

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

Swampscott, MA 01907

Attendance: *Chairman, Naomi Dreeben, Vice Chair, Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Pat Jones, Peter Spellios and Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator, Dave Castellarin, Town Accountant and Ron Mendez, Town Treasurer.*

Water and Sewer Public Hearing:

FY2017 Water and Sewer Rates & possible vote of the Board for new rates / changes.

The Board unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to open public hearing, on the FY17 Water and Sewer rates, seconded by Selectman Spathanas. Roll Call was taken.

Town Accountant, Dave Castellarin, and Town Administrator, Thomas G. Younger spoke on the proposed new rates.

The following were spoken of:

- *FY16 revenue that the Town was taking in was less than anticipated.*
- *Water rates have not increased in the last three years.*
- *Town sewer rates going down –residents are not using sprinklers system like years prior.*
- *Sewer rates going down by .25cents and water rates going up by .25 cents*
- *Selectman Spellios asked what increased in the Budget*
- *Town has done great overall and historically.*
- *Selectman Spellios suggested in the future more time to be spent of such an important Town matter. Selectman Spellios stated he wants to feel comfortable about any increase and he does not feel he has enough information or enough dialogue to make a decision on an increase.*
- *Selectman Spellios questioned the indirect cost going up yearly.*
- *It was stated by Mr. Castellarin, Town Accountant if the Town does not approve the water and sewer rates the state will not approve the tax rate.*
- *It was requested that Mr. Castellarin and Mr. Younger speak with the communications committee on how to make a brief statement about the increase of the water rates for the community.*

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Selectman Dreeben. Roll call was taken.

The Board voted 4-1 in favor to approve a motion by Selectman Hause to approve the FY17 water rates at \$6.70 and \$5.20 rate for sewer, seconded by Selectman Spathanas. Selectman Spellios abstained from the vote.

Open Discussion: Boards goals & Priorities for FY17.

Selectman Dreeben spoke with the Board on the following topics:

- *Development and Land use planning priorities-Greenwood Avenue Development / Machon School Senior Housing, Economic Development , Historic Preservation, and Economic Development and the Master Plan.*
- *Quality of Life priorities-Rail Trail, Beach Entrances, Fisherman's Beach / Harbor and skating rink.*
- *Financial Planning priorities-Capital Planning, Long Term Financial Planning and School Projects.*
- *Each subject was categorized by high, medium or low priority.*
- *Selectman Spellios commented he was not comfortable with ranking the projects.*
- *Each Member spoke briefly on what priority fits with each of them.*
- *Selectman Spellios would like to know what the goals are for the Town.*
- *Selectman Spellios suggested each member should put their name next to a project that they feel passionate about.*
- *Selectman Spellios spoke on the train station which he feels need to have zoning changed.*
- *Selectman Spellios spoke on long term planning regarding the Hadley School.*
- *Selectman Jones is interested in the facilities side including getting to know what the Town is responsible for vs. the school side.*
- *Selectman Jones would like to see what the facilities job role is. Selectman Jones interested in single Capital Projects within the school.*
- *Selectman Hause spoke on interest of a skating rink in the future, By Laws relating to the Historical Commission, Municipal permits and private properties.*
- *Selectman Spathanas spoke on her interest of daily projects that need to get completed, school projects, master plan going forward, and the vacant senior building.*
- *Selectman Dreeben would like to meet with the liaison to go over a possible change for private citizens to store their boats.*

Town Administrator's Report:

Thomas G. Younger, Town Administrator spoke on the following:

- *Solid Waste contract/ Hiltz Waste-ended contract with the Town of Gloucester*
- *Greenwood Avenue and Machon update.*
- *Girl Scout Camp updates/ cost of repairs-\$9-\$10K / looking a fundraising themselves.*

Votes of the Board:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve the acceptance of Easement from Atlantic Crossing, Inc., seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Hause to approve the 28th Annual Halloween Witch Ride to take place on Sunday, October 9, 2016, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to approve the Friends of Swampscott Public Library's fundraiser "Purses for a Purpose" to be held on September 23, 2016 from 6:30-9:30PM. Including a one day wine only permit, seconded by Selectman Jones.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas for a one day beer & wine permit from the Swampscott Yacht Club to be used at the Barefoot Hawaiian Beach Party on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 7-10PM, seconded by Selectman Jones. (Selectman Spathanas asked if this event could be more assessable than last year-Mr., Younger stated he is working with the Recreation Director to make sure this is done.)

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve a request from the Boy Scouts to hang a banner on the DPW fence during the end of the month metal collection drive-Mr. Gino Cresta, DPW Director has approved this request, approval is pending on the size of the size, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Spathanas to approve the authorization of Ron Mendez, Town Treasurer to borrow funds from the MWRA, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jones to approve a request from the Salem YMCA to hold a Triathlon Bike Leg Race on Saturday, August 13, 2016 starting @ 7AM-see attached map-Swampscott Police Department will be doing a detail for the event, seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

Selectman's Time:

Selectman Dreeben spoke to the Board on future dates to meet and will advise. Selectman Dreeben spoke on all meetings are public and anyone can attend any meeting.

Selectman Hause spoke positive on the recent Fox 25 Zip Trip.

Selectman Spellios suggested that beach fires on Fisherman's Beach should be advertised to the residents. Selectman Spellios stated he believes that wetland experts should have been more involved in the dialogues on beach fires.

Adjournment:

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Hause to adjourn meeting at 9:10PM seconded by Selectman Spathanas.

True Attest:

*Maureen Shultz,
Administrative Assistant*