

## **MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN'S MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Daniel W. Trabucco (Chairman), Lewis W. Stone (Vice Chairman), Gregory Hanley (Clerk), Arthur P. Boyle, Jr. (Selectman), Edwin J. Thorne (Town Administrator), Sabrina Chilcott (Executive Assistant), Andy Pongrantz, Gail Sim, Tom Donnelly, John Mattinson (PMB Cable), Mike Melanson (Pembroke Mariner/Express), WATD Reporter and others.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Trabucco congratulated Sandra Damon for her recognition this weekend by the Republican Party for her contributions to the town. Messages from The Town Clerk: The 2012 Town Census has been mailed. Please complete and return as soon as possible. Feb 15 is the last day to register or change your party. The Presidential primary election is March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall will be open until 8:00pm for that purpose only. Any questions call 781-709-1403. Nomination papers are available until March 8: 1 seat for Town Moderator, 2 for Board of Selectmen, 2 for Board of Assessors, 1 for Board of Health, 1 for Housing Authority, 1 for Library Trustee, 2 for Planning Board, 1 for Constable, 2 for School Committee. Absentee ballots for Presidential primary are available in the Town Clerk's office; voting hours are from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday and Monday evenings 7:30pm to 8:30pm. The DPW Director Eugene Fulmine wanted to let local businesses know that during the time between February 21 and February 28, Toomey Water Service technicians will be visiting businesses in the Town of Pembroke for their Cross Connection Survey. Mr. Boulter commended everyone who participated in the MDA lockup fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy on Wednesday, February 8.

Andy Pongrantz appeared before the Board regarding the Town Memorial Park and the walkways to the veteran's memorials. He represents the American Legion and the Town Memorial Committee and on their behalf is appealing to the Board of Selectmen to consider any potential damage to the park and the walkways when granting permits to events at the Town Memorial Park. Mr. Pongrantz cited the weight of the machines at the Olde Home Days fair held by the First Parish Church as the equipment causing the damage. Mr. Pongrantz states the future of the park will involve seeding and an irrigation system which will prohibit the equipment in the future. He requests the Board consider moving the Fair. Mr. Boyle requested clarification of the damage and it's attribution to the Fair; in the past the Board has spoken with Revered Rick and Gail Sim and they have always tried to be very conscious of the memorials. This is First Church's biggest fundraiser; Mr. Boyle asked if compromise can be reached if First Church gets together with American Legion. Mr. Boyle suggested things would change when irrigation system is installed but until then asked if both groups could work together for accommodation. Mr. Pongrantz agreed that First Church is doing everything they can and they don't want to see any damage either but the scale of the Fair is too large. Mr. Pongrantz' position is that the grass shouldn't have to recover and the walkways exhibit damage each year after the Fair. Mr. Stone stated that he and Mr. Boyle have met with Pastor Rick; First Church wants to cooperate and the church does not want any damage occurring; if damage is occurring, the Selectmen will look at the matter. Mr. Boulter stated that it may be in the best interests of the First Church if the Fair moved over to the Recreation ballfields for a bigger area for more venues. Mr. Boyle suggested giving the American Legion and First Church a week to discuss an accommodation before the BOS vote the event. The relationship between the Town and the First Church is 300 years old. Ms. Sim, Chairperson for the Olde Home Days Fair from the First Church Parish stated that the monuments were cordoned off last year and there was no damage done; the church takes care of the Town Memorial lawn. They took extra care with the walkway. Moving the Fair is not an option for the First Church. They consider keeping it by the church, as opposed to down behind the Community Center, both a safety issue for public safety while open and closed. The Fair has been on the Town Memorial Park for fifty years. Ms. Sim stated that the church works together with the Town Memorial

Committee on many events and has not had other issues. The church houses so much of the materials that are at the Fair, to split the fair or move it across the street would not be acceptable to the Church. Mr. Trabucco suggested that splitting the fair would reduce its desirability; it's centrally located aspect is part of its draw. Mr. Hanley asked if the vendor can post cash surety or bond and have the damage assessed when they leave so a claim can be submitted for repairs; determination could be made by third party, perhaps DPW. Ms. Sim stated that Mr. Pongrantz did not come to them this year with any statements of damage to the walkways. Mr. Pongrantz agreed that he didn't. Mr. Boyle moved to grant the First Parish Church the permit to hold the annual Olde Home Days Fair on the grounds of the Town Memorial Green surrounding the church from Wednesday, May 30 through Saturday June 2 and to close Curve Street starting May 29 conditional upon the inspection and approval of the BOH and the Fire Chief with the understanding that there are potential restrictions to be drawn by the BOS. Mr. Hanley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor. Ms. Sim asked how to proceed; Mr. Trabucco suggested that he and Mr. Boyle will contact both First Church and the American Legion individually to work solution for this year and future needs.

