee, 48 Henry's Mill Lane, as a member of the Ponds and Waterways Committee, and to send a letter of appreciation for his valuable and dedicated years of service to the Town.

The Sudbury Foundation - Grant

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept a grant in the amount of \$3,900 from The Sudbury Foundation for the purchase of an oxygen analyzer as requested in a memo dated May 16, 2008, from Fire Chief Kenneth MacLean, and said funds to be expended under his direction.

Board of Selectman Liaison Assignments for Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School

Town Manager Valente distributed to the Board, for review, draft letters to both school systems regarding the collective bargaining liaison roles, responsibilities and limitations according to the Education Reform Act. Ms. Valente noted that, upon review of the State law, it appears it is the duty of the Town Manager to appoint the Sudbury Public Schools' liaison, and that historically Lincoln has relinquished its opportunity to serve as the High School liaison to Sudbury's Town Manager. Ms. Valente will confirm with Lincoln's Town Administrator that between them, only one liaison will be appointed to the High School, and that Ms. Valente will make the appointment. Ms. Valente suggested that the draft letters be amended to reflect that the liaison appointments will be designated by Sudbury's Town Manager.

Upon a more thorough review of the applicable law, the Board concluded that the liaison should have a fully participating and voting role in the collective bargaining process, similar to that of School Committee members.

Chairman O'Brien requested that the letter to the Sudbury Public Schools also be amended to note that the recent vote taken to appoint the Schools' negotiating team be amended to include Mr. O'Brien as Town Manager Valente's designee.

Selectman Drobinski and Chairman O'Brien suggested that copies of the final letters be sent to the Sudbury Finance Committee, the Lincoln Finance Committee, the Town Administrator of Lincoln and the superintendents of the Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To instruct the Town Manager to amend the draft letters to be sent to the School Committees of the Sudbury Public Schools and the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School as discussed this evening regarding her liaison designations for the collective bargaining process, and to send copies of those letters to all parties noted this evening.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the two draft letters, presented this evening, regarding the collective bargaining liaison roles, responsibilities and limitations according to the Education Reform Act be sent to the Sudbury Public Schools and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School respectively, noting the amendments discussed this evening.

Willis Road - Walkway Easements

Town Manager Valente noted that the Town website has very useful information posted regarding walkway initiatives and construction. She emphasized that constructions of walkways in neighborhoods

often depends on the granting of easements from residents. Ms. Valente stated that successful completion of Town walkways requires that Town staff, the Planning Board and homeowners work together towards a common goal. Ms. Valente also referenced that studies have shown that neighborhood walkways help to increase home values.

Chairman O'Brien opined that he is pleased to see the Willis Road walkways come to fruition, since several Willis Road residents have requested them for many years.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To accept the following Walkway Easements: 1) Grant of David L. Froelich, 167 Willis Road, said walkway easement located 10-feet deep along the entire frontage (E07-Par.176); 2) Grant of Vivek and Rama Kamath, 177 Willis Road, said walkway easement located 10-feet deep along the entire frontage (E07-Par. 175).

Reports From the Board of Selectmen

Chairman O'Brien reiterated how well the Memorial Day Parade celebration was coordinated, and he thanked all those who attended.

Vice-Chairman Keller encouraged Sudbury citizens to attend the Memorial Day Parade next year. He found the parade to be very moving and informative, but noted that the events are not as well attended as the July 4th parade. Town Manager Valente stated that the Memorial Day Parade can provide an excellent educational experience for families to learn about Sudbury's history as well as the nation's history.

Selectman Drobinski announced that the annual River Fest celebration will be on Friday June 13, 2008. He will provide the Town Manager with more details to post on the Town website. Mr. Drobinski also noted that information can be accessed on the Wild and Scenic River website. He noted that Board members have been invited to the kick-off proceedings for the day's events.

Vice-Chairman Keller reported that many of the local school teams are competing in championship games. He will collect more information regarding the local successful athletic seasons for a more thorough report at the next meeting.

Chairman O'Brien suggested that follow-up communications be re-established regarding the Wayland-Sudbury Septage Facility. He reported that Sudbury has still not received financial information and reports which were previously requested. Chairman O'Brien requested that Ms. Valente coordinate future discussions regarding the Septage Facility. Town Manager Valente agreed that data sharing, communication, and revenue collection continue to be frustrating, which issues she has relayed to Wayland's Town Administrator. Selectman Drobinski suggested, and the Board concurred, that updated information be requested prior to this Board meeting again with the Wayland Board of Selectmen so as to ensure a productive meeting.

Chairman O'Brien announced that the *Boston Sunday Globe West* section presented an overview article regarding the annual goals of the Sudbury Board of Selectmen. Town Manager Valente stated she was also pleased to see such coverage of important Town priorities.

Chairman O'Brien also reported that he has been contacted to participate in upcoming D.A.R.E. graduation ceremonies.

Reports from the Town Manager
Veterans' Advisory Committee - Appointment Rescission

Town Manager Valente reported that William Duckett chooses not to serve again on the Veterans' Advisory Committee. However, Mr. Duckett has agreed to continue service until a replacement is appointed. Thus, a vacancy for this Committee will need to be posted.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To rescind the April 29, 2008 appointment of William R. Duckett, 648 Boston Post Road, as a member of the Veterans' Advisory Committee, as he declined re-appointment, and to send a letter of gratitude for his service to Sudbury.

Ponds and Waterways Committee - River Stewardship Council Grant

Town Manager Valente reported that the Ponds and Waterways Committee has received a small grant from the River Stewardship Council for signs which will be posted at Sudbury homes who maintain organic lawns. The signs will help to promote water conservation and organic lawn care. Due to timing conflicts, the Town Manager reviewed and signed the last minute grant request, since time did not allow for review by the Board. Ms. Valente determined the request was for a good cause, and she felt it was important to support the hard work invested in the application process. Ms. Valente noted that the Committee will work through the Board and provide timely submission of materials for future initiatives.

Town Staff Accomplishments

Town Manager Valente reported that at her meeting last week with Town Department Heads, Town staff complimented each other on several accomplishments and endeavors they have completed. Some of the projects which received kudos included: the men's breakfast coordinated by Kris Kiesel; passport issuance approval received by Andrea Terkelsen (Selectman Drobinski asked that this service be posted on the Town website); the Hudson Road walkway project, which was coordinated by Jody Kablack, Bill Place, and Debbie Dineen; the "Big Read" Seminars, which gained national attention, were coordinated by Bill Talentino and the Wayside Inn; publications on new regulations which have been produced by the Fire Department and the Board of Health; the Fair Housing Plan report prepared by Beth Rust; the joint grant pursued by the Police Department and Sudbury Public Schools; on-line course registration coordinated by Dennis Mannone; the Hosmer House displays prepared by Peter and Rosemary Harvell; the community video vignettes coordinated by Mark Thompson and the monthly wetlands articles written by Victoria Parsons.

Executive Session

At 8:40 p.m., Chairman O'Brien announced the close of the regular meeting and it was on roll call unanimously

VOTED: To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and potential litigation.

Chairman O'Brien announced regular session would not reconvene following Executive Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attest: _____

Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk