

BOARD of SELECTMEN MEETING – MAY 18, 2011

TOWN HALL/LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM – 7:30 P.M.

REVISED/APPROVED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

In attendance: R. Marconi, A. Bodner, M. Kozlark, B. Manners, D. Masters

Agenda

1. Commission for the Disabled Interview: Connie Taibe-Lewis, EdD
2. Vendor Permit Renewal: Michael Principi, Chez Lenard
3. Vendor Permit Renewal: Maya Curto, Redding Creamery
4. Board of Finance Request for Representation at Town Labor Contract Negotiations
5. Police Department, Fire Department Gas Conversion Discussion
6. Cell Tower Discussion
7. Selectman's Report
8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3/23/11 special, 3/23/11, 4/6/11 special, 4/6/11, 4/9/11 special, 4/13/11 special, 5/4/11

R. Marconi called the Board of Selectmen Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. following an Executive Session for Discussion of Schlumberger Property. No vote was taken.

1. Commission for Disabled Interview: Connie Taibe-Lewis, EdD.

Connie Lewis came forward to express her interest in serving on the Commission for Disabled. R. Marconi read the email received from Dr. Lewis. Her life work has been working with the disabled. She is an Adjunct Professor at Manhattanville College and just completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She does not currently work full-time and has the time to serve on the Commission for Disabled and has attended several meetings.

A. Bodner inquired as to her reaction to the meetings. Dr. Lewis responded that she found the meetings full of good energy with a positive approach. The Commission is currently working on interesting projects. Dr. Lewis has been a Ridgefield resident for ten years. A. Bodner asked for any general observations as to how the Town is doing? Dr. Lewis responded that working on projects for the disabled is an evolving process. B. Manners stated how she is awed by Dr. Lewis's resume and thanked her for coming forward. D. Masters stated how Ridgefield is fortunate to have you volunteer to serve on the Commission. There is currently one vacancy on the seven-member Commission.

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to appoint Connie Taibe-Lewis, Ed.D to fill the vacancy on the Commission for the Disabled for a four-year term. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Vendor Permit Renewal: Michael Principi, Chez Lenard

Michael Principi came forward to support his application for renewal of his vendor permit. This will be his fifth season as the "hot dog man". Mike stated that he could not be happier, "All is good in the neighborhood". The neighboring stores allow his staff to use their washrooms. He also does catering for parties and has two food vendor carts. R. Marconi pointed out that all his help needs to receive permits from the town. B. Manners inquired about his presence at the Ballard Park concerts. Mike responded that he thinks it is better for him to stay on Main St.

Patrons know where he is – Main Street is “his spot”. The other side of the park is less noticeable, although he could put his second cart at that location.

Mr. Noonan commented on how there is “no litter” by the Chez Lenard hot dog cart. That is commendable. He and his workers police the area well.

D. Masters moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to renew the vendor application for an additional year for Michael Principi, owner of Chez Lenard, the hot dog stand on Main Street. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Vendor Permit Renewal: Maya Curto, Redding Creamery

R. Marconi announced that Maya Curto became ill and went to the hospital this afternoon. She will have to re-schedule.

4. Board of Finance Request for Representation at Town Labor Contract Negotiations

R. Marconi indicated that he had received an email from BOF Chairman, Peter Gomez, regarding this request. Margaret Simms of the BOF was present and came forward to discuss. R. Marconi stated how labor negotiations are already underway with the Fire Department, Highway Department and SIEU. No additional people can be added once the negotiations have started. Negotiations with the Police Department will be starting in January 2012. David Ulmer is the BOF representative to BOE negotiations and has attended their meetings for several years.

R. Marconi responded that there is no reference to such BOF representation in the Charter, nor does he think there is anything illegal about such representation. M. Kozlark indicated that there was a BOF observer present when she was on the BOE, but the individual was only an observer – could not interact at all. B. Manners stated how she has a lot of reservations about this request. R. Marconi indicated that he will check with Town Counsel and the Charter as well. The BOS has the right to review all contracts. Why should the BOF sit in on the negotiations? Ms. Simms responded “for transparency”. The individual cannot go back to the BOF and report on negotiations.

5. Police Department, Fire Department Gas Conversion Discussion

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance appropriation of \$29,000 (left over from the Venus Building gas conversion capital account) to cover the proposed gas conversion for the Police Department and the Fire Department, with anything left over R. to be put into the General Fund. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Cell Tower Discussion

D. Masters moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to postpone the Town Meeting scheduled for May 25, 2011, relative to the possible cell tower on the proposed Open Space property to be possibly purchased jointly by the Conservation Commission and the Town of Ridgefield, to allow time to obtain more information. Motion passed 5-0.

7. Selectman’s Report

- Lear Retreat is scheduled for June 20, 4:00 – 7:30 p.m. This is a brain-storming session for the coalition on alcohol abuse with key people from all Town boards and committees participating. The goal is to create a town-wide endeavor. R. Marconi encouraged BOS members to attend.

- Grant dollars are available to insulate Town Hall to help reduce energy costs. The Town needs to pre-fund and then the Town will be reimbursed. This wasn't included in the budget. Per the energy study, if Johnson Controls does the work, they guarantee the savings and cancel their \$65,000 fee. The question is whether to go with Johnson Controls or accept a lower bid instead. How much is the guarantee part of their bid?

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to recommend to the Board of Finance appropriation of \$94,000 to pre-fund proposed energy weatherization, with a refund to come from previously approved grant dollars from the State of Connecticut. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner had to leave the meeting early).

- Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30th. B. Manners and M. Kozlark will not be here. D. Masters wants to ride the old fire truck. Breakfast will be served as usual at the Firehouse and a graveyard service will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery. Hopefully, there will be a fly-over.
- Recognition Ceremony on May 21st, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in honor of those that served during the Vietnam War time. The list of names is up to almost 300. Another update of names will be done in several months. The speaker is Paul Bucha, Congressional Medal Honor Winner. The Boy Scouts will help to set up chairs starting at 1:00 p.m.
- Will put on agenda to discuss - incumbents staying on for additional terms on commissions and committees. Another idea is to evaluate the size of the commissions and committees to see if it is appropriate to increase the membership numbers so more can participate and/or increase the number of alternate positions. The Parking Authority has not been up to full capacity in the last 3-4 years.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes: 3/23/11 special, 3/23/11, 4/6/11 special, 4/6/11, 4/9/11 special, 4/13 special, 5/4/11

M. Kozlark moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the March 23, 2011 Special BOS Meeting. Motion passed 3-0. B. Manners abstained as she was not present at the meeting. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

M. Kozlark moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the March 23, 2011 BOS Meeting. Motion passed 3-0. B. Manners abstained as she was not present at the meeting. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

B. Manners moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the April 6, 2011 Special BOS Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the April 6, 2011 BOS Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as written the minutes of the April 9, 2011 BOS Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

M. Kozlark moved and B. Manners seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the April 13, 2011 BOS Special Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

B. Manners moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the April 27, 2011 BOS Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

D. Masters moved and M. Kozlark seconded a motion to approve as amended the minutes of the May 4, 2011 Public Hearing & BOS Meeting. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

R. Marconi moved and D. Masters seconded a motion to adjourn the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion passed 4-0. (A. Bodner was not present for the motion).

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson