

Minutes of a Town Council meeting held October 20th, AD 2016 in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 40 Commons, Little Compton, RI at 6:15 o'clock PM. Councilors present: Charles N. Appleton, Jr., Fred M. Bodington, III, Gary S. Mataronas, Robert L. Mushen.

Three (3) individuals were interviewed for two (2) vacancies on the Little Compton Free Public Library Board. After the candidates left the chambers the Town Councilors considered the results of the interviews.

At 6:55 PM Councilor Paul Golembeske arrived and brief recess was taken until the scheduled public hearing could be conducted at 7:00 PM.

Also present at this time: Chief A. Marion and Tom Dunn, Town Administrator. Richard S. Humphrey, Town Solicitor arrived at 7:02 PM.

Pledge to the Flag.

A Public Hearing was called to order as per section 1004 of the Little Compton Home Rule Charter proposed amendments which will be on the November 8th, 2016 Election Ballot listed as follows:

LOCAL QUESTIONS

AMENDMENT TO LITTLE COMPTON

HOME RULE CHARTER – TAX ASSESSORS

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 21, 2016)

Shall the Charter of the Town be amended by adding language to allow the Town Council at its discretion the ability by ordinance to replace the Board of Tax Assessors with a single Tax Assessor and correct the title of Tax Assessment Board of Review within said section? (Amends Section 605)

Proposed amendment: Section 605

There shall be a Board of Tax Assessors of three (3) members elected for six (6) year staggered terms, with the term of one member expiring and the election of one member at the general election in each even numbered year. The Board of Tax Assessors shall have and perform all of the duties and discharge the responsibilities of Tax Assessors as set forth in State Law. The Town Council shall serve as the Tax Assessment Board of Review unless and until provision is made for the performance of those duties by another body.

The Town Council may, by ordinance, make provision for the replacement of the Board of Tax Assessors with a single Tax Assessor employed by the Town Council from among persons having had prior professional training and/or experience in assessment, property appraisal and related matters.

AMENDMENT TO LITTLE COMPTON

HOME RULE CHARTER –

(Resolution of the Town Council adopted July 21, 2016)

Shall the Charter of the Town be amended to delete reference to the Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Committee, which no longer exists, and renumber the remaining section? (Amends Section 710 and 711)

Section 710. Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Committee. Delete in its entirety.

Section 711. Little Compton Housing Trust. Renumber as 710

Public comments received:

Larry Anderson supports both amendments proposed. He reminded those present that the proposed amendment to Section 605 has been proposed three (3) previous times, 2002, 2006 and 2014 all rejected. He believes the rejections are because the public does not understand the full proposal and have listened to the few that are opposed to such a change. The current use of a part time Tax Assessor Board is no longer wise due to the increase in technical changes in tax assessment. He believes it is in the best interest of the town to move toward a single professional assessor. He suggests the Council reach out to educate the public on the subject.

He also urges the Tax Payers Association to either support or remain neutral.

At 7:10 PM Richard Humphrey (returning at 7:15 PM) Councilor Mushen noted that he would reach out to the Tax Payers Association to review the intent behind the proposal. Councilor Mataronas noted that he has spoken to all three (3) of the current Tax Assessors and they all support the proposed amendment.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To close a public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Little Compton Home Rule Charter which will be voted by the electorate on November 8, 2016.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas) Councilor Mushen abstained from voting: To approve, as written the October 6, 2016 Town Council meeting minutes.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To place on file the Fire Department Head Report for September 2016.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Mataronas, Mushen) Councilor Golembeske abstained from voting: To appoint Kathleen Howell, term expiring Oct 15, 2019 and Ruth Gauthier, term expiring Oct 15, 2017 to the Little Compton Free Public Library.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To appoint Cynthia Gould to the Beach Commission to fill the unexpired term of Timothy Gould, said term shall expire May 15, 2017.

Motion made by Councilor Mushen, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To schedule interviews with five (5) Police applicants on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016 at 2 PM and interviews with part time fire fighters on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2016 at 3 PM both at the Public Safety Complex, 60 Simmons Rd.

The Council reviewed the submittals of Entertainment License applications in an effort to offer the applicants feedback on any items that may need clarification or submittal. Copies of the applications will be forwarded to the Zoning Official for his opinion. The following comments were made during the review:

The Barn Restaurant – There does not seem to be a number included for a maximum number of events. Ask for a number and confirm that they intend on indoor only at this time.

Crowthers Restaurant – no comments application clear.

Dionysus Acquisition LLC d/b/a Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard – two (2) applications one for lot 8-9 and one for lot 8-10. Both applications are accompanied by a request for a waiver.

