

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

December 19, 2016
Acton Town Hall
Room 204

Present: Peter J. Berry, Janet K. Adachi, Franny Osman, Katie Green, Chingsung Chang, Town Manager Steve Ledoux, and Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Citizen's Concerns

None

Chairman's Update/ Operational Update

Mr. Berry - Expanded the GAB charge to address broader issues of environmental concerns aside from electricity. Green Acton has approached to reduce methane gas use. Regional School District has created a master plan committee regarding their capital plans and their significant infrastructure needs.

Mr. Ledoux – Last Thursday was the Acton Leadership Group meeting and not too much to report - all on hold until the recommended FY18 budget and Superintendent budget and had a recap of the tri-board meeting. Capital Improvement Planning Committee met to listen to the presentation of the school capital needs and the consultant report. Past Tuesday brought the health insurance working group with leadership of all town unions and school unions with Marie Altieri from the schools and Jody from the benefits team, along with Marianne Fleckner, Human Resources. Put this group together 4 years ago when chapter 69 became a reality and came up with some significant health insurance savings. With the potential of the "Cadillac Tax" and what could happen with the Affordable Care Act felt should talk with the unions about the options they could have like health insurance savings accounts that would have a high deductible first meeting was just education with reps from BCBS and Harvard Pilgrim.

. 4 years made changes to the plans and made some significant savings.

Public Hearings and Appointments

Solar Carport Installation Discussion at South Acton Train Station – Multiple backup materials from Historic District Commission, Green Advisory Board, South Acton Train Station Advisory Committee. Mr. Berry explained about the parking lot looking to be utilized that is owned by the MBTA and leased to the town for \$1.00 per year off of Main Street on Railroad Street, and possibly the main parking lot off of Central Street. Would like to open it up to the public before the Board has any discussion.

David Martin – SATSAC voted to recommend the Board of Selectmen to oppose the MBTA at the Railroad Street area and that the solar canopy would dominate the landscape of the area. The return on

investment would be small since it is a relatively small parking lot. It deserves further investigation.

Wouldn't oppose a solar canopy over the main parking lot off Central Street.

David Honn – Historic District Committee Chair – Main lot is a good spot – not Railroad Street. Agrees with SATSAC. Feels the Board send a clear message to MBTA and not a mixed message regarding Railroad Street.

Claire Siska 14 Stow Street – when the MBTA build the main parking lot made the bridge if a raised parking lot if the parking structure could go into the bridge to accommodate more parking – if a solar array goes in the Central Street main parking lot the town would lose the opportunity for more parking.

Ms. Adachi is inclined to the main parking lot to discourage the MBTA solar the Railroad Street parking lot. Would like to explore any further alternative energy sources for the residents in South Acton.

Ms. Osman convinced that the solar carports at Railroad and the size for that small lot at Railroad Street but would consider the main parking lot – concerned about the whole lot. Also thinking about the future with the possibilities of driverless cars within 5-20 years, and the need for all the parking being covered with solar carports. Also would like to see more comfort stations installed at the South Acton Train Station with coffee, restrooms, etc. Agrees with alternative energy source for South Acton.

Ms. Green – Railroad Street lot has been pushed down for solar projects as read from emails from Corey York. Would suggest the Town Manager have conversation with town staff to coordinate discussions with the contractor but also concerned about the buildings surrounding the train station that are historically registered.

Mr. Chang – Agrees with everyone's thoughts. If solar array is built on the train station lot (Central Street), would the town be able to capture funding from MBTA or would there be some other negotiation.

Mr. Berry – Question about who gets the electricity (from solar array) Contractor builds solar array – the town could have the credits from the MBTA site and the Railroad Street side but the energy generated goes to the utility companies – the town only gets the credits. Green Advisory Board's responsibility is to reduce carbon emission and greenhouse gas wrote a letter supporting both parking lots. The Board consensus is to not allow building on the Railroad Street. Ms. Green recommends a motion to direct the Town Manager to work with staff about further discussion about the parking lot with contractor and the MBTA about the development. Mr. Berry would like to engage our representatives as well and ask staff to put together proposals about building and array on main town parking lot and reach out to MBTA about Railroad Street lot with idea the Town doesn't want that to happen and to talk to MBTA about a potential deal that includes them in the main parking lot that offsets their loss from the Railroad lot. The Board did not feel it was necessary to have a vote rather guidance for the Town Manager.

FY 18 Budget Presentation – Mr. Ledoux presented the FY 18 budget to the Board of Selectmen . 40th budget he has worked on in his career.

Drafted but not finalized by Clerk, 2016-2017

Approved by Board of Selectmen as is,

Ms. Green – questioned about the terrain vehicle possibly being a regional vehicle that could be a joint purchase that could be used / shared with other communities along the Assabet River Rail Trail/ Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Mr. Ledoux stated he would discuss it with the Fire Chief.

Shuyu Lee – did not capture his question

Selectmen Business

West Acton Sewer Charge – Ms. Osman presented the draft charge of the West Acton Sewer Committee. Ms. Osman stated she talked with people that have worked on this committee many years ago. Ms. Green suggested to list membership as 7 full members and 2 associates instead of “representation” to give the Volunteer Coordinating Committee a clear idea of whom they should be vetting for. Ms. Osman will update the draft charge.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Osman held item 7 – stated a typo error on the date. Ms. Green moved to approve consent items 4-10, Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes 5-0

Ms. Green moved to adjourn, Ms. Osman seconded – All Ayes 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Tomyl, Recording Secretary

Franny Osman, Clerk