

New Shoreham Town Council /Town Manager Work Session/Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
4:00 p.m.

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste. Absent were Town Councilor Peter Baute and Town Councilor Richard Martin. Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge and Finance Director Amy Land were present, Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick took the minutes.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 4:00.

Establish procedure for Harbormaster Vacancy

The Town Manager suggested that as a union position, the vacancy should be posted internally for five days. It will be advertised in the February 13 issue of the Block Island Times, applicants will have two weeks to apply, and a Harbormaster will be in place in March. There was a brief discussion regarding whether the job description needed changes. Ms. Dodge asked that any suggestions for changes be given to her by Monday, and she will act accordingly. Council members asked for a clarification regarding whether the position will stay in the union.

The Council will appoint a screening committee on February 17, 2010, probably including members of the Harbors Committee, the Council, and the public. First Warden Gaffett said it would be a good time to look into whether Harbormasters are appointed by Councils statewide, and/or whether it should be changed.

Report of the Town Manager:

Harbors: The Town Manager reported Joe Fallon did water quality testing, NSPD is doing shellfish patrolling. The MV Giles is being serviced at Old Port and will be back in mid-April. Ken Lacoste is finishing winterizing the shellfish boat. Joe Fallon will be back Friday morning and he will use BIMI's boat to check on a sailboat which may have left the harbor or sank. Administrative Assistant Beth Rousseau will send out Commercial and Charter slip renewals on Monday. There was a brief discussion regarding the status of the patrol boat, beached boats and maintenance of seasonal moorings which may have drifted in Old Harbor.

Finance Report:

Finance Director Amy Land presented the Finance Report.

Revenues: The Town will not be receiving the second half (\$46,555.88) of the Motor Vehicle Taxes in Lieu from the state; the Governor's budget eliminated the funding.

Licenses, Permits & Fees: Recording fees and building permits are down.

Other Town Fees & Income: Commercial Landing Fees and Interest/Investments will be short.

State Aid: State Aid/Libraries has not been eliminated; it is expected to come in. As expected, the Town will not get the \$77,551 revenue sharing pledged by the state. It is not known whether the Town will receive the State Aid/Airport revenue of \$33,000. Hotels and Meals tax revenues are basically on track.

Administration: The Consultant/Legal line is running high due to unforeseen trial expenses; the litigation line is on target. The Insurance line will be high because the Town must comply with changes in its flood insurance coverage. Engineering expenses will be over due to the LEAP paving grant because the expense will not be covered by the grant. The grant writer line will go over due to a wealth of grant application opportunities.

Highways: Repairs of the cemetery vandalism (approximately \$9,000) will come out of this line; the Town is accepting contributions for the expense.

State Roads: The salt line is overexpended; most bills for the December storms have not yet been received. The state road contract runs another five years, it has a built in consumer price index adjustment adjustment.

Library: Electric bills will be lower because the HVAC system was repaired.

Community Support: Expenses are running better at the Coast Guard Facility.

Capital Grants: Reval: the statistical revaluation is underway, and on time. Review of building permits is complete, field review will begin next week. NSPD Vehicle: two patrol cars are leased, vehicles are scheduled for replacement.

Debt Service: The state construction aid for the school bond and library bond are still expected.

Administration/Public Works

The Town Manager reported

- Shawn Monument is coming out this week to repair vandalized cemetery monuments.
- Council members agreed they would prefer the PUC to hold a hearing on the Island when the costs of the cable can be discussed; it makes little sense for the PUC to return for Docket 4111.
- Richard Lacapra working in anticipation of issues to be addressed with regard to Deepwater. In response to a question, the Town Manager said the cable may come ashore by state beach, the corner of Beach Avenue and Corn Neck Road or by the Solveiken property. Talks about the connection in Narragansett have come to a halt temporarily while their new Town Manager becomes acclimated.
- Results from the monitoring wells at the Old Harbor Dock project will come back tonight or tomorrow.
- The Town Manager is being deposed tomorrow by the Ethics Commission in connection with the complaint against the former Harbormaster
- The Planning Board is meeting Monday to finalize the capital budget. Departments were asked to level-fund their departments this year.
- The Town Manager has contacted RI State Police requesting a stronger presence on the Island this year
- Senator Reed letter's letter for funding suggestions carries a February 22, 2010. The beach pavilion and dredging were suggested

At 5:30, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Torrey and seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 3 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste) Nays: 0 Absent: 2 (Baute, Martin)

Minutes approved February 17, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick,
Town Clerk