- The Councilors believe they were given verbal assurances that there would not be taking on weddings in the 2017 season.**
- It was also noted that the request to waive the parking area should actually be a request for a variance to be heard by the Zoning Board of Review.**
- The number of proposed events seems to be an increase or an expansion over last seasons license**
- Still awaiting the responses from the holders of the easements on the encumbered property**

Simmons Café & Market – seems to have a significant increase in the proposed number of attendees as well as the number of events proposed. Concerns with parking, not clear with type of music and confusing references to yoga classes and wellness events? Need clarification.

StoneHouse Resorts LLC d/b/a Stone House – application submitted

does not seem to learn from the most recent past experience this past license season.

- Number of attendees is still the same**
- Tent is not addressed**
- Parking issue not addressed**
- Seems to be an intensification where a Special Use Permit would be required**

Young Family Farm – lists only one (1) event, if this is accurate they will be held to only one event.

Richard S. Humphrey recused himself from the discussion on the Young Family Farm as he is an abutter.

Discussion of the following two (2) letters is deferred until further review of the license applications:

- William R. Landry, Esq., Blish & Cavanagh LLP – comments on the Stone House Entertainment License application. Also received is a booklet created by an abutter of observations at the facility**
- Christopher A. D'Ovidio, Esq., Merolla, Accetturo, D'Ovidio & Lough – comments on the Carolyn's Sakonnet Vineyard Entertainment License application, specifically requesting the Council not act on this license until the pending zoning litigation and appeals are resolved.**

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To reach out to the Entertainment License applicants to seek further input to clarify and/or complete the submittals in order to allow a clearer review of the renewals November 17, 2016.

Larry Anderson asked how the Zoning Official would respond with his requested opinion. He was informed that the opinion would be in writing.

Mr. Landry attempted to discuss his letter submitted. Councilor Mataronas stopped his comments with a notation that the letter has been submitted and has been deferred for comment. Mr. Landry stated that he was only looking to determine if the application is complete, and if not, then how can it move forward? Councilor Mushen acknowledged more data is needed. No further comments were made.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To table until a future Council meeting discussion of a request to adopt an ordinance that creates an incentive for property owners to preserve Historical Cemeteries in town until such time as the requestor can be in attendance.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mushen, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To schedule a joint work session of the Town Council and the Planning Board for November 7, 2016 at 3:00 PM to review ordinance changes the planning board wishes the Council to consider.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To ratify the actions of the Town Council President and Town Administrator to have entered into a contract with Santa Buckley Energy of Bridgeport for the delivery of heating oil to town owned buildings as a result of a heating oil bid solicited through the Town of Tiverton School Department, said contract runs from October 15, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

At 7:35 PM the Town Council sitting as the Board of License Commissioners voted the following:

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for the renewal of Retail Beverage Licenses to be considered during a Remonstrant's Hearing on November 17, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Golembeske, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To acknowledge that the LC Community Center has received the maximum number of Class F Licenses allowable for any one license period which results in the denial of a request for a Class F one day beverage license for November 12, 2016; but to grant for the 2017 license period a Class F one day beverage license for both December 17, 2016 (Winter Concert and Dinner) and January 20, 2017 (Donor Appreciation Event), both located at the LC Community Center.

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To hold the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 4, 2016 at 5 PM in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Ben Wilkie Memorial Tree Spree.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To place the consent calendar on file as follows:

- 1. Letter of gratitude received from the James L Maher Center for the donation of a Town Basket for their fund raising event to be held this month.**
- 2. Copy of a Notice of Public Hearing received from RI Statewide**

Planning Council who has under consideration the repeal of five State Guide Plan Elements. Said hearing is Nov. 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM in Providence.

Motion made by Councilor Golembeske, receiving a second by Councilor Mataronas, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): That the bills be allowed and ordered paid as follows: \$226,457.46

