



## **SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**JANUARY 21, 1997**

The Board of Selectmen held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 at 7:30 P.M. Present were Chairman Nancy Tavernier, F. Dore' Hunter, Wayne Friedrichs, Herman Kabakoff, and Assistant Town Manager John Murray. Don Johnson and William Mullin were not present. William Mullin is on an extended business trip.

{The meeting was televised by cable}.

### **CITIZENS CONCERNS**

None expressed.

Cathy Belbin, Town Clerk, was present to state that the dates for Town Meeting and the Town election were in error and to inform the Board that corrections had been made and the proper people were notified.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPOINTMENTS**

#### **BENJARONG 214 MAIN STREET CHANGE OF MANAGER**

Benjarong's attorney was present before the Board to ask that the Board approve a change of manager from Souksavanh Vongkhamheuang to Wasant Hormwarn. Staff reviewed this request and stated that there were no problems with this change. The Board stressed the importance of attendance of all the employees at the TIP program. The attorney also stated that the liquor policy has been translated so that all employees are able to understand. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to approve change of manager from Souksavanh Vongkhamheuang to Wasant Hormwarn. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### **BOSTON EDISON FOLLOW-UP FROM SELECTMEN'S QUESTIONS**

Walter Salvi, Manager of External Relations and John Higgins, Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations were present before the Board at the December 17, 1996 meeting and were provided a list of questions which they will discuss tonight. Mr. Higgins, stated that personnel changes have been made as a result of the storm of December 6, 1996. The Board asked Mr. Higgins if they were part of the community server program which would give Edison a group of community contact people in the event of a storm. The Board stated that the

McCarthy Towne school has a similar setup with Channel 4. The Board also suggested that listening to the Worcester weather stations might be helpful. Edison stated that they have also consolidated their emergency phone numbers so there will be only one number to memorize for all communities. The Board also asked Edison to think about improving their specialized technology for individual services. Edison stated that there are no plans to do any upgrades. The Board asked what weekend coverage consisted of and Edison stated that they have one trouble shooter for all communities. The Board stated that they felt that was too low. Nancy asked Edison to check what amount of voltage was present for Indian Village and also asked what the standard should be. Edison stated they would check into it. The Board also asked about tree trimming and wondered when Edison was scheduled to trim Acton. The Board asked Edison if they were aware of a letter the union provided us which alleged that there has been lack of routine maintenance and surplus stock. Edison responded by stating that whether the proper number of people was present or not could be debated forever, and that shifts in the workforce are common in today's businesses in order to keep the costs at a reasonable level. Employees of Edison, present in the audience, stated that Edison has consistently replaced cables with patches after a blow instead of replacing the whole cable and that areas needed work are put on a delayed, deferred or postponed work order. One employee referred to Edison's maintenance as the "Value Jet Maintenance" schedule. Other employees referred to the De-regulation as the major problem. All employees urged communities to stay with Edison.

The Board thanked Boston Edison.

**WILLOW BOOKS  
COMMON VICTUALLER  
279 GREAT ROAD**

David W. Didriksen, owner of Willow Books, 279 Great Road, seeks a common victualler license. Mr. Didriksen stated that he was happy that he was able to open a business in Acton and the store consists of a very small coffee shop with juices and desserts and a few tables. DORE' HUNTER - Move to approve Bromley Books, d/b/a Willow Books, Inc., for a Common Victualler located at 279 Great Road, Acton. WAYNE FRIEDRICH - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET REQUEST**

Tom Mackey, representing the FINCOM requested that the Board of Selectmen transfer \$5,000 from line item 1131. FINCOM would like the funds available for an analysis that they would like to conduct regarding how many FTE at the local school level work directly with the students. FINCOM would like to spend the money on clerical and computer help. Nancy questioned why the volunteer members of the committee did not have enough time to do this analysis themselves and questioned whether any of the members had their own computer systems to do this work themselves. The Board asked Mr. Mackey if anyone had spoken to Don MacKenzie regarding not having enough good people to do the job in which they were appointed and that all nine members should carry an equal load. FINCOM would like the Town to pay for

MMA membership and annual conference equaling approximately \$570.00. Dore' questioned whether a donated PC would be acceptable. The Board also asked if the school could provide a disk with the information they are seeking. Mr. Mackey stated that he would ask the schools. The Board stated that they supported FINCOM in what they are trying to do, however, they should use existing terminals within the Town, that the money should be placed on a warrant, and that FINCOM members should be able to commit time.

