

**New Shoreham Town Council – Town Manager Work Session/Meeting**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Council members Richard P. Martin, Peter B. Baute and Kenneth C. Lacoste. Also present were Town Manager Nancy Dodge and for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millicent McGinnes.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**1. Finance Department – Act on Quarterly Municipal Deficits Finance Report**

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to authorize the submittal of the Quarterly Municipal Deficits report. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion and it carried.

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

**2. Report of the Town Manager**

**Finance**

Ms. Dodge reported that she received a memo from the RI Division of Municipal Finance stating that municipalities cannot use losses from a previous year to give standing to exceed the tax cap for a subsequent year. She stated that she thought that it would be challenged, particularly as the Motor Vehicle Taxes in Lieu (state aid to municipalities) that was cut last year, was not cut until after the Town's budget was approved by the voters.

Town Manager Dodge further reported that Interstate Navigation filed papers with the PUC to extend the current rate agreement for another year. As previously agreed, she will file a letter of support by May 12, 2011.

**Administration & Public Works**

Following brief discussion the Council acknowledged and confirmed their intention to have the Town Solicitor pursue remediation costs of \$49,850 for the environmental damage in Old Harbor from a past oil or gas leak.

Town Manager Dodge reported the following:

- The work on the water main extension into New Harbor will begin on May 9, 2011. There will be test holes dug across from the Hog Pen and a parking ban will be in force.
- There will be a meeting with Town Attorney Packer, the Building Official, the Town Clerk and First Warden Gaffett on May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the game licenses and ordinances.
- Town Solicitor Packer has yet to respond regarding Linda Pearson's Salt Pond Settlement unit.
- A final review of the ordinance codification will take place next week, with a final print soon to follow.
- The Army Corp. of Engineers has put out a bid to replace the east dock with work to begin November 2011 and finish April 2012. The bid does not include replacement of the electrical service.
- There will be no electrical service at the east dock this summer.
- There will be no dredging by the Town this year, maybe next year if there is money left from the Old Harbor project.
- The grant application for the New Harbor boat ramp is due by the end of June. The request will be for \$70,000.
- The RFP for the Fred Benson Beach House conceptual plan is out with a submittal deadline of June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- There are no new catch basins planned for the end of Water Street near the Old Harbor dock.
- Town Engineer Geremia was out working on the project of the shoring up of Corn Neck Road. The rocks in the beach parking lot will be used. Work will begin south of the monument shortly. Areas north of the monument and the Surf beach are awaiting CRMC approvals.

- Snow fencing will be placed at the corner of Water Street by the Surf Hotel. A guardrail for the area is being priced.
- Highways Supervisor Mike Shea will examine a hump at the base of Town property Plat 6, Lot 147 to determine whether it is debris left over from an asphalt plant operating there in the 1970's.
- Progress on Esta's Park will be reported soon.
- The feedback from the RI Historic Preservation Conference held on Block Island over the weekend was very positive, with the participants commenting on the great community involvement and camaraderie.

Mr. Torrey explained that he discussed draft changes being proposed for the Block Island airport with his RIAC contact and was comfortable with the suggested changes. He noted that they are proposing to reduce the approach lighting, but the reduction will not have an impact, as it will only affect instrument controlled planes, which cannot land here anyway. He also noted that another proposed change included rebidding for the airport's management company. He explained that no action was required now and he would continue to watch the process.

Discussion ensued regarding the planning and scheduling of a community forum to discuss electric power alternatives. It was decided to wait and discuss the issue again after the Electric Utility Task Group's May meeting. From the audience, Bruce Montgomery suggested that the paper run a series of pro and con articles regarding energy alternatives. Mr. Lacoste suggested the establishment of an energy blog.

### **3. Discussion of Estate of Violette Connolly**

Attorney Joseph Priestley representing the Estate of Violette Connolly could not be present. The item will be scheduled for the May 18, 2011 meeting.

### **4. Discussion with New Shoreham Police Chief**

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to go into closed session at 8:04 p.m. pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 42-46-5(a)(3) for the discussion of the matter of security. The motion was seconded by Mr. Torrey and carried.

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

Police Chief Vincent Carlone was present. He reported the following:

- There is one new seasonal officer hired for the summer. Due to budgetary concerns, the summer officers will have staggered start times, with all on board by June 18<sup>th</sup>. There are two community service officers (CSO) hired. The State Police will be here on weekends this summer.
- Due to the staggered starts, there will be little early summer police visibility. The Chief would prefer to have all officers start June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.
- Budgetary and staffing concerns may limit police time on other matters.
- The number of CSO's should be increased in the future, as they contribute in police visibility, assistance and ticketing.
- Police details to address specific items such as noise, speeding and drunk driving are not funded. Those issues will try to be covered through shift work, with a prioritization of tasks.
- Future plans may include training a few local residents as full officers to use as fill-in and seasonal help.
- Mike Finnimore purchased speed trailers for the police use to assist in self-monitoring speeding.

Discussion ensued regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Chief Carlone explained that this year there will be only two state police officers, whereas last year, there were seven. He suggested contacting the state police and/or the National Guard to request additional help. Dr. Baute concurred. Ms. Dodge, Ms. Gaffett and Mr. Lacoste agreed that they would rather see the use of state police instead of the National Guard. Town Manager Dodge will contact the state police and perhaps the governor for additional July 4<sup>th</sup> police assistance. Ms. Dodge will also lineup the placement of a dumpster and portable toilets on Surf Beach for the day.

Ms. Gaffett requested that the Chief address unlicensed operators driving motorcycles on the beach. The Chief agreed, stating he allows it in the winter only.

The Chief was asked to keep an eye out for rental moped drivers and passengers without helmets.

There being no further business to discuss under closed session for the discussion of the matter of security, Police Chief Carlone left the meeting.

**5. Discuss and Act on Town Managers Contract**

Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes left the meeting and the continuation of the minutes was taken up by First Warden Gaffett.

Continuing the Town Council's closed session meeting, Ms. Gaffett made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Rhode Island General Law 42-46-5(a)(1) for the discussion of job performance at 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Baute and carried.

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

Discussion ensued regarding details of the Town Manager's contract.

Ms. Gaffett made a motion to go out of closed session at 9:25, Mr. Torrey seconding.

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

Ms. Gaffett noted that no motions were made in closed session.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Martin made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Lacoste seconded with all in favor.

Millicent McGinnes  
Deputy Town Clerk

Submitted: May 11, 2011

Approved: May 18, 2011