National Grid - Transfer Station \$35.78

National Grid - Town Dock \$24.33

National Grid - Peckham Lot \$124.03

National Grid - 32 Commons \$21.39

National Grid - I.O.O.F. \$22.77

National Grid - Adamsville Street Lights \$17.96

National Grid - Public Safety @ Transfer Station \$277.03

National Grid - Street Lights \$13.99

National Grid - Town Hall \$231.88

Direct Energy - Lights @ Town Dock \$6.44

Direct Energy - Street Lights \$21.38

Direct Energy - Transfer Station \$24.69

Direct Energy - Public Safety Complex \$739.88

Direct Energy - 32 Commons \$9.99

Direct Energy - Public Safety @ Transfer Station \$269.36

Direct Energy - I.O.O.F. \$11.40

Direct Energy - Peckham Lot \$114.12

Direct Energy - Town Dock \$12.97
Direct Energy - Street Lights \$2.48
Direct Energy - Town Hall \$223.54
Wilbur's General Store - Maintenance Dept. \$27.68
Wilbur's General Store - Town Hall \$4.49
GoTo Commercial Cleaning Services, LLC \$866.66
Valcourt Heating - Town Hall \$90.00
Firex, Inc. - Transfer Station \$40.00
Firex, Inc. - Public Works \$45.00
Firex, Inc. - 32 Commons \$343.00
Firex, Inc. - Town Hall \$242.00
Firex Inc. - Public Safety Complex \$404.50
Thomas Wood - Police Dept. \$450.00
Sakonnet Veterinary Hospital - Police Dept. \$450.00
Cox Communications - Police Dept. \$71.99
Cox Communications - Police Dept. \$192.21
Verizon - Police Dept. \$278.35
Rob's Auto Care Inc. - Police Dept. \$85.00 \$1,527.55
Dept. of Attorney General - Drug Forfeiture \$60.00 \$60.00
Verizon - Transfer Station \$31.48
Verizon - Building Official \$59.05
Verizon - Maintenance Dept. \$30.10
Verizon - Maintenance Dept. \$34.34
Messenger Security Systems Inc. - Town Hall \$175.00
Cox Communications - Town Hall Depts. \$248.59
Matthew Bender & Co. Inc. - Town Hall \$54.66

Petro - Gasoline \$1,133.28

DaPonte's Landscaping Services - Peckham Lot Project \$31,362.95

DaPonte's Landscaping Services - Peckham Lot Project \$163,871.82

W.B.Mason - Police Dept. \$100.11

Vic's Car Wash - Police Dept. \$19.00

Ryan LeClaire - Police Dept. \$4,985.00 \$5,104.11

Richard S. Humphrey - Solicitor \$4,083.34

Richard S. Humphrey - Legal Services \$1,694.00

Fall River Modern Printing, Co - Board of Assessors \$359.00

LexisNexis - Town Hall \$155.19

EastBay Newspapers - Town Council \$283.50

EastBay Newspapers - Zoning Board \$63.00

William L. Moore - Building/Zoning Official \$2,000.00

Napa Auto Parts - Maintenance Dept. \$30.24

Rob's Auto Care Inc. - Maintenance Dept. \$658.81

Louis A. Cerbo, Ed.D. - Fire Dept. \$590.00

Cox Communications - Fire Dept. \$146.14

Griggs & Browne Co., Inc. - Fire Dept. \$50.00

Belmont Springs - Fire Dept. \$13.54 \$799.68

Steward Saint Anne's Hospital - Ambulance Reim. \$5.29

Bound Tree Medical - Ambulance Reim. \$430.00

Bound Tree Medical - Ambulance Reim. \$32.54

The Dawson Group, Inc. - Ambulance Reim. \$1,412.71

Verizon - Ambulance Reim. \$52.76

Verizon - Ambulance Reim. \$40.01

Verizon - Ambulance Reim. \$30.10

Vic's Car Wash - Ambulance Reim. \$9.50
Specialty Vehicles, Inc. - Ambulance Reim. \$118.72
Pioneer heavy Duty Parts. - Ambulance Reim. \$8.13
Rob's Auto Care, Inc. - Ambulance Reim. \$929.85
Rob's Auto Care, Inc. - Ambulance Reim. \$155.59
Countryside Signs - Ambulance Reim. \$1,095.00 \$4,320.20
Technology Reflections, Inc. Fire Alarm Acct. \$795.00 \$795.00
C.S. & M. Tele-Systems, Inc. - Town Hall \$95.00
Paychex of New York LLC - Treasurer \$399.32
W.B.Mason - Fire Dept. \$59.14 \$59.14
W.B.Mason - Town Hall/Town Admin./Probate \$107.89
Wilbur's General Store - Town Hall \$3.32
Dave Venancio - Electrical Inspections \$810.00
Electrical Wholesalers Inc.- Town Hall \$154.12
P.J. Keating Company - Highway Dept. \$422.15
Walco - Town Dock \$741.25
Seekonk Supply, Inc. \$461.64

Motion made by Councilor Mataronas, receiving a second by Councilor Bodington, voting in favor (Appleton, Bodington, Golembeske, Mataronas, Mushen): To adjourn at 7:44 PM.

Carol A Wordell, Town Clerk