

A regular meeting of the Town Council held for the Town of Scituate on Thursday, March 12, 2009 in the Town Council Chambers, 195 Danielson Pike, N. Scituate was called to order at 7:37 pm. Council President Budway presiding.

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

Councilman Hanna --present	Councilman Farrar-- present
Councilwoman Frederickson--present	Councilman Winfield--present
Council Vice President Collins-present	Council President Budway --present
Councilman D'Agostino-present	

Next on the agenda was the swearing in of Francis R. Rambone III as a probationary patrol officer by Colonel David Randall. Colonel Randall stated that Mr. Rambone is a resident of Scituate and graduated from the last Citizens Police Academy. He also mentioned that he was a Burrillville High School graduate in 2002 and then later attended the University of RI and was on the Dean's List. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Psychology in 2006. Mr. Rambone graduated #3 from the R.I. Municipal Police Training Academy. He was the 2003 Rocky Marciano Amateur Boxing Champion and the 2004 Amateur Boxing Golden Gloves Champion for Southern New England.

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

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted by a roll call to renew the Kennel Licenses (list herewithin).

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Kirk Rerick of Main St. commented that there is an indoor facility at 12 Old Scituate Avenue and you can't tell there is a kennel there.

Next on the agenda was the CDBG Grant. Judy Loven gave a brief presentation, and then introduced Jeanne Tracey-McAreavey of the Community Housing Land Trust of RI. Ms. McAreavey thanked the Council for their continued support and explained what services her organization provides. She stated that continued funding is necessary to provide these services on a statewide basis.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by a roll call to close the Public Hearing.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye

excellent candidates with extensive backgrounds, and also both have volunteered a lot of time in the Town.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman Hanna and voted by roll call to appoint the following members to the Stormwater Committee, term expiring March 2010: David Provonsil, Christopher Modisette & Dwight Farrar.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted by roll call to reappoint the following Board of Canvassers members: Jewell Augustine, Alternate – term expiring March 2010; Kerry Ferri, Alternate – term expiring March 2010; Christine Hall , Member – term expiring March 2014.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Next on the agenda under discussion and/or approval, was a report given by Affordable Housing Overview Commission Chairman Ted Richard and Vice Chair Margaux Morisseau. Mr. Richard explained that the Town of Scituate has an affordable housing plan, but we are way behind in the number of units required. The Affordable Housing Overview Commission has become active and has been looking at many aspects of affordable housing. The Committee took a tour of an elderly housing facility (The Meadows) in North Smithfield and was extremely impressed. This can be done through a non-profit organization, for age-restricted apartments, which the Town has a need for. Margaux Morisseau, Community Building Director of NeighborWorks Blackstone River Valley, invited the Town Council to tour this facility and join the seniors for lunch. Margaux stated that a project of this type would be great fit for our Town and will help our seniors stay in Scituate. Council President Budway asked Mr. Richard what kind of timeline is there for this affordable housing? Mr. Richard stated there is financing available within the next two years. Mr. Richard stated that this project would not involve asking the Town for any money, it will be a taxable entity with no great investment by the Town. Mrs. Morisseau handed out invitations to the Council for a tour/lunch of the facility.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by roll call to table Item 12.B. 2009 – 2010 Town Budget at the recommendation of Treasurer Ted Przybyla.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted by roll call to table Item 12.C. – Offer from Bernard Murray to purchase Town land, AP 48, Lots 61 & 62, at the recommendation of Building Official David Provonsil.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Next on the agenda was the Recreation Director position – job description and salary. Council Vice President Collins recused himself (recusal form attached hereto). Council President Budway suggested he work with Councilman Farrar & Councilwoman Frederickson to refine the job description and publicize this position. Councilman Farrar suggested forming an interview committee comprised of Councilman Hanna, Jean Angell and himself, and he recommended a starting salary of \$8,000 for this part time position, which the money is already budgeted for. Council President Budway asked the Council if this was an agreeable course, to refine the job description, to disseminate the job description to each of the Council members, and then have the committee go forward and implement the solicitation, conduct interviewing, and come back to the next Council meeting with a recommendation, with all the applications being available to all Council members. With the exception of Vice President Collins who recused himself, all Council members agreed.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Council Vice President Collins, and voted by roll call to accept the amended W. B. Community Contract (copy attached hereto), and authorize Council President Budway to sign it.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye	

Motion passes. Council President Budway stated that the School Department is also under the same amended plan and it was signed by Superintendent Paul Lescault.

Next on the agenda was a letter from Thomas Piette requesting payment for damages to his vehicle on February 14, 2009 on Byron Randall Road. After lengthy discussion, (refer to tape for complete discussion), motion made by Vice President

Collins, seconded by Councilwoman Frederickson and voted by roll call to deny the claim.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D’Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman D’Agostino and voted by roll call to approve the Tax Anticipation Notes Resolution in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 and to authorize Council President Budway and Town Clerk Long to sign same.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D’Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Farrar, seconded by Council Vice President Collins and voted by roll call to approve the Resolution in support of Senate Bill No. 09-S0252 and House Bill No. 09-H5572, entitled “An Act Relating to Elections – Voting Districts and Officials.”

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D’Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman D’Agostino, seconded by Council Vice President Collins and voted by roll call to approve the Resolution to authorize the issuance of the School Bond.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D’Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Council Vice President Collins and voted by roll call to pay early bills in the amount of \$111,054.52.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye	Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye	Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D’Agostino-aye	

Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Council Vice President Collins and voted by roll call to pay regular bills in the amount of \$168,836.15.

