

Regular Session Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting
Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Monday June 30, 2014 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Margot R. Fleischman, Chair, Caroline Fedele,
Michael A. Rosenberg, Mark Siegenthaler, William Moonan and
Town Manager Richard T. Reed

ALSO PRESENT: ad hoc Historic Museum Study Committee candidates Angelo Colao, Linda Christen, Christopher Weisz and Kara Kerwin; Public Works Director Roy Sorenson; Facilities Director Taissir Alani; Cable Television Committee members James Shea, Mildred Seaborn and William Deen; Bedford TV Board Member Julie Turner; Bedford Marketplace Developer Ross Hamlin; BSC Group representatives Daniel Saley and Stephen Martorano; Planning Board member Jeffrey Cohen; Volunteer Coordinating Committee member Joseph Piantedosi; Town Engineer Adrienne St. John; Fire Chief David Grunes; Finance Director Victor Garofalo; Finance Committee member Ben Thomas; Brian Dorrington, Bedford TV; Elizabeth Hacala and Mary McBride, Press Representatives

14-302 Committee Appointment Interviews – Historical Museum Study Committee

Mr. Moonan explained the committee’s charge to the candidates. The Town currently has over 127 years’ worth of artifacts with no place to showcase the majority of items. The Historical Society asked the Selectmen to consider creating a committee to look for an adequate space. Currently the Historical Society is operating out of a section of the police station. The Selectmen agreed to create a study committee which will consist of representatives from various committees along with two at-large members.

Angelo Colao of 5 Page Road stated that he has served on numerous Town boards and committees and also is a member of the Historical Society. Mr. Moonan noted that any candidate serving on both the Historical Society and Museum Study Committee must sign a waiver stating they do not have a financial interest in the Historical Society.

Kara Kerwin of 394 Davis Road is a part-time administrative assistant for the Historical Society. She knows the collection very well, understands the kind of space that would be needed and the audience that would be visiting the museum.

Christopher Weisz of 22 Loomis Street is a member of the Historic District Commission and is interested in seeing a museum being established and being part of that process.

Linda Christen of 3 Robinson Drive is a volunteer for the Job Lane House and enjoys going to museums. She would like to become more involved in Town government now that her children are older.

Mr. Siegenthaler asked the candidates what they thought was the most important part of the search. Ms. Christen replied that finding a place that is easy for the public to access and will be able to preserve Bedford's history as it grows. Mr. Weisz believed that sustainability is a crucial aspect in that the museum is not too big or too small and that funding is available to staff the museum and maintain the collection. It would be ideal to have the museum in the center of Town but does not see that a priority. Ms. Kerwin is open to any location as long as it is large enough to welcome groups and that the proper climate controls are installed. Mr. Colao believed that the museum should be located on the Town campus and that it should be able to be open for long periods of time. He suggested utilizing volunteers from the Council on Aging to staff the museum. The campus would also be a good place as the police station is nearby for security.

Mr. Moonan asked if the candidates had any restrictions during the summer months because the committee will need to get started right away. The candidates answered that they did not.

Ms. Fleischman asked if they had any questions or concerns about the charge of the committee. Mr. Colao wondered how the finances would work and who would end up paying for various aspects of the museum. Mr. Moonan said that the finances should not enter the process at this time.

Ms. Fleischman explained the Open Meeting Law, the Conflict of Interest Law, and the Rules of Civil Discourse. She also encouraged the candidates to consider taking on leadership roles as Chair in the future.

The Selectmen decided to discuss and appoint two candidates later in the meeting.

14-303 FY14 Reserves Fund Transfer Requests – DPW Water Purchases, Facilities and Town Center

Public Works Director Roy Sorenson was present to request a transfer from the reserve fund to cover the deficit associated with the Water Purchase Account for an estimated amount of \$218,383.51. The final reading will be taken on July 1, 2014. The Town had to buy less water this year than in previous years. Mr. Sorenson hopes that it will continue to decrease as the cleaning and lining projects finish up which will hopefully eliminate the need for flushing due to total coliform levels in the water.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to recommend approval of a reserve fund transfer for water purchase in an amount up to \$418,383.51. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Facilities Director Taissir Alani is also requesting a reserve fund transfer because of the unexpectedly cold winter which required heating equipment to be used longer than usual. Mr. Alani is expecting the cost to be less than \$20,000.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to recommend approval of a reserve fund transfer in an amount up to \$20,000 transferred to account 001.3500.5211. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Alani is requesting a reserve fund transfer for Town Center as well for unexpected heating costs.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to recommend approval of a reserve fund transfer in an amount up to \$2,100 transferred to account 001.2360.5211. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

14-304 PEG Access Agreement Approval – Bedford Community Access Television, Inc.

