

**TOWN OF WEBSTER
BOARD OF SELECTMAN
DEBORAH KEEFE, CHAIRMAN
WALTER D. RICCI, VICE CHAIRMAN
MARK DOWGIEWICZ
JEFFREY DUGGAN
DON BOURQUE**

A Board of Selectman Meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Town Hall on Monday, January 23, 2012. Chairman Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:59 P.M.

Attendance: Deborah Keefe, Mark Dowgiewicz, Jeff Duggan, Don Bourque, Dan Ricci

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Ricci led the Selectman in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: made by Selectman Keefe, seconded by Selectman Bourque to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2011 meeting.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Keefe, seconded by Selectman Bourque to accept the Executive Session meeting minutes of December 19, 2011.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – abstain, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to accept the meeting minutes of January 9, 2012 with corrections.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – abstain, Mr. Dowgiewicz – abstain, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Change of Manager – 200 Sportsmen's Club

Arthur Hunt came forward. Chairman Ricci stated the 200 Sportsmen's Club was looking to do a Change of Manager on their liquor License.

Motion: made by Selectman Dowgiewicz, seconded by Selectmen Bourque to approve the Change of Manager on the liquor license for the 200 Sportsmen's Club.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – abstain, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Cindy Howard & Linda Cournoyer -Center of Hope – Overview of Services

Linda Cournoyer stated she has been involved with the Center of Hope for more than 39 years. She stated she was before the Board of Selectmen to encourage a partnership between their agency and the Town. She stated the Center of Hope runs a number of businesses and many of their participants are from the Town of Webster. Cindy Howard stated she has been involved with the Center of Hope for more than 20 years. She stated with the State and Federal funding being cut, the organization sustains itself by starting small businesses to run. She stated she would like to invite the Board of Selectmen to tour their Southbridge facility. Chairman Ricci asked what hours they were open. Ms. Howard stated the best time to take a tour would be between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chairman Ricci asked what the Town of Webster could do to help facilitate this program. Ms. Howard stated that employing people through their program would be beneficial. Selectmen Bourque stated he had taken a tour of the facility and was amazed on the work they produce. The Board of Selectmen thanked Ms. Howard and Ms. Cournoyer for coming.

Chairman Ricci stated State Representative Kevin Kuros's update has been rescheduled.

J.T. Gaucher – Water/Sewer Abatements

Jeff Duggan recued himself.

Kevin Espezito came forward. Mr. McAuliffe stated J.T. Gaucher was unable to attend the meeting and Kevin Esposito attended the meeting to answer any Selectmen's questions.

Motion: made by Selectman Keefe, seconded by Selectmen Bourque to approve all of Mr. Gaucher's recommendations.

Selectman Keefe stated one of the abatement was caused by dirty water. She asked Mr. Espezito what is being done about this situation. Mr. Espezito stated in that situation the house is on a short dead-end street. He stated the Town has a filter that cleans the water before entering the residence. Selectmen Keefe asked how often the town flushes the lines. Mr. Espezito stated they flush once a week to once a month. He stated the town is doing everything needed to maintain clean water. Chairman Ricci asked to have the explanation of "Double Billed" put on the information sheets. Selectman Keefe commended the Water/Sewer Abatements for August stating they were easy to read and understand.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – abstain, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McAuliffe stated with the 2013 budget cycle coming up he would like to bring up the topic of the Beach/Compost fees. He stated the beach has a terrific recreation program, certified lifeguards, police detail and multiple improvements. He stated himself and the Board of Selectmen need to bring stability to the residents of this town. He stated the fee is for the safety and use of the facilities. Selectmen Keefe stated that the Board would be putting the town in liability if they did not have lifeguards or beach parole. She stated they needed revenue to operate the beach. Chairman Ricci stated he never saw the sticker as a parking fee but as a maintenance fee. Selectmen Dowgiewicz stated the crime in that area will go up if the Town does not charge for the beach.

Mr. McAuliffe stated he attended the Police Fire Building Committee Meeting.

He stated he also attended the Future Options for the Fire and Rescue Study Committee Meeting. He stated they Committee is meeting again on Wednesday. He stated progress is being made and they are talking about options of merging and joint training.

He stated he attended the Annual MMA Meeting in Boston. He stated he attended some very informative workshops.

He stated the Town of Oxford is looking to set up a meeting to discuss a potential Sewer IMA. He stated this would be related to the grant that the Town of Oxford just received. Chairman Ricci stated the Board should schedule a working session. Mr. McAuliffe stated the Town of Oxford is looking for sooner than later. Chairman Ricci stated the Board could hold a working session on February 21, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

He stated he had a need for Executive Session.

Motion: made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Dowgiewicz to approve the Town Administrator's Report.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci –yes.

Old Business

Mr. McAuliffe stated he has spoken to the Town's Attorney and they stated a Town cannot issue restraining orders on Sex-offenders unless it is part of their probation. He stated he did give the Board an example of a Sex-Offender By-law in their packets that passed in another town. He stated there is not a lot of information on Sex-Offender By-Laws because it is new to many Towns.

Chairman Ricci asked if the Town was putting more Tax Title properties on the May Town Warrant. Mr. McAuliffe stated he was looking into putting more properties up for auction/sale.

Selectman Keefe stated she would like to get an updated list of the nuisance properties. Mr. McAuliffe stated he wanted to wait until the next selectmen's Meeting to announce that Tower Street and Chase Street properties are up for auction. The Legal Notices will run during this week.

New Business

Mr. McAuliffe stated the Board received a draft Special Town Meeting Warrant in their Selectmen's packets. He stated the first three are contractual obligations in which the Town needed to have on the warrant to settle the Police Contracts. He stated article four (4) involved using unusable land for a solar energy farm. He stated this is a great grant opportunity. He said the Town of Webster has a capacity for 1/12 mega watts. He stated the Town Meeting Article would give the Selectmen the authority to enter into a long term agreement. He stated this land is the old landfill. He stated this is a benefit to the Town. Selectmen Keefe stated she believed it was a great "green" project and wasn't intrusive to any Webster residents.

Chairman Ricci stated the Board received a Class II license application for 8 East Main Street. Mr. McAuliffe stated the Board of Selectmen is starting the process of implementing a new application for Class II licenses. Selectmen Keefe stated this location had a Class II License in the past. She stated there is very limited room and there are cars all ready double parked. She suggested the new owners come before the Board of Selectmen when he has obtained a Bond and submitted a copy of their lease. Chairman Ricci stated the business run in that location is a body shop. He stated the Town of Webster does not regulate auto body shops. He stated if it became a safety issue then the Town could take action.

Adjournment

Chairman Ricci adjourned the meeting to Executive Session at 8:07 P.M. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b, Item 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in an open meeting.

Motion: to go into Executive Session, and not to go back into open session made by Selectman Bourque, seconded by Selectman Duggan.

Vote: Ms. Keefe – yes, Mr. Dowgiewicz – yes, Mr. Duggan – yes, Mr. Bourque – yes, Chairman Ricci – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Friedland

