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Selectmen's Minutes 11-27-2006

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 27, 2006

7:15 p.m.

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

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

FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of Meeting: November 13, 2006

Ms. Rowe moved approval

SO VOTED (5-0)

2. Discussion: Patriots Day Parade

Brian Greeley

Mr. Greeley requested if the Board would consider moving the Patriots Day from Monday, April 16, 2007 to Sunday, April 15th. The Committee felt by moving the parade to Sunday might boost participation that has been decreasing the past few years. He stated that many people work on Patriots Day and it might eliminate competition between the Arlington Parade and the events being held in Lexington. The Committee is also looking for additional ways to give the parade a revival of sorts. They are raising as much money as they can and would like to keep the tradition that Arlington has had for 43 years.

The Committee is considering a local sponsor similar to Town Day, and is considering a nomination process for grand marshal and honorary grand marshal to create more local investment in the event. Mr. Greeley is working with Arlington's state and national representatives to bring in a large military component.

Chairman Greeley asked how the organizing committee would feel about skipping a year for the Patriots Day Parade. Mr. Brian Greeley said his committee had discussed the idea and was not in favor of it. Mr. Hurd stated he would be very disappointed if there was any discussion about not having the Patriots Day Parade. Mr. Brian Greeley stated his committee does not support skipping a year. Mr. Hurd agreed and stated that the discussion should instead focus on whether more events using town funds should move toward private funding.

Ms. Rowe suggested making the bicentennial celebration the theme of the parade. She also wanted to be sure with the date change that Paul Revere could still stop in Arlington.

Ms. Rowe asked what is the cost of hiring police details and Public Works Department employees. Mr. Greeley will have that figure when he appears before the Board with final plans. The Committee has raised between 8 to \$10,000. on their own and are looking for sponsors. He stated that the good news is that the Aleppo Shiners will be at the parade in April. Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. Request: Dedication of Corner of Mass. Ave. & Fire Lane @ 370 Mass. Ave. – "James R. 'Gunny' Livingstone Square
 Bill McCarthy, Director of Veterans' Services

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

4. Discussion: 200th Anniversary

Roland Chaput

1. Roland Chaput reported the following in connection with the 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Lecture to be held Tuesday, December 5th, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall on Coping with the Influenza of 1918.

Design was made for the 200th Anniversary flag – said flag is being made by Arlington Banner Co. and the flag raising ceremony will be held on January 1, 2007, time to be announced later. Said event will take place in the afternoon.

3 Mr. Roland Chaput asked if the Board of Selectmen would approve transferring funds from the Millennium Fund to the 200th Anniversary Fund for said Town Celebration. Mr. Hurd suggested that \$2000. be allocated to the 200th Anniversary Fund. Mr. Hurd also stated that the Millennium Fund was changed to the Arlington Community Activities Fund. Mr. Maher stated that he felt strongly it would be appropriate and would be happy to talk to Mr. Chaput

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

5. Request: Common Victualler License

Richard G. Khourie, K&K Management d/b/a Bagels By Us, 787-793 Mass. Ave.

Ms. Rowe moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

Mr. Gordon Jamieson presented background information for the Property Tax Rate to be voted on December 4, 2006.

Jeannie Leary, 425 Summer Street, on behalf of the Summer Street Neighborhood Association, came before the Board to thank the BOS for all that has been done for all of the residents who call the Summer Street area of Town, "Home". She stated that a Summer Street Meeting would take place next Tuesday, December 5th, at 6:30 p.m., at Peirce School. Also, she mentioned that a "huge" sinkhole was covered with a metal cover at the corner of Overlook Road and Summer Street, and she was very concerned about the upcoming Jamboree that will be held on December 9th in regards to the parking along Overlook Road, Ronald Road, and Summer Street. She asked if the Police Dept. would be aggressive in their issuing of parking tickets in order to prevent cars from blocking residents driveways, etc.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he would be speaking with the Contractor and State Highway employees regarding the sinkhole and would also speak to Chief Ryan regarding all safety issues in connection with the Jamboree.

Ms. Rowe assured Ms. Leary that the metal covers were quite safe – it is a standard construction problem

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

7. Discussion: Sewer & Water System Improvements & Rates

MWRA Representative

John Sanchez, DPW Director

Mr. Joseph Fabolaro, MWRA, an MWRA Overview of the operation and spoke of the Governor Romney budget cuts affecting the MWRA. He pointed out that the effect on Arlington is a shortage of \$376, 315.00 that Arlington will need to raise and it will require a mid year rate increase.

Mr. Frederick Lasky, MWRA Executive Director, presented the future rehab projects scheduled for the MWRA and different communities. The subject of CSO's was discussed and the Selectmen requested that Mr. Lasky work with them on creating a short-term solution for the CSO's and where the storage basis will be located. The Selectmen also expressed their concern with an 85% fix rate for the CSO's and asked for more consideration and/or creative solutions. Mrs. Mahon requested from the MWRA:

- a model cost/benefit report and
- a capital monies data report

- a community report of 4 communities that are comparable to Arlington
 - Mr. Sanchez announced he was leaving the Town of Arlington next week for employment in Burlington and that Teresa DeBenedictis will be acting Deputy Director of Public Works. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Sanchez and wished him well at his new job. Mr. Sanchez summarized that his department has digitized and analyzed Town water pipes, sewers, and road pavements-all have been inspected with status reports.
 - This will improve yearly maintenance and rehab projects. Mrs. Mahon requested from Mr. Sullivan a transition plan for the Public Works Dept. with the departure of Mr. Sanchez and the Town engineering job still vacant (include issues such as Forest St., Summer St., and morale).
 - Mr. Sanchez requested that the Board approve a 5% increase yearly for the next 3 years to balance the budget. He reported that Arlington falls in the middle range for rates compared to similar sized communities. The Board decided to vote on this at the 12/18/06 meeting or the 1/8/07 meeting. Ms. LaCourt requested Mr. Sanchez's community rates spread sheet to be sent to the Board electronically.

8. Discussion: Health Insurance Recommendations January 1, 2007

Brian F. Sullivan, Town Manager

(tabled from 10/30/06, 11/6/06, 11/13/06)

- Mr. Sullivan stated that in accordance with the Board's request another informational meeting was held with the retirees. Approximately 36 retirees were present. Letters were mailed to all 374 retirees affected. Recorded calls were made to all (except 12 who did not have phone information available) as well. Mr. Sullivan also reported that the Teachers' Union approved a three-year contract that provides for the same co-pay changes. It also replaces the Master Health Plus program with Blue Care Elect.
- Mr. Sullivan recommended that the Board not reconsider its prior vote, which brings the retirees in line with the contribution levels and co-payment changes for most of the employee groups.
- Mr. Joseph Roselli, Lake Street, stated that he attended the informational meeting. Although he recognized the need for the change, he expressed his concerns about the impact on retirees.
- John Bilafer argued that these changes were a necessary first step to ensure the long-term viability of quality health care coverage for retirees and that this is in the retirees' best interests.
- Selectman Hurd said that his support is predicated upon Town Meeting agreeing to appropriate the savings achieved, estimated at approximately \$150,000, into the OPEB Trust Fund. If it does not happen, he would support rescinding the changes. Selectmen LaCourt and other Board members concurred with this sentiment.
- Kenneth Hughes agreed with Selectmen Hurd's comments and added that the employees will argue forcefully that these savings go into the Trust Fund.
- Mr. Hurd moved to reconfirm the Board's previous vote to approve the contribution rates, co-pay changes and plan change as recommended by the Town Manager.

SO VOTED (4-1)

Mrs. Mahon voted in the negative.

9. 2007 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

(tabled from 11/13/06)

The Board agreed on the following 2007 meeting dates:

1/18/07	4/9/07
1/22/07	4/30/07
2/12/07*	5/7/06
2/26/07*	5/21/07
3/12/07	
3/26/07	

*To be reviewed/confirmed at a future meeting

Correspondence Received

Thomas Steel Rate increase notice Be Rec'd
RCN

Dan Dunn Resignation from ITAC & Power Company Feasibility Committee Be Rec'd
63 Stowcroft Rd.

Jane Lyman Changes to digital cable programming packages Be Rec'd
Comcast

Arleen O'Donnell Municipal Waste Reduction Grant award to Town of Arlington Be Rec'd
DEP

John F. Maher Sewer and water debt shift to tax rate Be Rec'd
Town Counsel

Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. LaCourt asked that the open ITAC position be advertised for 2 weeks so that the new member can be voted in at the January meeting. Past resume candidates should be notified again.

Mr. Maher reported to the Board that there are two appeals from the Beer & Wine Package Store applications.

Mr. Maher reported that Verizon will be coming in soon with a proposal and he will come back and present it to the Board.

Mr. Sullivan reported that there is a utility companies meeting tomorrow morning in the Robbins Library Trustee Room at 9:00 am. Ms. Mahon requested a list of the condemned poles.

Mrs. Mahon announced that the Pop Warner A Squad is heading to the Pop Warner Nationals in Florida and for anyone who wants to contribute to help defray costs (\$860.00 per cheerleader) contact the Selectmen's Office.

Mr. Hurd thanked the Public Works/Building Department for the great job building the Snack Bar. Mr. Sullivan also commented on the great job of finishing the concession area. Ms. Mahon thanked Mr. Michael Byrne for all of his effort in getting the concession area completed. Mrs. Mahon said the sports groups want to meet regarding policies, process, and keys.

Mr. Hurd requested an itemized list of expenses regarding the new burial fees.

Ms. Rowe congratulated Mrs. Mahon on her Labor Council Award as Legislature of the Year.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 10:40 pm. SO VOTED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest

Marie A Krepelka
Board Administrator