

Present: June Sager Speakman, Kate G. Weymouth, Ann P. Strong, Michael W. Carroll 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, Leisure Services Director Michele Geremia, Human Resources Director MariAnn Oliveira, and Town Clerk Meredith J. DeSisto
Absent: Building Official Robert B. Speaker

Council President Speakman called the meeting to order at 6:37 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: (1 vacancy: 1st alternate) – Clint Douglas Watts
- Housing Board of Trustees: (2 reappointments and 2 vacancies: 2nd and 3rd alternates) – Steven J. Boyajian (reappointment) and Richard F. Staples, Jr. (reappointment) and Clint Douglas Watts

RESIGNATIONS:

There were no resignations.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

- Board Of Assessment Review: (1 vacancy – 1 alternate) **Motion:** by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Primiano to appoint Clint Watts to the Board of Assessment Review, with a term ending date of March 31, 2018.
- Housing Board Of Trustees: (2 reappointments)(Steven Boyajian and Richard Staples) **Motion:** by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Carroll to reappoint Steven Boyajian and Richard Staples to the Housing Board of Trustees, as full members, with term ending dates of 10/31/2018.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Rhode Island Resource Recovery: Town Manager Peter DeAngelis announced that the Town Was presented a check for \$12,935.94 from the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation as part of the profit sharing of recyclables. Mr. DeAngelis explained that even though the Town recycled more materials than before the profit sharing is based on the market.
- East Bay Chamber of Commerce: National Shop Small Saturday, November 21, 2015 within the Town of Barrington, Warren and Bristol. Mrs. Speakman made the announcement. (See Correspondence – vote taken on request.)
- Special Election Update: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto announced that the Town of Barrington has scheduled a special election for the unexpired term of a school committee member. The special election will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. The polls open at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.
- FEMA Grants: Town Planner Phil Hervey announced that the Town has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) DR-4107 grant for the elevation of six (6) residential structures in the amount of \$859,828.00 (\$644,871.00 federal share/\$214,957.00 non-federal share). Mr. Hervey stated that the homeowner must contribute 25% of the total cost (homeowner's total share is \$215,000.00).
- Veterans Day Ceremony: Mrs. Speakman announced the Veteran's Wreath Laying Ceremony which will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 11:00 AM at the Honor Roll in front of the Town Hall.
- Solarization of Rhode Island: Town Planner Phil Hervey announced that the Town of Barrington has been selected to participate in Solarize Rhode Island; increasing solar adoption within the town. Mr. Hervey said that on October 8, at 2:00 PM a public event will announce the participating communities.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received into record and can be viewed on the Town of Barrington's website under Quick Links – Clerkbases.

- **East Bay Chamber of Commerce:** Discuss and Act on the Request to Support the East Bay Chamber of Commerce with a Contribution of \$250.00. Mr. Primiano recused himself. **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Carroll to contribute \$250.00 from the Council Contingency Fund to support the East Bay Chamber of Commerce. **The motion passed four (4) in favor, Mrs. Speakman, Mrs. Weymouth, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Carroll and one (1) recused, Mr. Primiano.**

RESOLUTIONS:

There were no resolutions.

CONSENT AGENDA (*)

Tax Assessor Michael Minardi requested that the Solicitor's report be removed from the Consent Agenda. **Motion** by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mrs. Strong to adopt the Consent Agenda items #9 - #15 without the Solicitor's Report and to adopt the Consent Agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Minardi stated that within the Solicitor's Report the ZONING/PLANNING SECTION the first line should read "...regarding Freij ~~tax~~ zoning appeal." **Motion** by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Primiano accepted the Solicitor's Report as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

***MINUTES**

It was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of the September 8, 2015 Council meeting. See the Consent Agenda above.

***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.

***UTILITY PETITIONS**

- **Bristol County Water Authority:** It was unanimously voted to grant permission to Bristol County Water Authority to open the highways at Brick Pond Drive and Elm Lane
- **National Grid:** It was unanimously voted to grant permission to National Grid to open the highways at Northwest Passage, Payne Road and Walnut Road.

***ABATEMENT LIST**

It was unanimously voted to accept the Abatement List in the amount of \$261,833.92 and as described therein. See page 90A. See Consent Agenda

***SURPLUS PROPERTY**

There was no surplus property.

***NOTICE OF INJURY:**

- **Elaine Beebe:** Claim denied and referred to the Town's insurance carrier, The Rhode Island Interlocal Trust. See Consent Agenda.

***PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE RENEWAL – William S. Conti:**

It was unanimously voted to renew the private detective license of William S. Conti. See Consent Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara O'Brien, 88 Boyce Avenue, asked the Town Council why the schools need to be closed during the Special Election, Tuesday, December, 15, 2015. Discussion ensued regarding closing schools; Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto explained that schools do not need to close and that decision is made by the School Committee.

BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY MONTHLY REPORT:

Director Allan Klepper was present to answer questions regarding the monthly report. Discussion ensued regarding the responsibility for the water line valve and pipe replacement on the bridge to Warren.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- Discuss and Act on an Ordinance #2015-5 to Amend Chapter 161 Solid Waste Article III Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative: Mrs. Speakman opened the public hearing for Ordinance #2015-5 to Amend Chapter §161 Solid Waste Article III Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative which was filed on August 26, 2015 and introduced on September 8, 2015. Letters were sent to Ms. Karen Medeiros, Store Manager of Shaws Star Market and Ms. Rachel Caldwell, Legal Counsel for CVS Caremark Corporation. Mrs. Weymouth recapped the history of the Reusable Checkout Bag Ordinance which was adopted on October 1, 2012 and took effect on January 1, 2013. Mrs. Weymouth said that the Sunset Provision was removed by the adoption of an amendment to section 161-11 on June 2, 2014 which made the ordinance permanent. Mrs. Weymouth said, within her presentation, that a business metrics was conducted in June 2014. Fourteen (14) businesses signed a document that stated, "Our business has adjusted well to the plastic bag ban and we find the ban has had no long lasting negative impacts on our ability to serve our customers and on customer satisfaction."
Mrs. Weymouth stated that on June 29, 2015 Sally Carpenter sent a letter to the members of the Town Council expressing her concern that specifically, Shaws Supermarket was selling a stronger plastic bag for 10 cents circumventing the recently enacted law; while CVS used two (2) different size plastic bags free of charge to their customers. Mrs. Speakman explained that the main focal point of amending the ordinance is to close this "loophole" by redefining reusable bags to read, "and is made primarily of cloth or other fabrie woven or non-woven textile" and eliminating "~~or is made of durable plastic that is at least 2.25 mils thick, or is constructed of multiple layers for insulation.~~" Kelvin Misiurski, 221 Promenade Avenue, stated that he is in favor of amending the reusable plastic bag ordinance. Chair of the Barrington Conservation Committee Cyndee Fuller strongly asked that all councilmembers support the amendment to the ordinance. Ms. Fuller said that she has voted for people that have raised public awareness at the local level because it begins the initiative for promotion of issues at the state level and many times it carries the weight of an issue to the national level. Ms. Fuller stated that she is very proud that Barrington went out on a limb to initiate this ordinance and is in favor of amending the ordinance to close the loophole.
Tracy McGrath, Sales Director at Mettler Packaging Company, a manufacturer of reusable plastic and paper bags was present to explain the type of bag that is being used by CVS and Shaws. Ms. McGrath explained that the bag currently used at Shaws and CVS is called an "Eco-loop" carrier bag. Ms. McGrath stated that the Eco-loop bag has been used for the last 20 years in Europe and it is a weather resistant and everlasting environmentally friendly bag, which was "walk test certified", with approximately 125 re-uses at 175 feet with added weight; this has been tested by independent laboratories. Ms. McGrath explained that most towns have adopted this particular bag because it does consist of a 2.25 mil thickness with 125 re-uses. She explained that the Eco-loop Program achieves all of the following objectives:
(1) **SUPPORTS SOCIAL RESONSIBILITY:** provide a bag that is reusable and encourage re-use. Dispels "disposable mentality."
(2) **REUSABILITY:** Bag durability and quality encourages consumers to reuse multiple times.
(3) **POST-CONSUMER RECYLED MATERIAL:** Bags made with environmentally friendly materials like Eco-loop, result in a 60% reduction of CO2 emissions and use of fossil fuels.
(4) **USAGE REDUCTION:** Increase item count for each bag used.
(A 4-minute video detailing the Eco-loop bag was presented.) Ms. McGrath said that CVS uses two (2) different size Eco-loop bags; which is complimentary for their customers. Ms. McGrath said that Shaws offers complimentary paper bags. Ms. McGrath stated that the Eco-loop bag is available for 10 cents to Shaws customers. Ms. McGrath stated that single use bags should be eliminated because they can only be used once; and agrees that it should be removed within the ordinance language. She explained that woven and nonwoven polypropylene bags are still plastic; that they are laminated and are lined with additional plastic and that this bag is not recyclable. Ms. McGrath asks the Council to amend the ordinance to allow for the following: "Reusable" plastic bags with a minimum thickness of 2.25mil; require "Walk Test Certification" and require 80% POST-CONSUMER RECYLED MATERIAL. Banning "plastic" would then include woven and non-woven reusable bags as they are polypropylene – A.K.A. PLASTIC! Allow NWPP/WPP "plastic" reusable bags. Eco-loop bags won't be discarded as

customers understand they are reusable and NOT single use bags. The Eco-loop program will assist with the goal of solid waste reduction. The environmental benefit can be measured with reduction in CO2 emissions to coincide with reduction in bag usage that can be directly linked to the use of Eco-loop bags. (Fewer bags that are used and more bags that are recycled reduce CO2 reductions.) Ms. McGrath stated some topics that Shaws may consider is "a bag for life" – buy a bag and if it is damaged, return it and they will replace it. Ms. McGrath said that another amendment to the ordinance would be to require a charge for bags; both paper and plastic. She said that this was implemented in January 2013 in the city of Los Angeles and has reduced the overall bag usage by 70%. Discussion ensued regarding what types of bags are reusable, as well as, what bags are recyclable; and that the Mettler Packaging Company has the access to recycle paper and reusable bags located at their premises (post-consumer vs. industrial consumer). Lianna Cassar, 2 Hope Court, stated that she was offended by the two largest businesses by undermining the Town's initiative to eliminate plastic bags. Ms. Cassar said that she is appreciative that the Town has taken action to be thoughtful consumers and is in favor of amending the ordinance. President and CEO Steven Arthurs, RI Food Dealers Association requests that the Council reconsider and not amend the current reusable bag initiative. Mr. Arthurs said that he believes that if you charge the customer 10 cents it just pushes the customer to use paper bags. Cyndee Fuller, 48 Townsend Street, said that the Mr. Arthurs and Ms. McGrath are not Barrington residents. That they have a financial incentive and that should invalidate all of their comments. Joel Hellmann, 13 Richmond Avenue, stated that he is opposed to amending the ordinance. Those speaking in favor of amending the ordinance were Sally Carpenter, 12 Half Mile Road; Kim Jacobs, 5 Massachusetts Avenue; Sara O'Brien, 88 Boyce Avenue; Michael Quas, 45 Annwamscutt Avenue and Charles Carpenter, 12 Half Mile Road. The following sent emails speaking in favor: Jennifer Boylan, 140 Lincoln Avenue; Alison Noto, 1 Ferncliff Road; Brock and Jessica Allen, 37 Lincoln Avenue; Elizabeth Holmes, 16 Milton Road; Charlotte Sornborger, 1 Wild Acre Drive; and, Bonnie Grassie-Hughes, 26 Lincoln Avenue. Mrs. Weymouth stated that members of the council have a responsibility to address many issues, and, in fact, do this at every meeting. Plastic bags are an issue that affects the health and safety of our environment and plastic has a significant impact on the environment. Mrs. Weymouth presented various plastic bag ban disposal statistics from across the country, including the city of Los Angeles. The projected reduction of solid waste disposal, with a plastic bag ban, was striking in her view. Mrs. Weymouth then discussed the proposed amendments and additions to §161-8. Of the Reusable Checkout Bag Initiative, Prohibited acts. Mrs. Weymouth said that Barrington has done its part by leading the way in eliminating plastic bags and the proposed ordinance amendment will strengthen its intent so that large corporations cannot trump local efforts and local decisions. **Motion** by Mrs. Weymouth and seconded by Mr. Carroll to amend the reusable checkout bag initiative as presented by our Town Solicitor with input from the Barrington Conservation Commission. Mrs. Strong presented many items that are made from plastic and not recyclable. Mrs. Strong stated that she was opposed to the initial ordinance and voted against it. Mrs. Strong said that this type of legislation is "feel good legislation" and is opposed to this ordinance. Mr. Primiano agreed with Mrs. Strong, that the Town should not be getting involved with "feel good legislation." Mr. Primiano said that he is against the ordinance and believes that this is an over reach by the Council; that we can all make good choices every day. Kim Jacobs, 5 Massachusetts Avenue, said that this is just one step towards eliminating plastic. Mr. Carroll stated reusable bags help to take a small step by helping the environment. Mr. Carroll is not convinced that if the ordinance was amended, businesses could use the bags in question because he is not sure if the bags are non-woven textiles. Discussion ensued regarding non-woven bags. Mrs. Speakman stated with the information that was provided to the Council this evening she would like to request additional data on the eco-loop bags – how many times are these bags reused at Shaws and CVS. Mrs. Speakman stated that she would like additional time to consider all the information that was presented. Mrs. Strong suggested banning paper and single use bags, and, implementing a 10 cent charge for bags within the amendment. Mr. Primiano said that we must be careful with any amendment; we must do it right to prevent additional loopholes. Mrs. Speakman requested to table this discussion. Mrs. Weymouth **withdrew the motion** and was seconded by Mr. Carroll. **Motion** by Mrs. Speakman and seconded by Mr. Carroll to continue the public hearing to the next Town Council meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

SET AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 2, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING (out of order)

Motion by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Primiano to change the next meeting of the Town Council to Thursday, November 12, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON THE PROPOSED TAX STABILIZATION AGREEMENT WITH SHINEHARMONY (out of order):

Motion by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mrs. Strong to set a public hearing for the proposed tax stabilization agreement with ShineHarmony for Thursday, November 12, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR ENDORSING THE STAGE I AND II AID APPLICATION TO THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE BARRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

School Superintendent Michael Messore and School Finance Director Ron Tarro were present. Discussion ensued regarding approval of the application process and does not make any financial commitment on behalf of the Town, at this time. **Motion** by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Carroll to endorse the Stage I and II Aid application to the Rhode Island Department of Education for the Barrington Middle School project. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING (continued):

- Discuss and Act on an Ordinance #2015-6 to Amend Chapter 169 Taxation Article VII Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems: Mrs. Speakman opened the public hearing for Ordinance #2015-6 to Amend Chapter 169 Taxation Article VII Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems which was filed on September 1, 2015 and introduced on September 8, 2015. There was no public comment. Mrs. Speakman closed the public hearing. **Motion** by Mr. Carroll and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to adopt Ordinance #2015-6 to Amend Chapter 169 Taxation Article VII Tax Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON TAX EXEMPTION (continued from September 8, 2015)

Tax Assessor Michael Minardi was present for a discussion on the various tax exemptions in the Town of Barrington. Mr. Minardi provided a spreadsheet comparing the exemptions of the other 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island. Discussion ensued regarding veteran's exemptions and exemptions for seniors. **No action was taken.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON BIDS:

Award Bid to Anderson Blue Bird Sales of New England for Mini Bus for Senior Services:

Motion by Mrs. Strong and seconded by Mr. Primiano to award the bid to provide one (1) new 2016 mini-bus to Anderson Blue Bird Sales of New England, 170 Amaral Street, East Providence, RI at a cost not to exceed \$45,977, as described in a memorandum dated September 20, 2015 from Michele Geremia. **The motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSS AND ACT ON SCHEDULING A JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Carroll requested that the Planning Board host a joint meeting with the Town Council to review Chapter 10 Implementation Plan of the Comprehensive Community Plan. Instruction was given to the Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto to set up the specifics for a joint meeting in the future.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON SCHEDULING AN OPEN MEETINGS FORUM, PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES AND ETHICS TRAINING WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mrs. Speakman requested that Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto prepare a collaborated event and set up a training seminar to include panelists from the Attorney General's office, a member of the Ethics Commission and the Assistant Solicitor Andy Teitz. The invitation is to all Barrington Boards and Commissions. The assembly will be held after the first of the year.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON CREATING A MECHANISM FOR A COLLABORATION WITH BRISTOL AND WARREN BY COMPOSING A TRI-TOWN AD HOC ADVISORY BOARD (2 TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM EACH TOWN) CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 2015: JUNE SPEAKMAN TO REPORT ON BRISTOL AND WARREN

Mrs. Speakman continued this topic until the next Town Council meeting in order to provide further information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RIGL:

- Discuss and Approve Sealed Minutes of Executive Session on August 3, 2015, (6:00pm and 8:50pm), August 31, 2015, September 8, 2015 and September 16, 2015.
- 42-46-5 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property
- 42-46-5 (a) (6) Prospective Business

Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Strong to move into executive session at 9:29 P.M. in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (5) Acquisition of Property; 42-46-5 (a) (6) Prospective Business and Discuss and Approve Sealed Minutes of Executive Session on August 3, 2015 at (6:00 pm and 8:50 pm), August 31, 2015, September 8, 2015 and September 16, 2015. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to move out of executive session at 10:10 P.M. no action was taken and the minutes are to be sealed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURN:

Motion by Mr. Primiano and seconded by Mrs. Weymouth to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 P.M.

Meredith J. DeSisto, Town Clerk