

Present: June Sager Speakman, Kate G. Weymouth, Ann P. Strong, Michael W. Carroll (arrived at 6:50 pm) and Steve Primiano
Also Present: Town Manager Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr., Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo, Finance Director Kathy Raposa, Tax Assessor Michael Minardi, Police Chief John M. LaCross, Fire Chief Gerald Bessette, Town Planner Philip Hervey, Library Director Deborah Barchi, Recreation and Leisure Services Director Michele Geremia, Human Resources Director MariAnn Oliveira, and Town Clerk Meredith J. DeSisto
Absent: Public Works Director Alan Corvi and Building Official Robert B. Speaker

Council President Speakman called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.

Mrs. Speakman asked everyone to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTERVIEWS

The following applicants were interviewed for vacancies and renewals of appointment on boards and commissions:

- **Board of Assessment Review:** J. Robert Pesce and Peter Shuman
- **Board of Canvassers:** Martha Wallick (unable to attend)
- **Park and Recreation:** Corey Galvin (withdrew) and Marcus Paiva
- **Sr. Services Advisory Board:** Barbara Green

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

- **Board of Assessment Review:**
Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Strong to appoint **J. Robert Pesce** and **Peter Shuman** to the Board of Assessment Review as full members, with a term ending date of March 31, 2018. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Board of Canvassers:**
Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Strong to reappoint **Martha Wallick** to the Board of Canvassers for a term ending March 31, 2021. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Park & Recreation Commission:**
Motion by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Primiano to appoint **Marcus Paiva** to the Park & Recreation Commission for a term ending date March 31, 2018. **The motion passed unanimously.**
- **Senior Services Advisory Board:**
Motion by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to reappoint **Barbara Green** to the Senior Services Advisory Board for terms ending March 31, 2018. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Budget Forecasting Committee:** Mrs. Speakman announced the members of the Budget Forecasting Committee. They are as follows:
 - **Finance Director:** Kathy Raposa
 - **School Finance Director:** Ron Tarro
 - **Town Council Members:** Ann Strong and Steve Primiano
 - **School Committee Members:** Kate Brody and John Alessandro, Jr.
 - **Appropriations Members:** Geoff Grove and Peter Dennehy

Mrs. Speakman announced that the first meeting of the Budget Forecasting Committee will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Meeting Room in the Barrington Public Library.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence.

RESOLUTIONS:

- **Discuss and Act on Proposed Legislation: H-5257 "Relating to Waters and Navigation – Harbors and Harbor Lines":** **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Primiano to adopt the resolution opposing H-5257 "Relating to Waters and Navigation – Harbors and Harbor Lines". **The motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA (*)

Mr. Primiano requested that the Minutes of February 10, 2015 be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Speakman requested that the Town Solicitor's Report be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Weymouth requested that the Town Planner's Report be removed from the Consent Agenda. **Motion** by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to adopt the Consent Agenda items #9, without the February 10, 2015 minutes through #13, without, the Town Solicitor's Report and the Town Planner's Report. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Primiano requested within the minutes of February 10, 2015 that the words "~~a year~~" be struck and replaced with the words "in total" within the section titled, "Discuss and Act on Housing Board of Trustees Proposal for Funding to Capture Existing Affordable Housing Units" (line 10). **Motion** by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mr. Carroll to amend and adopt the minutes of February 10, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mrs. Weymouth stated that within the Town Planner's Report, Mr. Hervey wrote that the Town was awarded over \$20,000.00 in FEMA grants. **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Carroll to accept the Town Planner's Report. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mrs. Speakman stated that the Town Solicitor's Report indicated that he researched Rhode Island General Laws, Town Charters and ordinances regarding whether the Council may sit as the Board of Assessment Review and asked the outcome. Mr. Ursillo stated that his findings were that the Town Council cannot sit as the Board of Assessment Review. **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Primiano to accept the Town Solicitor's Report. **The motion passed unanimously.**

***MINUTES**

It was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of the February 10, 2015 Town Council meeting and the sealed minutes of the Executive Session of January 5, 2015. See Consent Agenda above.

***UTILITY PETITIONS**

- Bristol County Water Authority: It was unanimously voted to grant permission to Bristol County Water Authority to open the highways at: Hazelton Road
- National Grid: It was unanimously voted to grant permission to National Grid to open the highways at: Blanding Avenue, Centennial Avenue, Chachapacasset Road, Colton Drive, Richard St. Talcott Street, Tiffany Circle, Water Way, and Governor Bradford Road.

