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Selectmen's Minutes 02-26-2007

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes
 Monday, February 26, 2007
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Greeley, Chair, Ms. LaCourt, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd and Mrs. Mahon

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Sullivan.

Absent: Ms. Rowe

Mr. Greeley asked for a moment of silence for the unfortunate murder of Arthur Sullivan and a speedy recovery of his family members.

Mr. Greeley reported that just before this meeting the Budget & Revenue Task Force met and he thanked Ms. LaCourt and the sub committee for all of their recommendations and work.

1. Proclamation: National Kidney Foundation

Mr. George Arena reported on Chronic Kidney Disease citing facts and symptoms. Mr. Greeley thanked Mr. Arena and read a proclamation from the Board of Selectmen in support of the work done by the Kidney Foundation declaring March 8th, 2007 as World Kidney Day.

2. Fire Cadet Awards

Representative Jay R. Kaufmann
 Tabled until further notice.

7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Water & Sewer Debt Shift

Annie LaCourt

Ms. LaCourt summarized her analysis of the transfer of water debt shift from the tax bills back to the water bills. Ms. LaCourt thanked Mr. Robert Greeley for his multiple report summaries on this complex issue.

Ms. LaCourt moved that all new water debt in FY2008 be placed on water bills instead of on tax bills with reconsideration yearly (at time of water rate setting) to measure the effect of this policy change and moved to approve a 5% rate increase for FY 2008.

SO VOTED (4-0)

4. CDBG Status Update

Kevin O'Brien, Director, Planning and Community Development

Mr. O'Brien reported an update of program accomplishments for CDBG activities. Mr. O'Brien requested to have CDBG requests for the next fiscal year be an agenda item at the March 12th meeting.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of report. SO VOTED (4-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

5. Requests: "Walk for Affordable Housing", 4/29 @ 1:00 p.m.,
Approval for 5-Piece Band Playing During Walk
David J. Levy, Executive Director, Housing Corp. of Arlington
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)
6. Request: One Day all Alcohol License, 4/28
Frank Tessitore, Fidelity House
Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (4-0)
7. Discussion: Taxi Rate Increase
Ronald Bonney, Jr., President CEO, Yellow Cab Association
Mrs. Mahon moved approval of the following rates and to amend the Hackney Carriage Rules:
- Taxi drop rate remains at \$1.60
 - Rate per mile increase to \$3.20
 - Waiting time increase to \$24.00 per hour
- SO VOTED (4-0)
- Mr. Maher advised that this will apply to all cab companies and that he will amend the Hackney Carriage Rules. Mr. Carabello, Sealer of weights and measures, stated that upon an increase approval each taximeter would be required to have an inspection, be tested and sealed.

8. **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

There were no matters presented for consideration of the Board.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

9. Discussion: 200th Anniversary Awards Committee Nominations
Mr. Hurd tabled until the March 12th meeting. SO VOTED (4-0)
10. Discussion: Nonbinding Public Opinion Advisory Questions
John F. Maher, Town Counsel
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)
Mr. Maher advised this item be tabled until the March 12th meeting. SO VOTED (4-0)
Mr. Maher will define both convenience store and supermarket and look into number of licenses for the election ballot vote.
11. Discussion: Arlington Youth Health & Safety Coalition Mission & Vision
Selectmen Diane M. Mahon and Annie LaCourt
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)
Mrs. Mahon moved to table until a future meeting. SO VOTED (4-0)
12. Discussion: Field User Fees
Selectman John W. Hurd
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)
Mr. Hurd reported clarification on current user fees of Arlington High School (\$6.00 per user), Arlington Catholic High School (\$11.00 per user), and Youth/other user groups (\$7.25 per user). Mr. Hurd pointed out that there is not a disagreement on a higher price for private schools, but to single out one facility in particular is not fair and that all are a part of the community.
Mrs. Mahon requested that the Town Manager include on the user fee report comparative data from surrounding Towns re:

non profit groups user fees. Mrs. Mahon expressed since the Board is working on a 5-year plan that fees charged to non-profits/private schools might be a revenue making area.

Mr. Hurd moved to receive the report.

SO VOTED (4-0)

WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

13. Article 13 Bylaw Amendment/Property Tax Exemption and Deferral Information
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)

Mrs. Mahon moved no action.

SO VOTED (4-0)

The Selectmen requested that the individual categories of information on the back of the tax bills be bolded and that the category information be user friendly language to be better understood instead of legal language.

Mr. Maher offered to work on simplifying the language with Mr. Gilligan.

- Article 15 Bylaw Amendment/Changes to Town Meeting Procedures Committee
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)

Ms. LaCourt moved to table until the March 12th meeting for the proponent to be present.

SO VOTED (4-0)

- Article 16 Bylaw Amendment/Code of Conduct/Town Meeting
(tabled from 2/12 meeting)

Mrs. Mahon moved to table until the March 12th meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

- Article 17 Bylaw Amendment/Article 6 Personnel Bylaw

Mr. Hurd moved to table until the March 26th meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

- Article 18 Bylaw Amendment/Data Processing Department

Mr. Dan Dunn reported to the Board as a proponent in favor of moving the information technology department under the Town Manager based on findings from the ITAC needs assessment document. Ms. Ruth Lewis, Comptroller, spoke against moving the information department from its current reporting and asked for the CIO to stay with the current reporting in order to support all department heads (especially in financial reporting) in a more efficient way. Ms. Lewis asked that it stay under the Comptroller and be given a chance for 2 to 3 years before reorganizing. Mr. Stephen Gilligan, Treasurer, spoke against moving the information department because the main issue of need for a technical person is being addressed. Mr. Gilligan believes that moving the department reporting compounds the effort of a new hire getting acclimated to the job. He further feels the proper way to reorganize technology for the maximum Town benefit is to combine and centralize the Town and School technology departments together into one department.

Ms. LaCourt moved a will report, still under review of the Board.

SO VOTED (4-0)

- Article 19 Bylaw Amendment/Parking and Traffic Management

Mr. Schlichtman requested the Board support this article at Town Meeting to correct and improve parking issues in the Town. After much discussion by the Selectmen, they unanimously agreed that between the TAC, parking sub-committee and Police transportation/traffic division, that there is a system in place without the need of adding a fourth committee. Most of the problems surrounding parking are due to minimum manpower for enforcement.

Mr. Hurd moved no action.

SO VOTED (4-0)

- Article 20 Bylaw Amendment/Recycling Program

Mr. Jamieson asked for the Board's support of this article to enforce recycling efforts.

Mrs. Mahon moved to table until the March 12th meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 21 Bylaw Amendment/Service Counting for Town Benefits

Mrs. Mahon moved no action.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 22 Home Rule Legislation/Brendan Gormley

Mrs. Mahon moved to support this article.

SO VOTED (3-1)

Ms. LaCourt voted in the negative.

After discussion concerning difference of opinions/votes by Selectmen, they agreed that on Town Meeting floor the Chair would represent the majority vote. It was agreed at the time of a split or close (3 to 2) vote a Selectmen may declare that a minority report be expressed (as an individual-not as a Selectmen) on the Town Meeting floor. This will be addressed at the next Goal Setting Meeting as part of the Code of Conduct.

Article 23 Home Rule Legislation/Daniel Wesinger

Ms. LaCourt moved to table until the March 12th meeting for the proponent to be present.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 26 Home Rule Legislation/Pension Funding Program

Ms. LaCourt moved to table until the March 12th meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 27 Home Rule Legislation /Active Employee and Retired Employee Health Care Trust Fund Accounts

Mr. Hurd moved to table until the March 12th meeting.

SO VOTED (4-0)

14. **FINAL VOTES & COMMENTS**

Article 3 Appointment of Measurer of Wood and Bark

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 4 Election of Assistant Town Moderator

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 24 Home Rule Legislation/All Alcohol Beverage License

Mrs. Mahon moved a will report.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Article 25 Home Rule Legislation/Seat Restriction for All Alcohol Restaurant Licenses

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Hurd expressed concern that a change would allow big bar opportunities. Mr. Maher advised that the Board could adopt a rule or law along with lay out plans by the licensee applicant.

Correspondence Received

Joel Higginson Proposed audible crossing signals at Summer St. & Overlook Rd. Be Rec'd
433 Summer St.

Joseph Tulimieri Response to "Another 40B Audit Revelation" Be Rec'd
Chair, ZBA

Natasha Thorne New Asia Final Inspection Be Rec'd
BOH

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Maher requested the following items to be agenda items on the March 12th meeting:

- CSO discussion
- Verizon contract proposal
- Discussion of adding an additional March meeting

The Board agreed to begin the March 12th meeting at 6:15 PM.

Mr. Sullivan reported he would be meeting with the finalist for the DPW Director, 30 resumes were received. Mr. Sullivan will distribute to the Selectmen the resume and DPW staff interview comments.

Mr. Hurd moved recommendation that a letter be sent in support of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council facilitating an initial strategic planning exercise in support of a regional approach to issues in the Alewife Reservation. SO
VOTED (4-0)

Mrs. Mahon asked if anything had been added to 43D and Mr. Maher said that he and Ms. Rowe would look into this matter and report back.

Ms. LaCourt asked that the March 26th agenda include:

- Customer Service Policy discussion-training and policy
- Disaster Recovery Plan written and discussed by Ruth Lewis, Comptroller.

Ms. LaCourt also urged the Board to read the CitiStat packet from Nancy Galkowski. Ms. LaCourt asked Mr. Sullivan to research Somerville and Amesbury to see their methods.

Mrs. Mahon asked to have the microphones in the chambers amplified.

Mrs. Mahon requested the mean's test summary of who applied and were granted the retiree's healthcare-she asked Mr. Sullivan to obtain the results.

Mrs. Mahon asked that Mr. Sullivan create a means of evaluation for the Town Manager position.

Mrs. Mahon requested Mr. Sullivan to present Governor Patrick's budget points at the March 26th meeting as an agenda item.

Next meeting of BOS Monday, 3/12/07

A True Record: Attest:

Mary Ann Sullivan