

A regular meeting of the Town Council held for the Town of Scituate on Thursday, March 13, 2008 in the Town Council Chambers, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate was called to order at 7:04 PM. Council President Budway presiding.

After pledging allegiance to the flag of our country, Town Clerk Long called the roll. Roll call vote as follows:

Councilman Salisbury --present	Councilman D'Agostino -- present
Councilwoman Knowlton -- present	Councilman Winfield--present
Councilman Collins--present	Council Vice-President Farrar --absent
Council President Budway – present	

Council Vice-President Farrar arrived at 7:30PM.

First on the agenda is the swearing - in of permanent police Officer Richard Parenti.

Chief William Mack said that Patrolman Parenti has successfully completed the 15-month probationary period and is honored to swear him in as a permanent patrol officer. Chief Mack also stated that Mr. Parenti graduated *summa cum laude* from Nichols College and is a resident of Scituate.

Next on the agenda is the promotion of Donald Delaere to the rank of sergeant. Chief Mack said that he is very pleased to see him promoted. He said that Sergeant Delaere is the first officer he hired. He said that he is a great police officer who is currently working on his Masters degree.

Chief Mack administered the Oath of Office and, honoring tradition, Sgt. Dalaere's wife placed the appropriate pin on her husband's uniform.

At this time, the Council adjourned for refreshments.

The Town Council meeting reconvened at 7:25PM.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Farrar, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by roll call to open the Public Hearing.

Councilman Salisbury –aye	Councilman D'Agostino -- aye
Councilwoman Knowlton – aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Collins--aye	Council Vice-President-aye
Council President Budway – aye	

Town Clerk Long explained that these are all renewals, and all of the stipulations have remained the same as last year for the Kennel licenses.

Council President Budway explained to the audience that he will read all the names of the applicants, and then if anyone in the audience would care to speak for or against any of the licenses, they may do so then. (list herewith)

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted by consent agreement to renew the Kennel licenses with the same stipulations as last year. (list herewithin)

Council President Budway asked Judy Loven, Board of Director of the Western RI Home Repair Program, to explain the proposed activities for the CDBG grant.

Mrs. Loven said that the Town can ask for a maximum of \$250,000 for the grant. She said that housing should be top on the priority list because this is the main reason why the grant was stated in the first place. She said that the Town has asked for monies for housing rehabilitation, health care, foreclosure assistance and administration of the program among other things.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to approve the draft of the CDBG grant as submitted.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury to close the Public hearing: Roll call:

Councilman Collins-aye	Councilman Salisbury-aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	Councilman Winfield-aye
Council Vice-President Farrar -aye	Councilwoman Knowlton-aye
Council President Budway-aye	

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by consent agreement to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting of February 14, 2008.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by consent agreement to approve the minutes of the special Council meeting of February 21, 2008.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Council Vice-President Farrar and voted by consent agreement to approve the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting of February 25, 2008.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Council Vice-President Farrar and voted by consent agreement to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008 closed Town Council meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins, and voted by consent agreement to place and file all department reports.

During audience participation, Robert Mattlo, Plainfield Pike asked whose responsibility is it to dispose of dead animals that are in the road. He said that he has a dead raccoon in the road in front of his house.

Chief Mack said that the Animal Control Officer is only responsible for domesticated animals that wild animals are the responsibility of DEM.

Council President Budway asked if we differentiate between Town and State roads.

Chief Mack said that the Animal Control Officer takes care of both for domesticated animals.

Tim McCormick, Plainfield Pike said that he was glad to see that the School Committee held another informational meeting. He said that the public might not have been happy with the outcome of the meeting but at least the people are able to have their feelings heard.

Jonathan Bogart, 75 Waterman Street Providence said that he would like to ask the support of the Town Council to pass a resolution in favor of a State bill that would

fully finance political campaigns. He said that he is currently going from Council to Council asking for support for this bill. He said that the candidate would have to say that they would not accept private funds in order to qualify. He said that he feels that this will make it easier for a lot more people to be able to run for public office. Then we will have a government that is more representative of the citizens.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by consent agreement to approve the renewal of the Private Investigators license for Nancy Leathers.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to approve the appointment of Loxi Ellingwood as District 5 Moderator.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Farrar, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted on by consent agreement to re-appoint Jewell Augustine and Joyce Costakos to the Board of Canvassers, Alternates for a term expiring March 2009.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted by consent agreement to re-appoint Wayne Salisbury, David Provonsil, Richard Iverson and Chris Modisette as members of the Storm Water Committee for a term expiring March 2009.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino explained to the Council about the Preservation Easement that the RI Historical Preservation Society wants the Council to sign. He explained that this document needs to be signed by the Council in order to have the grant money awarded to the Town for the repair of the windows at Town Hall. He said that it is a lengthy document but basically says that they will have access to the building and that they be notified about any major renovations and remodeling of the building for a 10-year period. He said that this is not an uncommon request and he suggests that the Council sign it. He said that if the Town wants to do something to the building that they don't approve of the Town could always give back the grant money.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by consent agreement to allow Town Council President Budway to sign the preservation easement.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to allow Senior Services Director Loven enter into an agreement with a private company to have the senior bulletin printed at no charge to the Town.