***ABATEMENT LIST**

It was unanimously voted to accept the Abatement List in the amount of \$65,528.92 and as described therein. See Book 23 page 20A.

***SURPLUS PROPERTY:** There was no surplus.

***MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

It was unanimously voted to adopt the following monthly department Reports: Fire Chief, Police Chief/Animal Control Official, Building Official, Public Works Director, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Finance Director, Tax Assessor, Senior Services Director, Library Director, Barrington Adult Youth Team Coordinator, Recreation and Leisure Services Director and Town Clerk. See Consent Agenda above.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON CEMETERY INVESTMENT POLICY:

Finance Director Kathy Raposa was present to discuss the Cemetery Investment Policy with the Town Council (see memo from Finance Director dated March 2, 2015). She explained that the cemetery funds are held in investment accounts with Richie Financial LLC. At a Cemetery Commission meeting held on February 25, 2015, the members voted to accept and approve the modification of its' investment policy from an allowable range of 40-70% to 15-50% for "Large Cap US Equities" and from 0-15% to 0-25% for "International Equities" and from 25-40% to 25-50% for "Bonds and Fixed Income". Mrs. Raposa is in agreement with the Cemetery Commission to reallocate all the ranges suggested. **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Primiano to amend the Cemetery Investment Policy as proposed by the Finance Director in a memorandum dated March 2, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON EAST BAY ROWING:

Mr. Carroll stated that he requested an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Ethics prohibits him from participating in the Town Council's review of its contract with the East Bay Rowing club, given that he pays a fee for his son to be on the East Bay Rowing Club team. Mr. Carroll

submitted the reply document from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission. East Bay Rowing Instructor Deborah Sullivan was present for the discussion.

Motion by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Primiano to amend the East Bay Rowing Consulting Agreement, Section 1 Part i to read:

Scope of Services, Section 1. Part i. "East Bay Rowing shall limit its use of the waters of the Barrington River and Hundred Acre cove to all waters north of the speed buoy on the north side of the White Church Bridge", as recommended by the Harbor Commission. **The motion passed four in favor, Mrs. Speakman, Mrs. Weymouth, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Primiano and one opposed, Mrs. Strong.**

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MONTHLY REPORT: Director Joel Hellmann was present. There were no questions.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION (ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL) (continued from OCTOBER 6, 2014):

Mr. Primiano recused himself from the discussion.

Mrs. Speakman stated that this agenda item should not read "continued from October 6, 2014". This item was dealt with by a motion which was unanimously passed on October 6, 2014. Mrs. Speakman stated that Town Councilman DeWitt in January 2014 requested a status report of tax exempt properties in the Town and wanted to know the way in which it applied to St. Andrew's. Mrs. Speakman said that history suggests that all private educational institutions were given an exemption for 5 acres of land but that St. Andrew's added to their campus and were never given any restrictions on the totality of the exemptions. Mrs. Speakman stated that the Town of Barrington and St. Andrew's have had ongoing conversations (Town Manager, members of the Town Council and members of the St. Andrew's Board and Administrators) regarding this concern, but, the conversation halted. Mr. DeWitt made a motion to direct our legislative representatives in the General Assembly to introduce legislation to remove the individual exemption from St. Andrew's School from the maximum allowable land exemption with regards to property taxes. Mrs. Strong is in agreement with the legislation and that the exemption of taxes should only be on the educational facility, however, St. Andrew's has many residences on the campus, and they should be taxed. Mrs. Speakman agreed that if these residences were not on the campus of St. Andrew's they would be taxed. Mrs. Speakman suggested that she would like to resume conversations with St. Andrews. Mr. Ursillo stated that most private educational facilities go beyond the 5 acres but that St. Andrews has their own Charter from the General Assembly. Mr. Ursillo said that other private educational institutions have registered Charters from the General Assembly providing exemptions. Mr. Ursillo said that there are other non-profit private educational institutions that have entered into PILOTS (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) with the cities or towns and that may be part of the dialogue with St. Andrew's School. Norman "Sandy" McCulloch, 99 Adams Point Road, stated that he agrees with Mrs. Speakman; to re-open a dialogue between the Town of Barrington and St. Andrew's School.

