

New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2010
Police Station, Beach Avenue, Block Island
7:00 p.m.

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Peter B. Baute, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste and Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Warden's Report: The PUC will hold a public hearing tomorrow at 11:30 at Town Hall to take comment on the agreement between Deepwater Wind and National Grid for the sale of electricity. Interstate Navigation will continue to revalidate resident ferry card. The Town received a copy of a compliance filing with regard to Interstate's certificate for their Hi-Speed Ferry service between Block Island and Newport.

1. Announce Consent Judgment re: Sprague Farm, Inc. v. Zoning Board of Review et al

- Act to unseal closed minutes re: Sprague Farm Litigation

First Warden Gaffett said a consent judgment was signed by Joseph Sprague and Town representatives. It lays out the parameters of the closure and contouring plan. It has been recorded in the Town's land evidence records.

Ms. Gaffett moved to unseal all closed session Town Council minutes relating to this matter, seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

2. Act on Town of New Shoreham position re: PUC Docket 4111 for January 5 public comment

Mr. Martin, who works for the Block Island Power Company, recused.

Ms. Gaffett read a statement prepared by Frank Lacapra and Alan Mandl, based on Town Council input. It is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Gaffett moved to adopt the statement as the Town's position for PUC Docket 4111.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste) Nays: 0 Recuse: 1 (Martin)

3. Receive and act on letter from Janet Merritt re: community notices

Ms. Merritt suggests a community member be designated to contact the media when events such as the Ecumenical Choir's holiday performance are postponed due to inclement weather. The Council agreed the loss of local cable Chanel 5 left an opportunity for a different system of community notification. Town Manager Nancy Dodge will report back.

4. Act on request of Interstate Navigation re: Block Island Ferry – Fuel Surcharge Legislation

Current state law permits Interstate Navigation Company to add a pass-through surcharge to ticket prices when fuel prices are between \$1.20 per gallon and \$3.00 per gallon. The legislation did not anticipate fuel prices in excess of \$3.00 per gallon. Interstate has requested the Town to have its legislators introduce an amendment to increase the maximum cap on the fuel surcharge from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per gallon.

First Warden Kimberley Gaffett moved to endorse a resolution supporting a legislative change to increase the maximum cap on Interstate Navigation Company's fuel surcharge from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per gallon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

5. Receive letter and check from Interstate Navigation re: 2009 landing fees

A check in the amount of \$112,773.32 was received, based on ridership of 265,349. No action was needed or taken.

6. Receive letter from Block Island Express re: 2009 contribution to the Town of New Shoreham

Town Manager Dodge explained BI Express embarks in Connecticut, and they take the position that they are not required to collect the landing fee. They send a contribution based on ridership. This year's check was in the amount of \$25,000. No action was needed or taken.

7. Receive report from the Charter Review Commission re: recommended Charter changes

A meeting will be scheduled with the Charter Review Commission and the Town's attorney to discuss the process going forward. The date will be determined at the next Council work session.

8. Receive and act on Annual reports

Wastewater Management Report

The report is attached to these minutes. Town Manager Dodge said enforcement will be more effective going forward under the new ordinance.

Harbors Department Season Summary & Boaters Survey

Harbormaster Chris Willi was present to discuss and answer questions about his report. The report is attached to these minutes.

9. Discuss and act on establishment of an Island Energy Plan committee

First Warden Gaffett suggested establishing a core group from the Town Council, Planning Board, and Electric Utility Task Group. Although there will be some overlap with the EUTG on electricity and demand side management issues, she envisions a much wider charge with a wide range of energy issues including transportation, home heating, insulation, building code issues, as well as facilitating the Planning Board in establishing an energy component in the Comprehensive Community Plan. She suggested a core group could be established, their first task would be to suggest goals and components for a charge, and come back with suggestions for up to four more members. She would like the group to move quickly, to come back with a charge after their first meeting and to report back in six months.

First Warden Gaffett moved to establish an Island Energy Plan Committee, initially comprised of two Town Council members, two Planning Board members, and one Electric Utility Task Group member, and ask they to help draft a charge and return with suggestions for up to four additional members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey

Ayes: 5(Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Mr. Torrey moved to nominate Peter Baute and Ken Lacoste to serve on the Island Energy Plan Committee, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 5(Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

10. Annual Appointments continued

Ms. Gaffett moved to appoint Tim Clark second alternate on the Recreation Board, with a term running through December, 2010. Motion seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 5(Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

11. Correspondence: New Shoreham Sewer District Commission re: appointment; New Shoreham Water District Commission re: appointment

No action was needed or taken.

12. Review Notes: December 14, 2009 with Interstate Navigation

Minor changes were suggested to the notes, which will remain available in the Town Council records.

13. Review upcoming meeting schedule

Upcoming meetings: PUC Public Hearing January 5, 2010, Council work session January 6, 2010 at 4:00, discussion of personnel January 18, 2010 at 4:00, hosting the Lunch Bunch on

January 19, Council meeting January 20. A meeting with the Charter Review Commission will be scheduled at the upcoming work session.

At 8:45, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Torrey, seconded by Dr. Baute.

Ayes: 5(Gaffett, Torrey, Baute, Lacoste, Martin) Nays: 0

Minutes approved January 20, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk