

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2008
APPROVED**

Present: Joshua A. Degen, Chairman; Stuart Schulman, Vice Chairman; Anna Eliot, Clerk; Peter Cunningham; George Dillon, Jr.

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer; Patrice Garvin, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Degen called the regular meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public.

VERIZON REPRESENTATIVE & CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ellen Cummings, Verizon representative addressed the FIOS cable issue in Town. Ms. Cummings stated that FIOS TV was not available in town. Ms. Cummings added that Verizon will soon report which towns will be hooked up next year and to her knowledge it was undetermined if Groton was on the list. Mr. Degen stated that the perception has been that it is the Towns fault that FIOS cable was not available and asked Ms. Cummings to address that rumor. Ms. Cummings stated that there was no process that the Town could slow down in terms of the FIOS TV because there was no process in place. Ms. Cummings stated that Groton has the phone and internet. Ms. Eliot asked why there was no process in place to hook Groton up. Ms. Cummings stated that there were no Capital Dollars set aside for the project. Ms. Cummings stated that any requests can go through her office.

Ms. Cummings reiterated that it was not clear where Groton stood in the listing of Towns at Verizon. Mr. Cunningham asked that if Verizon was unsure why they advertise in local newspapers. Ms. Cummings replied that it was a marketing tool that hits areas other than Groton that offer FIOS TV. Mr. Cunningham explained that this is what leads to frustration in residents. Mr. Cunningham noted that the Board voted to proceed with having Verizon in Town. Ms. Cummings replied that she was aware of a process starting but then stopping.

Mr. Dillon commented on Customer Service at Verizon telling residents that it was the Town stopping Verizon TV from being available in Groton. Ms. Cummings stated that she would look into this issue.

Public

Steve Webber asked if the entire town was built out for phone and internet. Ms. Cummings replied that multi unit dwelling (4 or more) were not built out.

Linda Faus stated that she recently called Verizon and spoke to Customer Service. Customer Service stated that it was the Town that was dragging its feet and not Verizon. Ms. Davis, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee stated that Customer service has been doing this for a while and that Verizon was notified. Ms. Cummings stated that she would look into the Customer Service issue.

MMA CONSULTING GROUP, RE: TOWN MANAGER SEARCH

Mr. Degen introduced Mr. Morse and the MMA group assessing the Police Chief position. Mr. Degen noted that the Town Manager Screening Committee will submit their finalist to the Board by September 16th. Mr. Morse briefly explained what the committee could do to move the process along i.e. getting school transcripts. Mr. Morse suggested having finalist in a social setting to see if there is chemistry. Mr. Morse stated that Town Manager Assessments are rare because there is a lot of contact with the candidates before a decision is made. Mr. Degen requested that Mr. Morse put together a proposal of exercises as well as a cost and submit it to the Board. Mr. Degen reminded Mr. Morse that the Board of Selectmen has until October 7th to make a decision. Mr. Cunningham stated that this decision was too important to rush.

LOST LAKE SEWER COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS

Angela Garger stated that she has lived in town and is aware of the weed problem at Lost Lake. Ms. Garger stated she had the time to devote to the issue and hoped to help solve of the issues at the Lake.

Dan Wolfe, a 15 year residents is an engineer who has worked on septic systems and felt his background would lend well to the committee. Mr. Dillon asked if Mr. Wolfe saw a contract given he is an engineer in the field. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would recuse himself if a conflict of interest arose.

Mr. Schulman moved to appoint Angela Garger and Daniel Wolfe to the Lost Lake Sewer Committee for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2011. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

The Board decided to hold off on the appointment of Dr. G. Jean Wright until she could come and address the Board.

PUBLIC HEARING; DRAFT LIQUOR LICENSE REGULATIONS

1. Hearing opened at 8:00pm

Mr. Dillon moved to open the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.

2. Read Legal Notice

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3. Query Audience for support written or in person.

4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

Ms. Garvin gave a brief summary to the license regulations. Ms. Garvin stated that the main part of the regulations was a process that was already done by the Town. The newer pieces were the requirement of a TIPS training and a Carry-In policy. Chief Palma stated that the Police Department would offer the program to are businesses. Chief Palms stated that there would be a cost involved but that it was mostly for curriculum and instructor time. Chief Palma stated that he had no problem with the regulations and that it was a proactive step.

