

MINUTES

Cumberland Town Council Meeting

Town Council Chambers

MONDAY, February 8, 2010

7:00 p.m. Call to Order

Present: Chairman Copp, Councilors Perfetti, Turner, Storey-King, Porter, Stiles and Moriarty.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 25, 2010

Motion by Councilor Stiles, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to accept the minutes as presented with one correction.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 7-0

II. MANAGER'S REPORT

No items this evening.

III. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Rita Yavinsky, Ole Musket Road, referred to her earlier request regarding the costs associated with the placement of signs by the town at various points throughout the community. She thanked the Town Manager for a "very complete" response, "and I thank you for that." However, she feels "The oversight on the program has resulted in signs that truly can not be read." She also disputed the cost analysis provided by the Manager. She reasoned that if traveling from Drowne Road to the Cumberland/Falmouth town line at the posted speed limit takes twelve minutes, the cost is closer to \$3,000 per year. Ms. Yavinsky recommended the number of signs be reduced or eliminated entirely in their stead utilize the website and place notices in the Forecaster. "I'm not advocating eliminating the messaging. I'm simply saying this particular use of the money is not well spent." Eliminating the signs will "offset the tax" imposed at the brush dump. Councilor Porter explained the implementation of brush dump fees began with a discussion to close the brush dump. This compromise was proposed as a means to keep the dump open by creating revenues to support it. He supports the sign program because he fully supports providing information whenever and wherever possible, adding the police and waste budget cost more over five years than the expenditure for this road. "You see the full effect up front. We have programs and services...on a twenty year time period which spend vastly greater amounts of money than fixing this road will." Councilor Moriarty stated that not every resident in town has a computer to rely on as the means for communication. "What we're doing is...trying to put out as much information as we can. I don't for the life of me understand how we can be criticized for doing that." Cumberland is not the only town that has user fees. The garbage bags are user fees. We charge for rescue calls and recreation services as well. "Calling it a tax "is a bit of a stretch." Councilor Turner commented that we don't know the exact expense yet. "We do know that it's very likely the cost of the bond will be a little over two percent." We have a lot of state roads and at some point there will be priorities to consider. "We're going to be responsible for keeping these roads from falling completely apart." Councilor Storey-King referred to the PACTS report found in their council packet this evening, noting that the estimated cost to preserve the collector roads in the Portland area is \$250 million dollars, versus the \$43 million dollar budgeted. "That's not just Cumberland; it's the Portland area." Ms. Yavinsky also questioned why there is no mention of the March 2nd Referendum among these signs. "This referendum should be front and center."

IV. LEGISLATION AND POLICY

10 – 013 To set a date of February 22nd to hear a report from the Lands & Conservation Commission re: Vernal Pools 2009-2010.

Town Manager Shane stated the Lands & Conservation Commission took part in Phase I of the 2009 vernal pools project. 250 Vernal pools have been identified in the town of Cumberland. We have visited 150 of these pools, and hope to visit the remainder in 2010. If we can eliminate the vernal pool designation of any of these individual pools, the Army Corps of Engineer will allow us to remove them from our maps and state maps. The second phase of visits will occur on April 10, 2010.

Motion by Councilor Porter, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to set a date of February 22nd to hear a report from the Lands & Conservation Commission re: Vernal Pools 2009-2010.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 7-0

10 – 014 To hear a report from the Town Manager re: recycling & solid waste issues.

Town Manager Shane explained that the Hannaford Brothers “Clink” bag, which sells for fifteen cents, is a similar color to Cumberland’s green trash bag and has been used by some residents in place of a Cumberland trash bag. Our bags currently sell for \$1.00 and \$1.50. “We are asking residents to make sure” to use the Cumberland trash bag. Pine Tree Waste has agreed to leave a sticker in the first instance at any residence that has used the incorrect bag. Continued use could result in a fine or temporary suspension in collection.

The town has not increased the \$1.00 and \$1.50 bag costs since their inception in 2005. The Manager presented a comparison of bag costs among area communities. The costs ranged from .75 cents for a 20 gallon bag to \$2.50 for a 33 gallon bag. Cumberland’s waste tonnage has reduced annually from 3,000 tons in 2004 to 2300 tons in 2006. We have continued to decline “until this year. It’s kind of flattened out a little bit and I think we could do a better job. It wouldn’t take that much more of an effort” to get to an extra ten percent in recycling.” The Manager indicated he will recommend a per bag fee increase as part of his budget recommendations.

Councilor Moriarty asked, “Is there any argument for changing our color?” and the Manager responded the town’s stock of bags is significant enough that we are still “about a year away” from depleting the stock. Councilor Perfetti asked if there is a way to track the number of violations. “It’s less than a dozen” at this time but we want to stop the use now and prevent any increase. Councilor Porter was hopeful this discussion will eliminate the problem.

10 – 015 To hold a Public Hearing to consider and act on a Mobile Service Cart License for Val Halla Golf Course for the period of May 2010 through May 2011.

Town Manager Shane explained the mobile cart license will be in the name of the town because the owner of the Sparrow’s Nest indicated at the last meeting that he did not have an interest in renewing the mobile cart license. The Manager is confident that due to the numerous golf events held at Val Halla this service is necessary. We may lease the cart to Mr. Sparrow to operate and manage, however.

Councilor Moriarty asked if the license is transferable. It is not; however, Mr. Sparrow can operate the cart under our license. “It’s the every day” service that is not profitable for Mr. Sparrow.

Motion by Councilor Moriarty, seconded by Councilor Stiles, to approve the Mobile Service Cart for Val Halla Golf Course for the period of May 2010 through May 2011.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 7-0

V. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Turner – none

Councilor Perfetti – encouraged residents to be polite to our town staff – “keep it civil” – the council approves the spending of the money and the Manager spends it within our direction.

Councilor Porter – the Public Services employees agreed to a contract extension for one year at a zero wage increase and an increase to their health insurance contribution; they’ve stepped up and done the right thing and I’m very thankful for what they did.

Councilor Storey-King – MSAD 51 budget information is becoming available to the public; state revenues will be reduced by \$1.1 million dollars; that is just part of our budget woes; she reiterated the call for respect and civility; she went to Val Halla last Friday night and for just over \$10 had an amazing meal - pleasantly surprised to see a number of people there – let’s keep that kind of community spirit going; she asked the Town Clerk to add the March 2nd election information to the Cumberland Crier.

Chairman Copp – huge thanks to Alyssa Daniels for organizing the first CMBA meeting; over 90 people attended the meeting and fantastic comments were made; the turn-out was phenomenal; I can only see great things that might come from this.

Councilor Stiles – sorry he could not attend the CMBA meeting; our wages were voted on by the citizens at referendum; he, Town Manager Shane and Councilor Turner had a productive meeting with North Yarmouth selectmen; sharing information this evening with council in advance of Monday’s preliminary budget meeting February 15th at 9:00 am at Town Hall; preliminary numbers are very interesting and the public will be pleased with the direction.

Councilor Moriarty – Ron covered the point he was going to make.

Town Manager – The Route 88 information will be posted on website by Friday; including election information; February 22nd is a council workshop for the budget which will be posted to the website on February 23rd; registration hours and specimen ballot will be advertised on February 18; Chair added that the budget workshops are open to the public.

The Manager responded to the request by Mr. Higgins regarding citizen involvement in the budget process. It is not an option under the Charter to add citizen members to the council’s budget committee.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilor Porter, seconded by Councilor Storey-King, to adjourn.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS PASSAGE 7-0

TIME: 8:04 p.m.

VII. WORKSHOP re: Doane Property RFP Review