William Deen from the Cable Television Committee presented the committee's opinions on the PEG Access Agreement with Bedford Community Access Television. The committee had met several times to discuss the proposal and had only one objection that related to the liability insurance line item. The committee felt that this should be funded by BCAT themselves and not by Town. Mr. Moonan noted that no one would serve on the committee without that coverage. He also noted that the Town Center Board has their liability insurance funded by the Town. BCAT board member Julie Turner added that she thought this issue was settled when she signed the paperwork earlier that day. Ms. Fleischman added that it was untimely to discuss this matter now.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to accept the budget of \$177,000 as presented by Bedford Community Access Television. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

14-305 Bedford Marketplace – 156-170 The Great Road – Proposed Off-Site Roadway Improvements and Sidewalk Easements

The new owner of the Bedford Marketplace Ross Hamlin was present along with representatives from BSC Group to discuss roadway improvements and sidewalk easements that could be done in conjunction with the building and parking lot improvements being done to the site. Major changes would be the introduction of a left turn signal at the plaza. Mr. Siegenthaler expressed opposition to the addition of a left turn signal because this would delay the traffic even further on the Great Road. He also felt that the reduced lane widths would make Great Road less safe for cyclists in the area. Mr. Hamlin pointed out that the disruption would be minimal and would not back up Great Road any more than it does now. The sidewalks being created in front of the buildings could later be reduced in size to create the bike lane. Town Engineer Adrienne St. John added that it would make sense to add the bicycle lane now as part of the Complete Streets initiative.

The entrance and exit will also be relocated to reduce conflict and make it safer for pedestrians crossing the street. \$25,000 will be donated to the Town as well. Stephen

Martorano described the changes to the buildings specifically the two front buildings would be moved closer to the street to eliminate the two small awkward places.

Mr. Rosenberg moved that the Selectmen concur with the planned sidewalk easements as reflected in a letter dated June 25, 2014 from BSC on behalf of Hamlin Development, LLC for the Bedford Marketplace redevelopment at 156-170 The Great Road and instruct staff to prepare the easement document for final approval subject to review by Town Counsel. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-2-0. Mr. Siegenthaler and Mr. Moonan voted against.

Mr. Rosenberg moved that the Selectmen concur with the proposed off-site public way improvements including turning restrictions and implementation of a signalized left turn lane for eastbound Great Road traffic as reflected in a letter dated June 25, 2014 from BSC on behalf of Hamlin Development, LLC for the Bedford Marketplace redevelopment at 156-170 The Great Road and as depicted in a Traffic Management & Signage Plan dated June 13, 2014 and instruct staff to prepare traffic regulations for said turning restriction and signalization changes effective upon completion of the project. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-2-0. Mr. Siegenthaler and Mr. Moonan voted against.

14-306 School Way/ Mudge Way Reconstruction & Great Road/ South Road Traffic Signal Installation Contract Award – Et&L, Inc. – Stow, MA

Mr. Sorenson and Ms. St. John informed the Selectmen that E. T. & L Corporation came in with the lowest bid for the School Way/ Mudge Way Reconstruction & Great Road/ South Road Traffic Signal Installation project. The company has previously worked in Bedford. The traffic signal at Great Road and Springs road will be set back and the road will be narrowed. The traffic signal will be a stylized period piece to comply with the historic district. The signal will also add pedestrian chirps and a pre-emption signal that will be operated by the fire station. Mr. Siegenthaler noted that the plans submitted were different from the ones previously submitted by VHB. Ms. St. John said that this is the first step in the process towards the VHB design. None of the work done at this time will have to be redone. Work will hopefully be done on all these projects by Labor Day. The new signal may not go up until next spring.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve the contract award for \$1,878,370 to E.T. & L Corporation for the School Way/ Mudge Way Reconstruction & Great Road/ South Road Traffic Signal Installation project. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to authorize the use of \$950,000 from Chapter 90 funds with rest being funded through approved funds from Special Town Meeting 2012 and a previous Chapter 90 request for the Foster Road Area. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

14-307 Vehicle Purchase Agreement – Police Chief Vehicle – Mirak Automotive Group, Arlington, MA

Mr. Sorenson explained that the Police Chief has had trouble with his current vehicle. The motor was recently replaced so it will not be traded in but handed down to someone else in the Police Department. The new vehicle will be purchased off the State's Procurement and Solicitation System.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to authorize the purchase of an unmarked 2014 four wheel drive Chevrolet Tahoe for the Police Chief for \$37,120 from Mirak Chevrolet, Inc. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