Councilman Hanna --aye	Council Vice President Collins-- aye
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Councilwoman Frederickson—aye Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye

Motion passes.

Motion made by Councilman Winfield, seconded by Council Vice President Collins and voted by roll call to pay supplemental bills in the amount of \$65,289.37.

Councilman Hanna --aye Council Vice President Collins-- aye
Councilwoman Frederickson—aye Councilman Winfield--aye
Councilman Farrar-aye Council President Budway --aye
Councilman D'Agostino-aye

Motion passes.

Under Legislative remarks, Representative Michael Marcello stated he cannot report on the Governor's Budget as of yet because it has not been sponsored by anyone and has not reached the House floor yet. Because of this, it is not a very popular bill. Mr. Marcello said he will forward a copy of a briefing he received from the House Budget Office on the stimulus package to the Town Clerk's Office, which indicates what monies cities and towns might be able to expect. He asks that this be forwarded to all Department Heads. There are some monies that are competitive grants, where money is available for the Highway and Planning Department. Mr. Marcello stated that the bill to extend the fiscal year for the Town to 15 months was heard 2 weeks ago before the House Municipal Affairs Committee and the Dept. of Administration raised an objection to the language of the bill, because it was in effect, actually going to exceed the 4.75 percent cap. The bill was held for further study and the language was changed. The bill was suppose to be heard this week, but all the computers were down, so it will be heard next week.

Mr. Marcello stated he spoke with the Auditor General who is an appointee of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly. There was some statement made by the Treasurer that he has recommended a 15-month budget. He actually said that he did not have an opinion one way or another if a 15-month budget was good or not. You get one audit after the end of 15 months. With a 3-month budget (which Mr. Marcello recommended), you would get one audit, and then another audit after a 12-month budget.

Mr. Marcello stated he introduced a bill to repeal the ability for City/Town Council Members to accrue pension credit for their service on the Town Council. The bill was heard before the House Finance Committee and was very well received, and he expects it to pass this year, so we don't get into another Iverson situation.

Mr. Marcello stated the Providence Water Supply Board introduced a bill in the General Assembly that would give their conservation officers the ability to write tickets for trespassing, fishing, drinking, etc. on their land, up to \$20 per violation, and will be heard in Municipal Court. Mr. Marcello stated he is strongly opposed to the bill at this point and will be following this closely. It might be helpful if the Council passes a resolution either for or against it.

Mr. Marcello also introduced a bill to get rid of the master lever. He hopes that if a resolution gets to this Council, they will support it.

Councilman Farrar asked Mr. Marcello if he could forward him a copy of the bill pertaining to pension credits. Mr. Farrar stated he would like for it to go on record that he has never contributed to it and never had any intentions of contributing to it and never ran for office with that in mind.

Town Treasurer Przybyla stated that he does not recall saying that Ernie Almonte supported one way or another a 15-month budget. He indicated that in passing, he advised Mr. Almonte's office that we were changing to a 15 month fiscal year. He distinctly remembers that day because Mr. Almonte was out on vacation and he referred Mr. Przybyla to 2 of his subordinates. Because of the need to change the school side, we were going to change the Town side. They referred him to Jamestown who had been the most recent Town who had changed. Mr. Przybyla stated that originally he did not support the 15-month fiscal year, but after speaking to Jamestown and hearing the success they had with it, he changed his opinion, and brought it to the Committee, and the Committed voted in support of it. Refer to tape for complete discussion.

President Budway stated that in reference to Mr. Marcello's comments regarding the legislation regarding Providence Water, he asks that Mr. Marcello be mindful of the fact that all the t's have not been crossed and i's have not been dotted with the finalization of the settlement with the City of Providence.

Under Council remarks, Councilman Farrar stated that earlier today and earlier this month, there have been a lot of conversations and discussion about the change in the telephone systems in the building. Mr. Farrar stopped by everyone's desk and asked them how they felt about the new phone system. They stated the gentlemen who came in to set it up initially really messed it up, and there are problems still being ironed out. The biggest reaction from almost everyone was they did not have a problem with the phone system, and it was great, they are not getting the calls they used to get. Mr. Farrar stated the same thing happened with his company when they went with this system. The problem is not only were they not getting the calls, but they also lost business. People get frustrated with it and they just don't bother. Mr. Farrar stated that he remembers when we purchased this phone system, it was made clear that it did have this option, but this Council said they did not ever want to see it go to that option, and he is disappointed that it happened the way it did. The way he found out about it is he read it in the Observer. Mr. Farrar stated he feels it should have come back to the Council. This was a major change to the way that the government is presented to this Town, and it needs to be monitored. If it needs to be modified, the Council should. Refer to tape for complete discussion.

Council President Budway stated there was a very nice article in this week's Valley Breeze Observer regarding Dr. Phillipelli, our Middle School Principal.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to adjourn at 8:45 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 Deputy Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting.

Councilman Hanna --aye

Council Vice-President Collins-- aye

Councilwoman Frederickson—aye

Councilman Winfield--aye

Councilman Farrar-aye

Council President Budway --aye

Councilman D'Agostino-aye

Motion passes.

Attest:

Gail Chatfield, Deputy Town Clerk

For complete discussion please refer to the audio tape.