Public

Steve Webber asked about the TIPS training and the possible burden on having all the staff trained. Ms. Wright of Oliver's Pub stated that turnover is high in restaurant wait staff. Owner of Fihlos stated that it should not be all staff just the manager on duty.

5. Hearing Closed at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Schulman moved to continue the public hearing and to give the regulations to counsel for September 8th at 7:00pm. Ms. Eliot seconded. Unanimous vote.

BALLOT QUESTION, DEBT EXCLUSION

Mr. Degen requested that the Board approve the Debt Exclusion Fact sheet. Mr. Degen read the entire sheet which included an opening statement, the ballot question and Q&A. Mr. Dillon suggested placing on the bottom of the fact sheet contact information.

Mr. Shulman moved to approve the following question and for it to be placed on the Special fall Election Ballot:

Question: Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for its allocable portion of the bonds issued by the Groton Dunstable Regional School District to pay additional costs of acquiring land for the purpose of locating the new Districts High School including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto.

Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0)

Mr. Schulman moved to approve and release for informational purposes only the “Debt Exclusion Fact Sheet as amended. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

BOARD POLICY APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Mr. Schulman moved to approve the Board policy on appointments and reappointments to Town committees. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0)

BYLAW REVIEW & STUDY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Ms. Eliot moved to appoint Steve Webber and Peter Cunningham to the Bylaw Review and Study Committee for a one-year term to expire June 30, 2009. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried (4-0-1)

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Ms. Eliot moved to appoint David Melpignano to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one-year term to expire on June 30, 2009 pursuant to the affirmative recommendation of the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried. (5-0).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DRAFT CHARGE

Mr. Ritter stated that in line with the goals the Board has made a draft charge was presented for an Economic Development Committee. Ms. Eliot stated that she would like to enlist the help of Ms. Biocchi before formally voting on the charge of the committee. Ms. Eliot suggested inviting Ms. Biocchi to a meeting in September when the charge would be discussed.

LETTER TO GOVERNOR FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

Mr. Ritter stated that the letter was reviewed by Ms. Jenkins and the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Schulman asked for clarification on item #2. The Board tabled the issued in order to address the question on item #2.

OAKRIDGE 40B COMMENTS

Mr. Degen stated that the ZBA had a hearing and that there are proposed changes to the affordable units. It has been requested that the age restriction be removed. Mr. Mulligan of the ZBA stated that there has been a lot of turnover on the ZBA and some information would have to be researched. The Board discussed the changes that would occur if the age restriction was removed. Mr. Degen stated that changing the age restriction would cause the traffic patterns to change as well as septic systems alterations. Mr. Degen would like to see the architectural plans. Mr. Cunningham questioned the rationale for changing the plan when non limited development are not selling. Mr. Dillon pointed out that with a change there may be recreational facilities needed.

Public

Dennis McEvoy had the same concerns the Board had and requested that Town Counsel look at the request. Kristen McEvoy distributed questions on the development to the Board for review. Ms. McEvoy noted that she had not seen any architectural plans. Ms. McEvoy was looking for some legal feedback to her questions. Mr. Ibrahim stated that a rare turtle was found on the site and he wanted to know those implications. Ms. McEvoy also suggested an environmental review.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION LIAISON

Mr. Schulman moved to designate Anna Eliot to serve as a liaison to the Sustainability Commission. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

THINK TANK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mr. Schulman moved to appoint Jay Prager to represent the Board of Selectmen on the “Think Tank Committee” a subcommittee of the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

BOS OFFICE ASSISTANT POSITION

Mr. Schulman moved to post the Board of Selectmen's Office Assistant Position. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried (5-0).

ADJOURN

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 9:44 p.m. for the purpose of discussing of discussing land acquisition. Ms. Eliot seconded. Roll Call-Schulman-yes; Dillon-yes; Cunningham-yes; Eliot-yes; Degen-yes. Ms. Eliot seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: 9-8-08