14-308 FY15 Water & Sewer Rates Approval

Finance Director Victor Garofalo presented three additional scenarios for the Selectmen to consider for the FY15 Water and Sewer Rates. One scenario proposed increasing the irrigation rate to \$9.00 per/100 cubic feet for an overall increase of 7.98%. The second scenario would increase irrigation to the previous scenarios rate but also would also apply a \$50,000 sewer stabilization adjustment for a total increase of 7.03%. The third option includes all of these scenarios in addition to having \$60,000 in anticipated flushing expenses being paid for by water and sewer rates. This would result in a total increase of 6.12%

The Selectmen decided that scenario three was the best option.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to approve the FY15 water and sewer rates as follows:

Water			
1st Meter	Base*	\$35.00/yr. or \$17.50/billing cycle (6 months)	
	R1	\$1.40/100 cubic feet up to 2,000 cubic feet	
	R2	\$6.20/100 cubic feet over 2,000 cubic feet	
2nd Meter	Base	\$35.00/yr. or \$17.50/billing cycle (6 months)	
	R3	\$9.00/100 cubic feet for any used amount	
Sewer			
	Base*	\$45.00/yr. or \$22.50/billing cycle (6 months)	
	R1	\$3.30/100 cubic feet up to 2,000 cubic feet	
	R2	\$10.00/100 cubic feet over 2,000 cubic feet	

Industrial accounts receiving monthly bills will be charged the base charge twice a year for a 6 month billing cycle. There will also be a \$50.00/year fee for each sprinkler service.

Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

14-309 Legal Fees Survey Results & FY15 Town Counsel Legal Fees

A request came in March from Town Counsel's office for an increase in fees. Town Manager Richard Reed was asked to conduct a survey of other Town's legal counsel fees. The survey indicated that Bedford's fees even with the increase are still below the average of surrounding Towns. With the proposed increase to \$170 per hour for all legal matters multiplied by the number of billable hours from the last fiscal year the anticipated cost for legal fees would approximately be \$140,000. Mr. Reed noted that it has been eighteen months since the last increase but before that it was seven years before an increase occurred. Mr. Moonan felt that the fees should not increase for the Town just because Town Counsel's office is trying to catch up with other firm's rates. Mr. Moonan added that he thinks Mr. Reed should ask for a lower rate. Mr. Rosenberg however does not want to undermine the Town's relationship with Town Counsel. Mr. Reed said that he would talk to Town Counsel about the Selectmen's concern.

Mr. Siegenthaler made a motion to reluctantly approve the increase in Town Counsel fees as presented in the letter from March 3, 2014. There was no second to the motion. The motion failed.

The item will be discussed again at the July 21, 2014 Selectmen's meeting.

14-310 Review of Recommended Chairman Responsibilities

Volunteer Coordinating Committee member Joseph Piantedosi presented the Selectmen with the updated Committee Chairperson Responsibilities document. Mr. Moonan asked that wording be added to clarify the Historic District Commission procedure where a vote can only pass if there are three affirmative votes not just a majority of those present. Mr. Moonan stated that he would send that language to Mr. Piantedosi. Chair Fleischman thanked the Volunteer Coordinating Committee for their work on this document.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to approve the Committee Chairperson Responsibilities document with the addition of specifics for the Historic District Commission. Ms. Fedele seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Chair Fleischman stepped out of the room for a moment. Mr. Siegenthaler acted as chair in her absence.

14-311 Miscellaneous Action Items – Chapter 268A, Section 20 (b) Exemptions

Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the Chapter 268A Section 20(b) exemptions for Stacey Vallely and Peter Laskaris. Mr. Moonan seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

14-312 Town Manager's Report

Mr. Reed stated that he had nothing to report due to the late hour.

14-313 Open Discussion

The Selectmen had nothing to discuss.

14-314 Fire Department Paramedic Service Proposal – Selectmen Questions

Ms. Fedele left at this time due to a potential conflict of interest as her brother in law is a firefighter.

Chief Grunes and Mr. Garofalo were present to answer any of the Selectmen's question regarding the Paramedic proposal. The first five years of the program would cost \$450,000 to get started. Mr. Moonan was concerned about the upfront cost. Mr. Siegenthaler stated that now that all the facts were presented, it is up to the Selectmen to decide whether they will support this program or not. The Selectmen thanked Chief Grunes and Mr. Garofalo for their efforts. The next step will be drafting the proposed budget amendments for Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Moonan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Siegenthaler seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0-0.