

November 20, 2006

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Finance Board: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Jack Field, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates: Liddy Adams, John Allen, Jim Brinton

Selectmen: Richard Sears, Nicholas Solley

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guests: Valerie Andersen

Minutes: Minutes of the October 16, 2006 meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as submitted.

Tax Collector's Report: Additional information will be requested in order to verify tax and other income on a year-to-date basis. Accepted as submitted.

Financials: Accepted as submitted. A reminder will be sent to town commissions to inform the Selectmen if they anticipate their expenditures will exceed their budget.

Health Insurance Deductible Fund: In an effort to reduce costs, deductibles in specific areas of health insurance had been increased during the previous fiscal year. A net reduction of \$16,900 was realized. Based on this positive experience, the Board discussed the establishment of a Health Insurance Deductible Reserve Fund as another means of reducing health insurance costs. It was agreed that transfers to this Funds would be based on the annual experience.

Rex Swain made a motion to approve an ex-budget appropriation of \$16,900 for transfer to this Fund. Motion seconded by Jack Field and unanimously passed. An additional motion was made by Rex Swain to transfer \$19,000 from the 2006-07 Health Insurance line item of the budget to this Fund. Jack Field seconded this motion. Motion unanimously passed.

The Selectman and secretary will work on a written procedure regarding this Fund

Old Business:

Education Construction: Jack Field updated the Board on recent events relating to the school construction project. The Press has reported that the First Selectman and Bridgewater's representatives to the Board of Education have filed a lawsuit against the Region 12 Board of Education for an injunction to prevent the Board from evaluating a land option in Roxbury based on procedural items. The approval of funding to complete geotechnical investigation of the site to determine its suitability for a school site had been approved by an 8-4 vote of the Board of Ed. Valerie Andersen reported the hearing on the request for the injunction had not been successful. Another Court date is scheduled for December 4. The Board of Ed will meet in Executive Session to discuss the lawsuit this evening.

Potter Farm: Dick reported the Selectmen had voted unanimously to present the Potter Farm Proposition

to the Town. Three public informational meetings will be held on November 28th, December 17th and January 6th to describe and discuss the conditions of the proposal with the public. The Housing Commission has voted to provide \$125,000 towards this proposal, while the WCHT has agreed to provide \$500,000 toward the \$2,000,000 price of the land. The Board will request the Housing Trust to provide information on their reserves and maintenance schedules for their existing complexes, as well as other related financial information as part of the Town's normal capital expense process. Discussion included eligibility for residency and maintenance issues. Valerie Andersen asked for the Board's vote on this matter. Michael noted it has been the Board's practice in the past not to vote on issues such as this, but to view this as a proposed capital project and consider it with the total capital budget. If the voters vote to approve the proposal, the Board would do what is fiscally prudent to carry it out. Members of the Board agreed the proposal must be reviewed and discussed in detail before decisions are made.

Boat Ramp/Boathouse Update: Dick reported the DEP is proceeding with the necessary paperwork for the \$100,000 grant for this project. While \$200,000 has been budgeted and approved for this project, a more definitive estimate is being sought from the engineers. LoCIP grant funds of \$100,000 will also be used toward the costs to net a \$0 cost to the Town.

Long-range planning has included replacement of the boathouse, which serves to house the police boats and equipment, residential kayaks, and the Interlocal Commission's pump for maintaining oxygen to the Lake. Costs are estimated at \$200,000 for this future project. It is planned these costs will be covered through grants and private funds. Additional long-range plans also include renovation of the caretaker's house, which also houses the beach office and public restrooms, at an estimated \$200,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow

Secretary