

CHATHAM BOARD of SELECTMEN
August 30, 2011
Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members Present: Chairman Florence Seldin, Vice Chair Len Sussman, Sean Summers and Timothy Roper

Members Not Present: David Whitcomb

Town Officials Present: Town Manager Jill Goldsmith, Finance Director Alix Heilala, Deputy Fire Chief Richard Hunter, Human Resources Director Gerry Panuczak and Town Planner Terry Whalen

Public Present: Robert Long, Norma Avellar, John Hallgren, Joanne Sprague, Steven Buckley, John Payson, Rick Smith and Norman Pacun

Minute Approval

Mr. Sussman made a motion to recommend approval of the March 8, 2011 minutes. Mr. Roper seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Mr. Sussman made a motion to recommend approval of the August 16, 2011 minutes. Mr. Roper seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Chairman Seldin called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

Public Forum

Mr. Richard Hunter, interim emergency management director, said that in preparation for Hurricane Irene, town staff first met on Friday. Coast Guard personnel attended the meeting and offered their services to the Town. Shelters did open at 6pm on Saturday.

Mr. Hunter said despite what was promised; the first NStar crews reached Town just last night. Consequently, Liberty Commons, the Airport and Town Annex weren't back on-line until last night. Liberty Commons did have their own generator, but their generator was running hot due to the length of use. The Fire Dept. assisted with trying to cool down the generator with large fans. NStar was only pulling wires off the roads, they were not repairing them. Mr. Hunter said he believed that NStar was simply not ready for the storm.

He added that half of Morris Island was still without power and the COA was still on a generator this morning. NStar has projected total restoration of power will not be completed until 10pm on Saturday.

John Hallgren from South Chatham would urge the Town to invest in signs attached to sawhorses that can be readily used to block off areas where wires are down.

New Business

Update on West Chatham Corridor Planning Session

Chairman Seldin explained that a meeting was held earlier in the day that focused on the process of the project and not the plan. Rep. Peake created the meeting so she could have more info on the matter. A representative from Senator Wolfe's office was also in attendance. This was not a public meeting.

She said that MA DoT wants a confirmation letter from the Board endorsing the project. She will have a draft letter ready to present to the Board next week.

North Beach Camps – Section 106 Process

Chairman Seldin said that also at this morning's meeting with Rep. Peake she was told that both Rep. Peake and Senator Wolfe would be sending letters of support to ask for postponement of the camp demolition.

She added that Town Council Gilmore said that the Town could not apply for the Section 106 process, but that the leases of the camps must request the Section 106 designation.

Mr. Summers said that he had spoken with Atty. Landreth and on behalf of the camp owners he represents; a letter has been sent asking for a Section 106 review. He added that the Seashore Advisory Committee will be meeting September 12 to discuss the issue.

Mr. Pacun, familiar with the Section 106 process, offered his support and gave the Board a written statement that covers two points that might aid the Town in its efforts to save the camps. He detailed various points and qualifications regarding the Section 106 process.

Mr. Pacun also had six recommendations on how to further proceed with gaining eligibility for the National Register. (He handed out these written details to the Board.) He particularly emphasized the importance for the Town to notify SHPO regarding the Town's application for the National Register.

Mr. Summers supported Mr. Pacun's suggestion and made a motion to request that the Historical Commission assist the Board with gathering historical information to communicate that to the various agencies. Mr. Roper seconded the motion and all voted in favor; 4-0-0.

Mr. Summers made a motion to request any and all information from the National Seashore that has led to their decision to demolish camps. Mr. Roper seconded the motion and all voted in favor; 4-0-0.

Mr. Long, Chairman of the North Beach Advisory Committee, would like to formally request that they are copied on all the correspondence the Town send out.

Mr. Long added that the conditions on North Beach Island after the storm are all good and there was actually some sand built up after the hurricane.

Mr. Summers made a motion that the Board send a letter to SHPO to seek Section 106 historic designation. Mr. Sussman seconded the motion and all voted in favor; 4-0-0.

Joint Meeting Dates

The following dates the Board will meet jointly:
September 20 – with FinCom for OPEB discussion
September 27 – Planning Board

Municipal Health Reform

Mr. Panuczak reported that the legislature has approved the reform bills. Currently, the Town health insurance group is Cape Cod Municipal Health Group. With this new legislation, we can bring our deductible levels the same as the GIC. He said he feels this will be a big step in trying to control health care costs.

The CCMHG has started the research of what the new level of co-pays and deductibles will be. By changing-increasing co-pays, it will reduce the premium costs for the town. Hopefully by October 5 they will have the new data.

The new law, Ch. 32B, section 21 is the local option for town to participate in health insurance reform. The Board will need to adopt the option; it does not town meeting approval.

Mr. Panuczak added that he is working with the Town Manager on a cost mitigation proposal, to help those who are low income or have an illness that would be financially burdened by the change. The goal is to have the new plans in place and open enrollment completed by June 30, 2012.

300 Anniversary Time Capsule Project

Mr. Smith requested approval to place a 300th Anniversary time capsule in Town Hall. The capsule will be made of stainless steel.

Mr. Sussman made a motion to accept the gift and allow placement in Town Hall. Mr. Roper seconded the motion and all voted in favor; 4-0-0.

Town Manager Report

Ms. Goldsmith reported that staff from the Annex worked in Town Hall for the day because of a continued storm related power outage at the Annex. The Annex is not equipped with a generator.

The Town has submitted reimbursement paperwork for a GAN, because bonding will not occur until June, 2012. Ms. Heilala will be meeting with the MFOB tomorrow.

Regarding a new regional high school building, it looks like approval will be granted for a 700 student high school. Harwich will hold a special town meeting for debt exclusion; however Ms. Goldsmith was not sure if Chatham needed a special election.

If there is a fall town meeting, funding of the police contract will be included.

A new secretary in the town managers office has been hired; Kristin Sullivan will start September 12.

Mr. Roper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:04pm. Mr. Sussman seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Love Monahan