Motion by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Carroll to withdraw the introduction of legislation to remove the individual exemption from St. Andrew's School from the maximum allowable land exemption which was submitted to the General Assembly on January 6, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mrs. Strong to enter into an open conversation relating to the economic impact of St. Andrews School and the Town of Barrington with members of St. Andrews School and create a working group consisting of the Town Manager and two (2) members of the Town Council, Mrs. Speakman and Mr. Carroll. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON REQUEST FOR FUNDING A SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD AT THE BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL:

Alex Robertson, 9 Elm Lane and Project Manager from Gale Associates Eric Roise were present for discussion. Mr. Robertson stated that he came before the Town Council on March 3, 2014 with a proposal and that a motion was unanimously passed to endorse the concept of a privately funded, synthetic turf field located at Victory Field, Barrington High School. Mr. Robertson stated that he wanted to explain to the Council that Gale Associates conducted a feasibility study and that the project would be better for the town and school if they redesigned the track and field to allow for a full multi-purpose facility (widening the field, moving the track, installing bathrooms in the Eagles nest, reconfiguring the bleachers, installing safety nets, etc.). Mr. Robertson stated that he would privately fund \$1,000,000.00 but he is requesting a "conditional bond" of \$1,500,000.00 and would like to present it at the FTM for the voter's approval. Discussion ensued that this matter should be referred to the School Committee.

Motion by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Primiano to refer this matter to the School Committee. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 139 GEORGE STREET (continued from February 10, 2015) (including 135 GEORGE STREET):

Mr. DeAngelis stated that on February 25, 2015, the Cemetery Commission voted 2-1 to accept the proposed land swap. Mr. DeAngelis stated that a memo dated February 25, 2015 from the Town Solicitor explains the process by which the Town can protect the Town-owned property in the George Street area from further development and that the memo details a proposed two-step plan: (1) a minor subdivision (Planning Board approval) and (2) recording of conservation easements. The Town, with voter's approval at the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) would market these two house lots (restrictions on the use of the land); the remaining land would be preserved as Town-owned conservation land to be used by the Cemetery Commission (an easement would permit the Cemetery Commission to construct a caretaker's facility and storage building) and additionally, Zoning Board approval would be needed, as the existing dwellings appear to be nonconforming with respect to setback requirements.

Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Strong to approve the land swap with the Cemetery Commission as outlined in the Solicitor's memo dated February 25, 2015 and refer back to the Administration and Planning Board to take the appropriate action to complete the subdivision. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Town Manager Peter DeAngelis stated that he will come back with a strategy to market the property before the FTM. Mrs. Weymouth suggested that she would like to see one of the house lots refurbished and set up as an affordable house for a disabled veteran. Discussion ensued with regard to the replenishment of the Spencer Fund and a general fund transfer within the 2015-16 Budgets. Jason Lawrence, 153 George Street is in favor of selling the lots "as is" and suggested placing the monies in an account designated for the Housing Board of Trustees which could be used to purchase a home closer to the middle of Town. Cemetery Commission member Sarah "Sally" Small suggests that the monies be located within an account for the Cemetery Commission. Charlotte Sornborger, 1 Wild Acre Lane stated that neither of these lots should be sold as "affordable housing pricing", but, as "marketable" pricing.

Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Strong to sell the two (2) lots "as is" with the restrictions outlined in the Solicitor's memo dated February 25, 2015 at market value subject to the approval of the voter's at the Financial Town Meeting (FTM). **The motion passed four in favor, Mrs. Speakman, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Primiano and one opposed, Mrs. Weymouth.** Mrs. Weymouth stated that she opposes the motion because she wants to preserve the characteristic of the neighborhood.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON BIDS: There were no bids.

SET AGENDA FOR APRIL 6, 2015 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

- Discuss and Act on Proposed Legislation Relating to Real Property Tax Exemption with St. Andrew's School
- Appoint members to the Ad Hoc Taxation/Assessment Advisory Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RIGL:

- **Discuss and Approve Sealed Minutes of Executive Session on February 10, 2015**
- **42-46-5 (a) (2) Litigation Re. Pension and North End Holdings, LLC**
- **42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining**
- **42-46-5 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property**
- **42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel – Solicitor Selection Process**

Motion by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mrs. Strong to move into executive session at 8:26 P.M. to Discuss and Approve sealed minutes of Executive Session on February 10, 2015; and to discuss in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Litigation re. Pension and North End Holdings, LLC and RIGL 42-26-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining and RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property and 42-46-5-(a) (1) Personnel – Solicitor Selection Process. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mrs. Strong to move out of executive session at 9:25 P.M. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURN:

Motion by Mr. Carroll to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M.

