

**Town of Marlborough
Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting
Marlborough Town Hall
December 7, 2004
7:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nancy Bader called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of Town Hall. Nancy Bader, Sharon Reiner and Bill Black were present and seated.

2. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Al Covino, RHAM Board of Education

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion by Sharon Reiner to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2004 meeting with the following changes: 1) page 2, item 6, first paragraph, last sentence, delete the word “trick” and replace with “truck” and correct the spelling of “pipeline” and 2) page 4, item 10, second paragraph, after the words “liability issues” add “with the use of buildings for clubs and other groups.” The motion was seconded by Bill Black and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Motion by Sharon Reiner to move item 8.1 – Status Report – RHAM after item 4 – Minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Black and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

5. STATUS REPORT – RHAM

Sharon Reiner reported on the December 2nd RHAM BOE meeting. She said that the RHAM building committee went through its report. She noted that the building committee is looking to conclude the building project and turn it over to the RHAM BOE. The RHAM BOE is pursuing litigation against the responsible parties and funding is being sought to fix the flooring problem and recover expenses. This is not an addition to the RHAM building project. Repairs are not reimbursable by the state. Sharon Reiner said that the most fiscally responsible course of action for the RHAM BOE to take is to seek to recover the cost to repair and to recover expenses incurred in fixing the problem. The RHAM BOE laid out four options on how to proceed: 1) borrow \$500K and go to referendum in January; 2) a special appropriation through a district meeting; 3) find money in the current year’s budget and 4) the RHAM BOE could borrow the money outright, but it is possible that the money would have to be repaid within this calendar year. Sharon Reiner reported that the RHAM BOE voted to proceed to referendum. Sharon Reiner noted that the reason for the January referendum is that there is a construction note of \$6,000,000 that is rolling over in January. Legal expenses, etc., can be minimized by adding the \$500K to this note. She also noted that the \$500K would be recovered through litigation. Legal expenses and forensic testing expenses will not be recovered. The referendum is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21st.

Sharon Reiner also noted that the RHAM BOE discussed the option of proceeding with an audit of the building project immediately, as opposed to waiting for the state to perform its audit. Bill

Black noted that there was some discussion at the RHAM BOE meeting with respect to the purpose of the audit, i.e. whether it was going to be an audit of the building committee and its performance or a financial audit. Bill Black stated that he believes the timing is wrong for an audit, particularly with the district's potential for litigation with respect to the flooring problem. He is not opposed to the audit itself, but believes the flooring issue needs to be resolved prior to any audit.

Al Covino, RHAM BOE, joined the discussion. He noted that Hebron and Andover want to proceed with the audit. He noted that proceeding with the audit now might garner support for the \$500K new borrowing to rectify the flooring problem. Mr. Covino stated that there was a discussion at the BOE meeting about the purpose of the audit. He believed it would be a financial audit. Mr. Covino noted that the audit will cost approx. \$30,000. The RHAM BOE is still reviewing audit firms. There was a discussion about the timing of the audit. The selectmen and Mr. Covino agreed that even if an audit firm was found right away, it may take a few to several months for the audit process to begin. This would allow time for the flooring issue to be resolved. Sharon Reiner read a motion adopted by the Hebron Board of Finance on November 23rd. The motion stated that the Hebron BOF recommends that the RHAM BOE and other boards and commissions in Region 8 seek an audit of the RHAM building project.

Sharon Reiner said that her concern is that Marlborough residents may see the cost of the audit as another example of monies being taken away from the educational aspects of RHAM. She also stated that she is concerned that the RHAM BOE continues to have obstacles thrown in its path rather than focusing on constructive issues. Nancy Bader said that there is a little confusion about the real purpose of the audit. She noted that the state is going to perform an audit regardless and she doesn't want the audit to take time away from the RHAM BOE when it has to focus on the flooring issue and the budget. She is not opposed to the audit if it is done for constructive reasons and if it does not affect the BOE's ability to focus on educational issues. Bill Black stated that he wants Mr. Covino to provide a definition of the work for the audit. Overall, the selectmen were supportive of proceeding with the audit, but everyone wanted the timing to be considered and the real purpose of the audit to be better understood.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz

The Secretary of State's office advised that the federal "Help America Vote Act" became law in late 2002 and all states are required to update their voting systems by 2006. A newsletter was attached.

