

Present was James M. Tomaszewski, James C. Lehan, Robert J. Garrity, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator and Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Jim T. opened the meeting at 7 p.m. He announced that the meeting was audio and video taped. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

TAXI LICENSE – ABDUL SHUMAN

Abdul Shuman of Norwood was present. Mr. Shuman told the Board he would like to start a taxi business in Norfolk. He told the Board he used to drive in Cambridge and Boston. He said he would set up a corporation – Norfolk Taxi or Taxicab Service.

Abdul said he is familiar with our regulations. He would like to have six (6) licenses, but is starting with two (2). The Board cautioned him that he would not have a high call volume in Norfolk. Abdul said that he would start at the train station, and not set up an office right away unless the Board instructed him to.

Mr. Shuman said he has a gas station in Hanover that he has had 5 years. He then presented his CORI.

The Board told him that they want to do research. They would check insurance, bonding, police inspections, etc. They also want to check with surrounding towns and resolve what the proper rate should be. They will get back to him within two weeks.

WATER RATE HEARING

Jim Tomaszewski read the hearing notice. Jack Hathaway suggested we continue the hearing at the recommendation of Bob McGhee, DPW Director to give him an opportunity to get more information.

Jim Lehan moved to open the hearing. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**. Rob Garrity moved to continue the hearing to Tuesday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. No residents were present or voiced concerns. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Action Items

Jim Lehan moved to open the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on May 8th. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**

Casino Update

Jack said that everyone knows that Foxboro Selectmen decided not to approve a casino in Foxboro. The Board drafted and signed a letter to be sent to them that supports their decision. Jack read the letter for all to hear.

Jim L. spoke with a Selectman in Foxboro and explained some of our issues. He was very appreciative of our support and encouraged Norfolk residents to join them in voicing their concerns. Jim L. mentioned a meeting on Monday, Jan. 9th at 7 p.m. at H. Olive Day School for all to attend. Rep. Winslow and Jeff Palumbo, and Selectmen will be there.

Bob Nicodemus, EDC Chair said that they are interested enough to attend any meetings. Sometimes the media sends it out differently than personal representation. They need to reach out to the Gaming Commission.

Jim T. said he felt like it was overwhelming opposition. Lori Scholl, EDC member, said that many people wanted more information, and Lori said she enjoyed being there. She felt that that was such a poignant statement to make. She agreed with Bob that to be there and hear it firsthand was so enlightening.

Jim L. said that although they are not required by law to listen to abutting towns, we cannot be involved. There was talk that they (someone, not sure who) will be visiting each community. Rep. Winslow is trying to find out who.

Jack said that a webinar will be available to communities on Wed. Jan. 18th on casino law. Jim said there is another meeting on the MMA in which the Governor and Mayor Mennino will attend, and they will be discussing casinos.

Other Issues

Jim L. said he wanted to talk about the Affordable Housing Trust Plan, but the Board did not meet because of holidays, so he will defer to the meeting of the 17th.

Jack said the 2013 budget will be a topic on every meeting from now until May. He said he will be doing more on the budget in upcoming meetings.

Jim T. mentioned the tax rate and people misunderstanding why it has increased. He said that people feel we are spending like drunken sailors, and he said that is so far from the truth. They don't understand what is going on, and we should explain. Jack said he would like to do Conversation Corner and explain then. Jim L. said that the tax rate is the school, KP and employee benefits. Jim T. said that it's how we're spending the money.

New Business

Jack discussed the property owner for the potential 40R and the meeting that they held this morning. The consultant was present, as well. Rob will try to attend with Jack on Monday morning.

Jim L. discussed expanding the Planner for 40R. We need a concensus and put the numbers around the plan. They could help us do this and do what the community wants. They can help us.

Old Business

Jim T. is upset and angry that the GATRA rep won't come and meet with us. He said we have concerns that need to be addressed. He told Jack to give him a couple more opportunities, and then invite the press and discuss this.

Rob asked if the gas line work is done? Jack said he thinks they are finished, but will double check and let him know.

At 8:25 p.m., being no further business, Rob Garrity moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of January 3, 2012.

Robert J. Garrity, Clerk