

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
AUGUST 19, 2014

Members Present: Lorraine A. Brue, Chairman
John R. Gray, Vice Chairman
Virginia M. Coppola, Clerk
David S. Feldman

Others Present: William G. Keegan, Jr., Town Manager

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30pm by Chairman Lorraine Brue.

Mr. DeVellis was not present for this meeting.

A motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:30pm and to return to regular session at the conclusion was made by Mr. Gray. Seconded by Ms. Coppola. **The motion carried 4-0-0. Roll Call Vote Lorraine Brue - yes, Virginia Coppola – yes, David Feldman – yes, John Gray - yes**

The Board returned to regular session at 7:00pm and the meeting continued.

Ms. Brue reviewed the agenda.

7:00pm – Citizen's Input – No one was present for Citizen's Input.

7:00pm – Action Items

Motion was made by Virginia Coppola to approve the Orpheum Theatre/Bay Colony Productions request for a One Day Beer & Wine License on 8-22-14 from 8:00pm-11:30pm. Seconded by John Gray. **Vote 4-0-0**

Motion was made by Virginia Coppola to approve the Gift/Donation of \$250 to the Foxborough Historical Commission from the Foxboro Jaycees for the restoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial Statue atop Memorial Hall. Seconded by John Gray. **Vote 4-0-0**

7:05pm – Information Items

Ms. Brue read the Information Items pertaining to the proposed new development at 204 East Street as well as the Accessory Apartment requested at 94 West Street submitted by the Foxborough Planning Board.

7:10pm – Town Hall Working Group – Town Hall Update

Mr. Feldman stated that the Town Hall Working Group have been working on the following tasks:

1. Renovation - whether or not the initial cost will be cheaper versus building new. The Group believes that building new will be the way to go but want to explore all options.
2. Web Page Link – The link to the Town Hall Working Group web page has been set up on the Town of Foxborough Home Page under “News & Announcements”. Weekly updates will be posted here.
3. Frequently Asked Questions – These are being finalized and posted.
4. Foxboro Reporter Article – This article has been given to Frank Mortimer to be published in this week’s paper. The article covers all of the Town Hall Working Group’s discussions/debates.
5. Facebook Page – This has been discussed and approved. The Group is now just waiting for someone to volunteer to set up this page.
6. Comp. Studies – The group has looked at the Town of Dracut’s comps which totaled \$9.3M for their 20,000 square foot building. The group is figuring it will cost the Town about \$400-\$500 per square foot.
7. Timeline – The Town Hall Working Group is vetting out the soft costs and is on schedule for the RFP due by the middle of September.

Mr. Feldman explained that the soft costs are all costs not directly related to the construction of the building. Soft costs consist of architectural, engineering, land cost, accounting, project management, relocation expenses, etc.

Mr. Feldman stated that the group still has a lot of work ahead of them.

Mr. Keegan stated he feels the Group’s updates will be really helpful and they want the public to know that they are looking at every option they know about and will not move forward unless the Group is in significant agreement.

The compelling issue is if they build in the parking lot of 40 South Street this would save on moving costs. This option is the most acceptable to the Group at this time.

Mr. Gray asked Mr. Keegan if information on this would be ready for the Fall Town Meeting.

Mr. Keegan stated the Town Meeting is scheduled for 11/17/14 and that the Group will bring their report before the Board in early September.

Mr. Feldman reminded the Board that the Group's ability to have detailed plans is limited.

Mr. Keegan stated that they will not be presenting detailed plans at Town Meeting, just the type of building, layout, etc. They are looking at the new building being around 13,500 – 14,000 square feet.

Ms. Coppola asked what the present Town Hall square footage is.

Mr. Feldman stated that the present usable space (downstairs is unusable) is 6,500 square feet.

Mr. Keegan stated that they need adequate meeting space in the new building.

Ms. Brue stated that she had spoken to Sharon Wason, Town Planner at the Planning Board meeting and she is working on the RFP and will have feedback to bring to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Keegan informed the Board that he is working with the schools to generate a maintenance group for town facilities to keep all town buildings maintained.

7:20pm – Town Manager Update

Mr. Keegan informed the Board that he had spoken with Town Counsel regarding Article 18 of the By-Laws pertaining to the Seniors Work Program.

The Attorney General's Office stated that the Town raising the Senior Tax Program's minimum wage to \$10.00 is against state statute as the program is based around minimum wage. The state has actually changed this statute from \$8.50 to \$11.00 over the next three year period. As of 1/1/15 this will go to \$9.00 and \$11.00 by 1/1/17. The state knows what the town was trying to do for the seniors participating in this program and thought it was admirable but the town needs to go with what minimum wage is right now. The Town can increase this on 1/1/15 and again the following year, etc.

Mr. Keegan stated he had to make a decision quickly so he went with lowering this program back to minimum wage with the increases set by the state. The only other solution would have been to stop the program, which the town does not want to do.

Ms. Coppola asked if the Board had to revote this article and Mr. Keegan stated no, they just have to send back the approval form to the state with the language that it is indexed back to minimum wage.

Mr. Gray asked if this would be retroactive and Mr. Keegan stated no that it would just go from this point forward.

Mr. Keegan finished the first round of telephone interviews with the candidates for the Assistant Town Manager position. He has interviews scheduled for all day, Wednesday, August 20, 2014 as well as has two interviews scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2014.

The panel he has compiled to assist him with the interviews are:

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

The Town Manager from Canton
The Town Manager from Weston
Randy Scollins
William G. Keegan, Jr.

Monday, August 25, 2014

Town Manager from Brookline
Asst. Town Manager from Weston
Randy Scollins
William G. Keegan, Jr.

On Monday, August 25, 2014 he will have cut the candidate list down to (3) three people and will make an offer to the candidate selected by August 28, 2014. He plans to have the new Assistant Town Manager start on October 1, 2014.

Mr. Keegan informed the Board that Town Counsel had received a letter from the Attorney General's Office overturning (2) two of the Open Meeting Law Complaints filed by Heather Harding. The Attorney General's Office found the Board of Selectmen not to be in violation of the Open Meeting Laws.

Mr. Keegan congratulated the Board on this.

Ms. Brue stated that the Board is pleased with this decision and stated that this is a complicated law and she can confidently state that no one on the Board would intentionally break the Open Meeting Laws.

Motion was made by John Gray to adjourn at 7:30pm. Seconded by Virginia Coppola.

Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Jarvis

Virginia M. Coppola, Clerk