

**New Shoreham Town Council Meeting
Town Hall, Old Town Road
Wednesday, August 1, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

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

Second Warden Torrey called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Discuss financing options to accomplish identified ESCO projects

Dr. Baute reported that the library was not interested in installing a computer management system through the ESCO, as they felt they could do it in-house. He noted the lighting upgrade was a project all supported and noted the cost through the ESCO would be \$23,014.

Ms. Gaffett joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Town Manager Dodge noted that the project was too small to bond, therefore funding it would have to come out of the existing budget. Finance Director Land explained that the funding could be built into next year's capital budget. She also noted that the voters had allocated \$24,500 to the capital budget line in this year's budget for discretionary "best use" by the Council. From the audience, Planning Board Chair Margie Comings stated that the Planning Board made a prioritized list of capital projects during the budget cycle and there are needs more beneficial to the community than the library ESCO project.

Mr. Lacoste stated that the project should be done, but on our timeframe and terms and not through the ESCO.

Ms. Gaffett moved to amend the previous motion regarding the ESCO projects to eliminate library computer management and library water conservation from the priorities and endorsing the library lighting project if funding is found. Mr. Lacoste seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Ms. Gaffett noted that the Town would end the relationship with ESCO company Johnson Controls, with thanks to Jeff Broadhead and Dave Ward of Washington County Regional Planning Council and implement projects through on-going budgets in the future.

2. Initial discussion for developing policy and/or procedures for TNS service contracts

Ms. Gaffett noted that the Town needs a written policy concerning how it addresses service contracts. Town Manager Dodge explained that there were different procedures regarding different contracts, some controlled by laws and/or regulations. Ms. Gaffett asked Ms. Dodge to put the current practices in writing and make recommendations to the Council on an appropriate policy.

3. Discuss Housing Board of Review

Ms. Dodge noted that a general ordinance calls for a Housing Board of Review to act as the appeal board for minimum housing actions, following an informal hearing with the minimum housing inspector. The ordinance states the Council can appoint a board, designate the Zoning Board, or act as the board themselves.

Ms. Gaffett moved to, for the time being, have the Town Council act as the Housing Board of Review. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion and it carried.

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

8:00 p.m. Report of Block Island Board of Trustees

Dr. Baute recused himself as he is working as the interim Executive Director at the Block Island Medical Center.

Millie McGinnes disclosed that she is the Deputy Town Clerk and working tonight for the Council taking minutes and is also the Town Council's appointee to the Block Island Health Services (BIHS) Board of Directors.

First Warden Gaffett stated that the meeting was called to get a status report from the BIHS board regarding their plans on going forward following the departure of the executive director. She noted and reiterated throughout the meeting, that there would be no talk of personnel or job performance.

Board members Pam Hinthorn, Kay Lewis, Cindy Baute, Cookie Lenoci, Judith Cyronak, Pete Tweedy and Attorney Michael Tauber were present representing the Block Island Health Services Board of Directors. They reported the following items:

- Dr. Baute is filling the position of Executive Director on a temporary basis, for two months only, while a search for a replacement goes on. He is not drawing a salary.
- According to legal counsel, there is no conflict of interest with Cindy Baute serving on the board, as she recuses herself from any discussions/actions regarding her husband Dr. Baute.
- Dr. Baute has asked the RI Ethics Commission for a ruling regarding his position as a Council member and additionally serving as the interim Executive Director.
- Pete Tweedy is covering the financial duties as a volunteer.
- A search committee is being put together including board member Kay Lewis and community members Jack Lynch, Rob Hayden, Mark Emmanuelle, Susan Bush and Laura Risom to do recruiting and screening to fill the position of Executive Director.
- A draft job description for the position is almost finalized and the position will be advertised very soon.
- Thundermist is not going forward with the potential contractual services agreement with BIHS, as Thundermist is stretched too thin at this time. The board will continue to pursue an alliance with other mainland organizations to assist with the needed electronic medical records and bulk purchase of goods and services.
- There is a public election coming up in November in which two board seats need to be filled. The election process was discussed and interested parties were encouraged to run for office.

There was a very large crowd of concerned citizens in the audience (approximately 125). Many spoke from the audience in support of reinstating the old Executive Director. The following issues were also raised:

- The BIHS board does not have open meetings.
- BIHS financials may or may not be as weak as purported.
- The board should survey the island residents to determine what to do.
- The board may not be representing the best needs of the health center.
- The board may have lost the trust of the residents.
- A Town Council member serving as the Executive Director is a conflict of interest.

Mr. Lacoste moved for the Town Council to formally request a meeting with the Block Island Health Services Board to discuss the personnel issue, review the BIHS by-laws and have a formal interface with the Town Council. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion and it carried.

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

Ms. Gaffett thanked everyone for attending the meeting and noted that we all are working for the same goal of a strong working health center.

Ms. Gaffett moved at 9:30 p.m. to take a 5 minute recess. Mr. Torrey seconded the motion and it carried.

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

The Council reconvened at 9:36 p.m.

4. Report of the Town Manager

The Town Manager noted that she had nothing to report under the Town Manager Report.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Gaffett made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin and carried unanimously.

Millicent McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: September 4, 2012