Councilwoman Knowlton asked Mrs. Loven if a recycling calendar could be put into the bulletin.

Mrs. Loven said she doesn't see why not.

Town Treasurer Przybyla asked the Council to approve the purchase of new general accounting software for the school and municipal sides. He said that this is a perfect time to purchase it because of the new server. He said that he applied for a grant from the State to help with the purchase. He said that the price will be split between the school and us. He said that it will not exceed \$27,000 and Sunguard is current provider.

Council President Budway asked Mr. Przybyla if there is money in the budget for this purchase.

Mr. Przybyla said that there is but it would help if we got the grant.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted by consent agreement to purchase the general accounting and fixed asset software for not more than \$27,000 from the current provider, Sunguard.

Next on the agenda is an update on the Hope Mill Project. Town Solicitor D'Agostino gave the Council a copy of his findings. (copy herewithin)

Mr. D'Agostino explained to the Council that the Town's share of the Clyde Interceptor upgrade is 19.6% of the total cost. He said that this project was initially going to be paid by the Hope Mill developers and the Town was going to pay them back. Now with the uncertainty of the project the Town needs to decide what to do.

Council Vice-President Farrar asked if the Town should lien the building for the cost of the upgrades.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that with or without the Hope Mill project the Town is responsible for their share of the upgrades per the Inter Municipal Agreement. He also said that this is a good time to do the project because the road will already be open. He said that it will save us considerable amount of money and if the project is not done now, it cannot be done for another 5 years.

Councilman Salisbury asked what oversight we will have on the project.

Mr. D'Agostino said that everyone is being treated equally and that the Town is invited to all of the meetings.

John Chevalier told the Council that he was told by the State Fire Marshall that the sprinkler system in the Mill cannot be repaired. Mr. Chevalier said that currently there is a temporary fire alarm in the Mill.

General discussion followed.

Councilman Salisbury spoke on the next agenda item which is the approval of a hiring freeze. He said that he feels that it is a good idea to have the Council approve any new hires or increase in hours for any Town employee. He said that he feels this is important in light of the recent budget cuts and the outlook for future budgets. He said that the Town needs to look into ways of streamlining and reducing costs.

Council president Budway asked how would we handle the contractual minimum staffing provisions in some contracts.

Councilman Salisbury said that when it comes before the Council then they can make a decision on a case by case basis.

Chief Mack said that this would pose a problem with his department. He said that in the contract there is a minimum staffing provision and with the academies only being held twice a year this could cause a problem.

Councilman Salisbury said that the Council needs to address this problem; he said that the Town has to reduce their personnel costs if we are going to stay within the budget. He said that the Council needs to set the groundwork now. He said that the

Department Heads will have to come to the Council and state their case. Then the Council will make the final decision.

Councilman Winfield said that he feels that this is a good idea. He said that the Council can decide on a case by case basis.

Council President Budway asked if the Department Heads will have to come before the Council to state their case.

Councilman Salisbury said yes that is the way it will work.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to adopt a hiring freeze at the department level.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted by consent agreement to adopt the resolution to increase dog license fees to a maximum of twenty dollars and to forward a copy to Representative Mumford so she may introduce legislations.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to approve the amount of \$127,429.19 for early Council expenses, \$19,820.17 for regular Council expenses and \$35, 86025 for supplemental Council expenses for a total of \$183,109.61.

During Council remarks, Councilman D’Agostino wanted to wish everyone a Happy Saint Patrick’s Day!

Council Vice-President Farrar wanted to know the status of the Committee to investigate the changing of the fiscal year.

Councilman Salisbury said that the Governor and General Assembly are working on it so maybe we should wait until they make a decision.

Councilman Winfield said that he was displeased with several recent articles in the Valley Breeze written by Scituate School Teachers. He said that he finds it offensive for them to use the students as a means to a personal goal.

Councilman Salisbury said that he wants to encourage all residents to attend the Financial Town Meeting on Tuesday April 8, 2008.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by roll call to adjourn to closed session at 9:20PM pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)2 litigation-Providence Water Supply Board and to allow Town Treasurer Przybyla, Town Clerk Long, and Ted Richard attend the meeting.

Councilman Salisbury --aye

Council President Budway-aye

Councilman D’Agostino-- aye

Councilman Winfield--aye

Councilman Collins -- aye

Council Vice-President Farrar --aye

Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Motion passes Council adjourned to Closed Session at 9:20 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 9:40 PM.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted by consent agreement to ratify the motion that was made in Closed Session.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted by consent agreement to adjourn at 9:41 PM and to keep the minutes of the meeting

previously closed to the public; closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 and allow the Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long, Town Clerk

For complete discussion please refer to the audiotape.