6.2 State of CT Office of Policy & Management

The Intergovernmental Policy Division sent a memo dated December 1, 2004 re the recommended Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut, 2004-2009.

6.3 Paul Mazzaccaro, Town Manager, Hebron

Mr. Mazzaccaro submitted a copy of the Hebron Board of Finance's motion adopted at its November 23rd meeting re the RHAM audit.

6.4 John Murray – WPCA

John Murray has expressed his interest in being re-appointed to the WPCA.

6.5 Republican Registrar of Voters

Republican Registrar of Voters Rosanna Carlson has selected Barbara Reed as her deputy effective October 29, 2004.

6.6 Trooper Report for October 2004

TFC Manuel Acosta submitted the above report.

6.7 Joseph Reardon – Marlborough Board of Education

Joe Reardon provided a letter regarding the DARE program at the school, as requested by the selectmen. He confirmed that 1) there is always a teacher present in the classroom during the program and 2) neither the trooper nor the BOS will be responsible for securing funds for the DARE program. The program will be covered by either grant money or donations.

6.8 Rosanna Carlson & Elizabeth Sullivan, Registrars

Both registrars of voters have requested that their deputies be hired to work approx. 3-4 hours for the December 21st referendum.

Motion by Bill Black to approve the temporary hiring of Dorothy Moore and Barbara Reed for the December 21, 2004 referendum as recommended by Rosanna Carlson and Elizabeth Sullivan. The motion was seconded by Sharon Reiner and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Sharon Reiner asked whether the Physical Services Department could construct a sign for the RHAM referendum on the community board at the town green. Nancy Bader said that she would discuss advertising the referendum with Tom Giola and the RHAM BOE.

7. PUBLIC FORUM – 11/30/04

Nancy Bader asked the other selectmen for their thoughts on the public forum. Sharon Reiner said that she was delighted with the attendance and she felt it reflected a good diversity of the town's population. There was a brief discussion about the possible future capital projects discussed at the forum. The selectmen reiterated that these are items that are in the pipeline because they have been requested by various town boards and commissions but the items have not been funded. Nancy Bader stated that the purpose of the community survey is to find out what people want most. The various projects will then be prioritized. The CDAC will assist with this process. The CDAC will make recommendations to the board of selectmen and then the board of selectmen will make recommendations to the board of finance. Nancy Bader was also excited that so many residents attended the forum and are interested in participating in the planning of Marlborough's future. Sharon Reiner made the point that the town used to have a large grocery store and a clothing store and these types of businesses would therefore not be new to town.

8. 2004/2005 BUDGET

Nancy Bader provided a copy of a memo she sent to all department heads dated December 8, 2004 re the schedule for budget preparation/approval for 2005-2006. She explained that the

budget process will be different this year because of the austerity budget. All departments have been asked to validate existing projects. She and Jill Oguschewitz will do an analysis of the overall town operations budget to try and keep the overall budget flat. The town is facing a possible 12% increase in taxes based on debt alone. Departments will also be given a suggested total department budget within which to work.

9. STATUS REPORTS

9.a Bill Black - Public Safety

Bill Black said that he and the two resident troopers have been working on the capital budget items. Mr. Black provided the information to the other selectmen for their review. He noted that the town is trying to obtain grant money for some of the items. Mr. Black stated that there is an immediate need for two new bulletproof vests. He presented a memo documenting the request. The two vests will cost \$975. 50% of the cost will be reimbursed by a grant. Sharon Reiner commended Bill Black on his management of the town's public safety and stated that he brings tremendous value to the town in this capacity.

Motion by Nancy Bader to approve the purchase of 2 bullet-proof vests as outlined in Bill Black's memo dated December 6, 20004. The motion was seconded by Sharon Reiner and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

9.b Nancy Bader – Town Operations

Nancy Bader noted that she needs to focus on the personnel binder again. She will gather questions for the personnel attorney. She also noted that Jill Oguschewitz has encouraged her to look at the overall benefits package. Nancy Bader noted that health benefit costs to the town will rise 30%-35% next year as a result of high claims and the town needs to figure out how best to cover this increase.

Nancy Bader distributed a timeline for the community survey. The survey will be mailed on January 7th and the report presentation will be on February 4, 2005. She noted that the capital improvement projects are due to be forwarded to the board of selectmen by February 8th.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Bill Black to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Sharon Reiner and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Sciano