#### **CONSIDER RECREATION REQUEST FOR KELLY MILLER BROTHERS CIRCUS JULY 1, 2012**

Mr. Hanley moved to grant permit for the Kelly Miller Circus Brothers for performances on July 1 on the ballfields behind the Community Center at the request of the Recreation Director. Mr. Stone seconded the motion; the vote was unanimously in favor.

#### **CONSIDER REQUEST OF ENERGY COMMITTEE TO APPOINT NEW MEMBER**

Mr. Boyle moved to appoint Bill Harmon of 68 Erickson Lane to the Energy Committee at the request of Nick Zechello, Jr.; Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor.

#### **MINUTES**

Mr. Stone moved and Mr. Hanley seconded to accept the minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2012 as presented. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Thorne noted the passing of Robert Wills, former Pembroke Fire Chief from 1985 -1990, hired in 1968 as one of Pembroke's first permanent firefighters.

Mr. Boyle moved to recess to join the Advisory Committee for their Meeting at 7:30pm; Mr. Hanley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously in favor to recess.

#### **7:30 MEETING WITH ADVISORY**

The Town Administrator presented his FY13 Budget Message to the Advisory Committee. Total revenues available for FY13 are projected to be 1.2% over FY12, or \$54,843,095. The tax levy under proposition 2 ½ guidelines and new growth is expected to increase to \$30,668,631 or 3.4%. When coupled with revenues generated by declining debt exclusion votes (-215,081), the total tax levy will increase by \$796,349 to \$32,826,861 or 60% of the total budget.

Based on the Governor's proposed FY13 budget, local state aid is expected to be level funded at \$1,319,012 as well as Chapter 70 funds at \$12,794,990. Total State Aid will be reduced by \$437,601 largely because School Construction (-\$475,011) has been removed from the budget. State Aid accounts for 26.3% of total revenues. Local receipts of \$281,227 are largely attributable to increase in trash revenue (\$279,193) and other funds showed an increase of \$21,738 or 3.6%. Expenditures for FY13 in Town Government show an increase of \$96,489 or 1.0% to \$9,636,539. There are no personnel increases recommended at this time. The Water Department showed an

increase of \$55,034 or 3% to \$1,917,811, reflecting water tank maintenance (\$100,400). Operating costs were actually reduced. Solid Waste increased \$313,916 or 19.8%. While the operating costs at the Recycling Center were drastically reduced and the Covanta/SEAMASS payments were lowered due to reduced tonnage, the Town implemented curbside recycling (\$294,168) and purchased recycling bins (\$48,288).

The debt budget was reduced \$659,262 to \$3,065,671 mainly with the elimination of the Hobomock school debt (\$615,000) by a lump sum payment from the School Building Authority. There was a reduction in the overall cost of benefits and insurance of \$135,083 to \$9,966,813. Although the Town's County Retirement assessment increased by \$207,124, the new health insurance reform act with adjustments allowed for health insurance reductions of \$398,000. There was an increase of mandatory expenditures of \$38,280 based on state assessments. Mr. Thorne is recommending an increase of 3.7% for the School Department to \$27,564,969. Personnel requests by department: Selectmen, increase clerical hours (\$4,988), Accountant, increase Assistant's hours (\$5,334), Treasurer/Collector, restore part-time position (\$13,932), Police, re-classification of two clerical positions (\$8,063), DPW, restore on full time position (\$39,749), Library, add one full time position (\$41,690). Total requests: \$113,756. Brief discussion ensued on the budget presentation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Stone moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle, to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and upon conclusion no further votes or public business to be discussed. Roll call vote: Boyle, yes - Stone, yes - Trabucco, yes - Hanley, yes - Boulter, yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.