

A regular meeting of the Town Council held for the Town of Scituate on Thursday, November 13, 2008 in the Town Council Chambers, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate was called to order at 7:36 PM. Council President Budway presiding.

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

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

The first item on the agenda is a presentation by Cheryl Langevin and the audit report that was recently finished by our auditing firm of Bacon and Company.

Mrs. Langevin discussed the audit in general and in detail when asked specific questions. She did mention that the bank statements have been reconciled, but in some cases, they were not done correctly.

Councilman Winfield asked her if she thought that the teacher's not attending department nights but being paid for it was a significant finding.

Mrs. Langevin said that problem was not in the scope of the work that her firm was hired to perform. She said that a time audit would have to be performed.

Pat Boucher, partner in Bacon and Company said that attending a department night is a supervisor responsibility not an accounting problem.

Councilman Winfield said that there are no controls to make sure the teachers attend.

Pat Boucher said that it does not fall under financial statement; it is an administrative responsibility.

Councilman Winfield said that he wants some sort of accountability and checks and balances.

Town Treasurer Przybyla said that he feels that these questions would be better asked to the School Committee. He said that this is outside of their responsibility; they have not been engaged to do an operational audit.

Mr. Przybyla said that he feels that further discussion on the audit would be better if done during a work session.

Council President Budway asked if the Council had any other questions and suggested if they did, to ask them during the work session.

Tom Galligan, 171 Pine Hill Road, asked if there are any copies of the audit the residents can have to follow along with.

Council President Budway said that he will have copies available to the public at the Town hall and also on the web site.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by roll call to open the public hearing. Town Clerk Long called the roll as follows:

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

Motion passed, public hearing open.

Councilman Winfield recused himself from the next agenda item, liquor license and victualling license renewals (copy herewithin).

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to grant the renewal of a Class BVL to Scituate Famous, Inc, to include any previous constraints on operation or previous conditions on the license be carried forward.

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

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to approve the renewal of the Class BV license to ALES, Inc. for the premises known as Gentleman Farmer Restaurant, to include any previous constraints on operation or previous conditions on the license be carried forward.

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

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to approve the renewal of the Class BV license to Bentley's Tavern, to include any previous constraints on operation or previous conditions on the license be carried forward.

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

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Salisbury, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to approve the renewal of the Class BV license to Thomas Marcello for the premises known as Corner Bistro, to include any previous constraints on operation or previous conditions on the license be carried forward.

Councilman Collins – aye    Councilman D'Agostino – aye  
Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D’Agostino and voted to approve the victualling license renewals (list here within), subject to Town taxes being paid.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilwoman Knowlton-aye Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Council Vice-President Farrar asked why the Dunkin Donuts is not on the list for a victualling license.

Town Clerk Long said that she doesn’t know why and will look into it.

Motion by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted by roll call to close the public hearing. Roll call as follows:

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed, public hearing closed.

Councilman Winfield returned to the meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D’Agostino and voted to approve the minutes of October 9, 2008 regular Council meeting.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilwoman Knowlton and voted to approve the minutes of September 11, 2008 regular Council meeting.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilwoman Knowlton and voted to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2008 special Council meeting.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to approve the minutes of September 25, 2008 closed Council meeting.

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

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilwoman Knowlton and voted to approve abatements in the amount of \$1,799.31.

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

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to approve additions in the amount of \$2,799.15.

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

Motion passed.

Under Departmental Reports, Town Clerk Long mentioned about the recent election and the high voter turnout.

Councilman Winfield wanted to thank Building Official Provonsil for his help with a citizen's complaint.

Building Official Provonsil said that the new set of stairs at the Community House are almost finished.

Town Council President Budway said that if there are any monies left from that project he feels that it should be returned to Mr. Gould immediately, since he paid for the project. He also said that he feels that the people that made this project possible should be recognized.

Council Vice-President Farrar said that he feels the Zeke Young should be recognized too because he donated some of the supplies to the project.

Mr. Provonsil also mentioned the RI DOT enhancement projects that recently started in the village of North Scituate. He said that they will be installing granite curbs, new sidewalks and period lighting.

Councilman Winfield asked Mr. Provonsil if the PWSB is going to replant the trees that they have cut down.

Mr. Provonsil said that he does not think so.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to accept all departmental reports and place on file.

Councilman Collins – aye    Councilman D'Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Under audience participation, Council President Budway asked if anyone wished to comment on any agenda item.

Barbara Stetson, Danielson Pike, wanted to mention that she really likes the senior newsletter and asked Mrs. Loven when the deadline is for submitting an article.

Mrs. Loven said that she has a few days left before the next issue goes to print.

Mrs. Stetson also said that she would like to speak on the recreation director.

Council President Budway said that item will not be discussed tonight but at the December meeting.

Mrs. Stetson asked if she can give the Council a letter with her suggestions on the subject.

Council President Budway said that would be fine.

Mary Beth Ouellette, 637 Elmdale Road, wanted to congratulate the new and returning Council members and to thank the Council members that are leaving. She said that Councilwoman Knowlton has done a good job with the recycling initiatives. She said that Councilman Salisbury has been an asset to the Town throughout the many years of service and that he will be sorely missed.

She also wanted to ask the Council if she could post in the Town hall a petition with over 1000 signatures requesting that the Ambulance Corps be put back on the 911 run card. She would like to have it in Town hall so that people can sign it. She said that the Ambulance Corps is still a viable organization in Town and really wants to be on the 911 run card. She said that they have already administrated 750 flu shots in the Town, and she is really looking for support from the Council.

Council President Budway said that he feels that posting the petition in town Hall could be construed as an unfair labor practice.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that if Council members and employees want to sign the petition in their capacity as citizens' it is fine but to post it in Town Hall could be a problem and he would not suggest it.

Kirk Rerik, 264 Main Street, asked when the closed session minutes pertaining to the PWSB are going to be released.

Council President Budway said that he is waiting to release those minutes once everything is finalized with the agreement. He said that once it is, we will cross that bridge when we get to it.

Mr. Rerik asked if the agreement has been signed.

Council President Budway said that it hasn't been finalized yet.

Town Treasurer Przybyla said that he thinks that it will be about 60 days until everything is signed on the Providence side.

Kathleen Bianci, Peeptoad Road, suggested that instead of hiring a Recreation Director, the Town should hire an independent contractor so the Town will not have to pay benefits.

Council President Budway said that the position is only part-time and does not receive benefits.

Councilman Collins recused himself from the next agenda item. (copy herewithin)

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino to award the bid for actuarial services to the low bidder Angell Pension Group for \$28,000 with the recommendation of Town Treasurer Przybyla.

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Councilman D'Agostino-aye Council President Budway – aye

Motion passes.

Councilman Collins returned.

Deputy Town Treasurer/Tax Assessor Karen Beattie said that she recommends the bid for the revaluation project to be awarded to Certified Revaluation Company because the Town has worked with them for the past valuations and that the whole project will go much smoother.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Farrar, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to award the bid to Certified Revaluation Company for a price not to exceed \$199,500.

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Councilman D'Agostino-aye Councilman Collins-aye

Council President Budway-aye

Motion passes.

Councilman Salisbury suggested that Town Treasurer Przybyla speak with the company and see if they can lower the price to \$194,900 and report back to the Council with the results.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted to appoint Chris Reynolds and Gail Chatfield to the Affordable Housing Commission.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D'Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino to approve the request for a third dog for Thomas and Lucille Benoit, 212 Old Plainfield Pike.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D'Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Farrar, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to table the discussion of the Recreation Director job description and selection process.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed.

Councilman Winfield said that he has been speaking to the Treasurer in regards to the cost of health care. He suggests that when the contracts are negotiated we should look into other companies. He said that he would like a fiscal impact statement on the savings that we can enjoy. He said that he would like this to be an item on the next work session. He also suggested that the Town look into the State bid for health care and find out how much it would cost to cancel the contract with WB Collaborative.

Councilman Salisbury suggested that once we have more information, we should schedule a meeting with all three health care companies.

Council President Budway said that the WB is doing the same thing.

Councilman Salisbury also suggested that the Town explore the possibility of medical savings plans.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to pay early bills in the amount of \$147,034.21.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to pay regular bills in the amount of \$134,752.81.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Councilman Collins and voted to pay supplemental bills in the amount of \$10,880.36. For a total amount of \$292,667.38.

Councilman Collins – aye Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed

Under Council Remarks, Councilman D’Agostino would like to thank the residents for allowing him to serve another term on the Council and thank them for the confidence they have in him.

Councilman Winfield wanted to thank the voters and said that he will work hard to keep the budget in line and preserve the elderly tax freeze.

Councilman Salisbury wanted to congratulate the candidates that won and thank all of the candidates who participated. He said that it is very hard to run for public office.

Council President Budway said that he also wants to thank the residents for allowing him to serve another 2 years. He also said that with the tight budget times, the Council will have to pare down the Installation of Officers this year. He said that last time it cost \$530. He is suggesting that the flowers be eliminated and that we cut back on the refreshments. He also suggested that the invitations be eliminated.

Town Clerk Long said that she agrees with the invitations being eliminated and that Peggy Pinkey and Gail Chatfield are working very hard to save money on the refreshments. She said that they have cut out the cheese and crackers and fruit trays because of the expense. She said that Gail Chatfield is donating the coffee for the event. She said that she is against the elimination of the flowers for the event and is suggesting the Republican and Democrat Town Committee pay for that expense.

Mary Beth Ouellette said that she would gladly donate the flowers from her shop Mother Nature’s Florist.

Councilman Collins said that he will donate \$250.00 from his business.

Councilman Winfield said that he will match the \$250.00.

Council President Budway said that it looks like the cheese and crackers are back in.

Motion made by Councilman Collins, seconded by Councilman Salisbury and voted to adjourn at 9:07 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.

Councilman Collins – aye      Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilman Winfield – aye      Council Vice President Farrar – aye

Councilman Salisbury-aye      Councilwoman Knowlton-aye

Council President Budway – aye

Motion passed

Please refer to electronic tape for complete discussion.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long, Town Clerk