

WORKSHOP SESSION of the Burrillville Town Council held Wednesday, July 27, 2005 at 6:15 P.M. at the Council Chambers, Town Building, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley, Ronald E. Faford and William E. Gonyea.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Relative to discussions and considerations related to the Burrillville Extended Care (BEC) program.

Councilor Jacqueline Zahn referenced the information binder provided by the administration and staff of the Burrillville Extended Care (BEC). She commended them their effort, pointing out that the information thoroughly explained the purpose of the program. Councilor Zahn asked Cheri R. Hall, Director of Parks & Recreation, to comment on the program.

Cheri R. Hall, Director of Parks & Recreation, introduced board members Judy Lopez and David Brunetti and Site Coordinators/Co-Directors Shannon Murphy and Kelly Cournoyer. Miss Hall reviewed the informational packet, which provided policies, procedures, fee structure, employee manual and parents' handbook,

etc. Miss Hall provided background information on the program and described new programs added during the 2004/05 school year.

Councilor Jacqueline Zahn asked about the problems that parents have during the after school hours that the BEC program addresses. Cheri R. Hall discussed the implementation of a new after school assistance program to address the academic and social needs of middle school students. She elaborated on the details of the program and discussed the need and reasonable cost of the program.

Councilor Jacqueline Zahn indicated that the purpose of the workshop was to address Councilors' questions and that she would request an item on the agenda for the next regular meeting for a decision related to the program.

Councilor William A. Andrews asked about the low cost of the program. Cheri R. Hall suggested that the fee had to be acceptable to parents, and that the proposed fee would cover the cost of staffing the program yet encourage participation in the program. Councilor Zahn asked how many students could be enrolled in the program. Miss Hall said that between 20 and 40 students could be accommodated.

Council President Wallace F. Lees asked whether the program would include students who had been given detention. Cheri Hall explained that the guidance department might recommend the program to

students who are having problems with their studies. However, she said, because of the required pre-enrollment, students who receive detention could not drop into the program. Council President Lees pointed out that it would be difficult to deal with 20 to 40 students who had been discipline problems. Councilor Margaret L. Dudley pointed out that those students who are in detention could not participate in the program during detention, but if they were enrolled they could go to the program after detention is complete.

There was discussion that the program might offer an opportunity to students who want to participate in after school sports but have transportation issues, that there would be no bussing for the program, and the minimum enrollment requirement.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, said that the Finance Director had calculated what the expenses of the BEC program might be if the program unionized. Mr. Wood said that financial considerations should be included in the decision-making process and provided copies of the report to Councilors. Councilor Margaret L. Dudley raised the questions of whether part-time employees are considered permanent employees; the matter was discussed.

There was discussion of the use of school buildings for the program relative to the rental costs and that space has been assured to the program after the renovation of the W.L. Callahan School is complete.

Councilor William A. Andrews asked about the investigation into becoming a 501(C)3 and why the Board of Directors had decided against it. Cheri R. Hall said that if the program became 501(C)3, grant-writing would not be different, the program would become autonomous, the Town would lose control, with possible changes in philosophy, and the program might be unable to continue due to increased expenses.

Councilor Margaret L. Dudley pointed out that the program cost is low. Councilor Andrews concurred, suggesting that, as it stands, the program is in competition with private industry. Councilor Andrews suggested that the program might be too inexpensive and prevents genuine competition from private industry. Councilor Jacqueline Zahn pointed out that for some programs, such as the middle school program, there is no competition.

Councilor William A. Andrews objected to accepting additional employees into the Town and suggested that the program should become an autonomous 501(C)3. Cheri R. Hall pointed out that many of the program participants receive State aid, that if program fees were substantially increased the families could no longer afford it and the parents might have to leave their jobs. Miss Hall also suggested that BEC does not compete with private business that traditionally have had waiting lists, but rather complements a necessary service.

David Brunetti, member of the BEC Board of Directors, spoke in

support of the BEC program.

It was discussed that the staff is predominantly college students.

VOTED to adjourn at 6:50 P.M.

Motion by Councilor Jacqueline Zahn. Seconded by Councilor Margaret L. Dudley. The motion was unanimous. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors Jacqueline Zahn, William A. Andrews, Nancy F. Binns, Margaret L. Dudley, Ronald E. Faford and William E. Gonyea.

The workshop was taped. The tape is on file with the minutes of the workshop.

**Louise R. Phaneuf
Town Clerk**