

Selectmen's Meeting
January 23, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held Monday, January 23, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Chairman Krieger, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Pagett, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Manz; Mr. Valente, Town Manager; Mr. Lahey, Town Counsel; and Ms. Pease, Executive Clerk were present.

Public Comments

Mr. Fedorochko presented the Selectmen with a petition asking that the Town consider not having an override to fix management problems.

Mrs. Krieger provided information on available tax deferrals and exemptions available to seniors. The information will be put on the Town webpage. Mr. Fedorochko asked that the information also be posted in areas around town (like the Library and Senior Center).

Mr. Cohen requested that the petitioners suggest what services they would be willing to lose if sufficient funds are not available, and also suggested they lobby Lexington's legislators requesting more local aid.

Selectmen Concerns and Liaison Reports

Mrs. Krieger will draft for Selectmen approval a letter of support for the Community Preservation Act Group.

Sign Bonds

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the sale of a \$11,752,685 4.25 percent Bond Anticipation Note, Series A of the town dated February 1, 2006 and payable August 25, 2006, to First Southwest Company at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$69,160.56.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the sale of a \$2,100,000 4.25 percent Bond Anticipation Note, Series B of the town dated February 1, 2006 and payable February 1, 2007, to Banc of America Securities LLC at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$19,830.

National Incident Management System Resolution

Mr. Hadley, Director of the Department of Public Works, asked the Selectmen to sign a resolution formally accepting the National Incident Management System (NIMS). NIMS provides a consistent nationwide framework for all levels of government to work together effectively and efficiently to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents of all shapes and sizes.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to sign the resolution stating that the Town of Lexington has formally adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Security in Knowledge – Be Informed, Be Prepared, Be Safe

Mr. Hadley, DPW Director and member of the Northeast Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council, presented a package of information to the Selectmen. The Northeast Homeland Security Advisory Council is concerned that citizens do not know what to do when the color-coded National Homeland Security alert level changes. To raise awareness the Council put together a public education campaign that provides information about what to do in the event of an emergency and how to be prepared. Materials will be distributed to the following locations: Town Hall, Police Station, Fire Stations, Cary Memorial Library, East Lexington Branch Library, Council on Aging, and Public Works Facility. The public education tape will be delivered to LexMedia.

Lexington Center Committee

Mr. Smith, Co-Chair of the Lexington Center Committee (LCC), presented the LCC's No. 1 priority, which is the connectivity of the private driveway between Bank of America and the 1775 Building and connecting the parking lots with the center of Town. Mr. Oldenburg reviewed renderings of what the plan would look like.

Funds will be provided by the two owners of the privately-owned land for the area between the Mass. Avenue sidewalk and the rear of the 1775 Building as well as through private fundraising. Town money would be needed for the Mass. Avenue sidewalk and the area between the Depot Square Parking Lot and the rear of the 1775 Building.

The LCC is requesting the Selectmen's support of the plan concept so they can continue to work with all parties to finalize a plan. The LCC is also looking for an additional \$18,000 appropriation from the Parking Fund in the FY2007 budget.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to support the concept of the proposed pedestrian walkway as presented.

Electric Utility Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Chernick, Chair of the Electric Utility Ad Hoc Committee, requested the Selectmen put \$150,000 into the budget for a Municipal Electric Feasibility Study. The Committee hopes two bills will be voted on this session of the General Court to allow Lexington to more easily move forward with a facility in Lexington.

Selectmen discussed putting the \$150,000 on the list for a possible override.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to support recommending \$150,000 be set aside for the Municipal Electric Feasibility Study if the two bills pass in the General Court.

Budget

Selectmen reviewed the list of recommended program restoration/improvement items. The Selectmen all support the Supportive Day Care Request for \$52,296. Selectmen are interested in the Personal Property Canvassing of commercial property because of the money it will generate. The Selectmen asked questions about the following program restoration/improvements: Vehicles, the Traffic Safety Officer, School Resource Officer, Public Health Nurse, Archives/Records Management, Storm Drains, and Restoring Library Materials.

Reviewed the revenue and reserves. Mr. Valente is recommending using \$2 million from Free Cash to help balance the budget. Board discussed whether the \$2 million should be used to help balance the budget or if the reserves should be built up. Mr. Pagett pointed out that using \$2 million in Free Cash really masks the structural deficit and means that the budget shortfalls presented on January 18 range from \$5.3 million to \$9.3 million.

Mr. Pagett is concerned with using one-time payments in Free Cash to balance the budget because it would push \$2 million in budget shortfalls into next year..

Mr. Valente feels it is important to build up reserves slowly, to have a target and implement a plan to reach that target.

No conclusions were reached tonight. Selectmen are waiting for the Selectmen's Ad Hoc Financial Policy Committee's recommendations and the Town Manager's list of prioritized items.

Mr. Valente will present a list of recommended at-risk items at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Draft Warrant

Another draft will be given to the Selectmen at the end of this week. The plan is to sign the warrant at the February 6 meeting.

Vote CPA Question

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to approve the text of the Community Preservation Act question and summary to be voted by the citizens on March 6, 2006.

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TV Shows

Mrs. Krieger has spoken with the LexMedia Executive Director regarding the Selectmen TV Shows. The shows will be done live at the studio with two Selectmen and staff or committee members depending on the topic. The Selectmen should begin shows soon and have one every two weeks. The suggested name of the show is "Lexington Selects".

Suggested show subjects include:

Snow Plowing – Krieger, Kelley, Hadley, Brooks, Ash
CPA – Cohen, Manz, Weiss
Tax Rate/Exemptions – Cohen, Kelley, Blier
Recycling – Krieger, Kelley, Beaudoin
Meet the New Town Manager/Assistant Town Manager for Finance – Cohen, Pagett,
Valente, Addelson
Archives
Police Programs
Aftermath of Keyspan Incident
Historical Society

Appointment – Electric Utility Ad Hoc Committee

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Joshua Hassol and Jon Dreyer to the Electric Utility Ad Hoc Committee.

Town Manager Appointment – Board of Health

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to appoint Dr. Judith Feldman to the Board of Health for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2009.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 10:50 p.m.

A true record, Attest:

Lynne A. Pease
Executive Clerk