### **DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION STATEMENT**

The draft Community Action Statement (CAS) and hearing has been completed for Board review and approval. The Board needs to determine 3-5 top priorities of the Town in order to complete the CAS to submit to the State. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to approve the CAS with the five priorities recommended by the Planning Department. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **SELECTMEN'S BUSINESS**

#### **CAC MEETING**

Dore' stated that he had been to a CAC meeting and that plans were going forth for the Route 2 rotary circle. Dore' anticipated that this would be a four year planning process. The CAC asked Dore' to alert the Board that approval is needed. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move that the Acton Board of Selectmen advocate the plans for re-design of the Route 2 circle. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### **ALG REPORT**

John gave a brief overview of the status of the ALG meetings. John stated that Isa Zimmerman is not inclined to give out the schools budget information too early.

#### **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Nancy Tavernier suggested that the Board make adjustments to the proposed operating budget if needed. Herman stated that he went through the budget line by line and will move suggested changes. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to cut Town Clerk budget by \$2,500. No second. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce Civil Defense Budget by \$100.00. No second. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce Collector's budget by \$52,000. NANCY TAVERNIER - Second. 3-1 Herman No. Motion fails. Nancy stated that she would like to hear

why Herman proposed this reduction. Herman stated that the Assistant Finance Director has been unfilled for three years and questioned whether this person was necessary. Staff stated that this department is extremely understaffed and stressed and allowing this position to be filled would alleviate the workload for all involved. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce Collector's budget by \$30,000. No second. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce Finance Director's budget by \$16,000. No second. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to reduce Fire Departments budget by \$38,000. Withdrawn. The Board stated that the budget is bottom line and that the Town should live within the budget. Herman questioned why there was \$50,000 for equipment rental and questioned whether it would be better to buy. Staff stated that the \$50,000 included the rental of the crusher, sweeper, and sander and the amount of times they are used per year makes them not prudent to purchase. HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to allocate \$5,000 for the Business Outreach Program in the Town Manager's budget. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE. Herman questioned the purchase of the police cars. Staff explained the 2-2-4 rotation policy regarding replacements that has been used for many years. Herman asked staff to get the rotation listing.

## VOLUME 2

DORE' HUNTER - Move to the following to the Operating Budget - Personnel:

COA - Receptionist - \$8,716

NATURAL RESOURCES - Increase clerical hours - \$3913

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

DORE' HUNTER - Move the following to the Operating Budget - Equipment and Programs:

DPW - Gutters - \$9,000

WEST ACTON LIBRARY - Roof - \$6000

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Move the following to the Operating Budget - Equipment and Programs:

FIRE - Dictaphone - \$5,500

Portable defibrillator - \$6,000

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

DORE' HUNTER - Move the following to the Operating Budget - Equipment and Programs

NATURAL RESOURCES/CEMETERY - equipment - \$3,800

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move the following to the revolving Fund.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT - Temporary Clerk - \$9,288.

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Move the following to:

NURSING ENTERPRISE Accreditation consultant - \$25,000.

DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

DORE' HUNTER - Move the following items to the Enterprise budgets:  
SEPTAGE ENTERPRISE - PC Incubator + Vertical File \$3,500  
NURSING ENTERPRISE - Mentoring program - \$10,400.  
WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **PRELIMINARY WARRANT**

Nancy explained that a preliminary warrant was made up to give the Board an idea of what the warrant will entail this year.

### **HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The Historic District was present before the Board to amend the Selectmen's minutes of 12/3/96. The Board misunderstood the Historic District thinking that they had asked for staffing. The Board apologized for the misunderstanding. DORE' HUNTER - Move to correct the Selectmen's minutes of 12/3/96 to reflect that staffing was not requested. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR BRYAN MANTER**

Herman to represent the Board, Saturday, February 22, 1997.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

HERMAN KABAKOFF - Move to accept consent item #11 as printed. WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Move to accept consent item #12 as per Roland's memo dated November 25, 1996 revised December 6, 1996 and with the inclusion of keeping 10% of bike lockers at a monthly rental fee of \$10.00. DORE' HUNTER - Second. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### **TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

#### **NESWC**

John Murray stated that North Andover is still pursuing their permit from Wheelabrator. John stated that there will be a special meeting on February 18, 1997 regarding the rates for next year. It is anticipated that the tip fee will be \$130.00. John also stated that the Stabilization Fund for Acton has a balance of \$300,000, however, the balance should be closer to 4 million.

The Board adjourned regular session to go into Executive Session at 11:20 PM .

WAYNE FRIEDRICHES - Move to go into executive session for matters related to collective bargaining. Roll Call, All ayes.

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Clerk

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Date

Sheryl Ball

Sheryl Ball  
Recording Secretary  
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