

A special meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday March 3, 2010 in the North Scituate Community House and was called to order at 7:30 PM. Council President Budway presiding.

After pledging allegiance to the flag of our country, Town Clerk Long called the roll:

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

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted to open the public hearing.

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

Motion passes.

Council President Budway addressed the audience regarding how the meeting will be conducted and the issues before them this evening. He said that this subject was introduced during one of the budget sessions. The Town currently budgets \$82,500 for streetlights. He said that this budget year is very difficult because of the reduction in State Aid. He said that if this proposal passes, the Town will save about \$30,000 this fiscal year. He informed the audience that the Financial Town Meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2010 at 8PM at the High School. He said that the Council and Budget Committee asked Chief David Randall to conduct a survey on what lights can be shut off without endangering public safety.

Chief Randall said that the police force conducted a survey in January over a three night period to determine what lights will be left on. He said that they paid special attention to busy intersections, crosswalks, town building, schools and businesses. He said that there are a total of 840 street lights on Town roads and this survey recommended that 364 to remain activated. He said that the survey was reviewed by the Traffic Safety Committee and they recommended that an additional 20 lights to remain activated. He said that he reviewed the findings of the survey with Dale Langlas, David Provonsil and Richard Tucker.

Council President Budway said that the Town has had a moratorium on installing new street lights for the last 15 years. He said that all of the new development in Town since 1995 has not had street lights installed, and there have been no major problems. He said that the Council is looking at all town expenditures to try to save money.

Bill Brown, 210 Westcott Road, stated that he feels that it is a great deal and that most of the lights on his road don't work at this time anyhow.

Barbara Stetson, 190 Danielson Pike, a member of the North Scituate Village Overlay Commission, asked if this is going to effect the new period lighting in the village, and asked why both the new and the old lights have to be on at the same time.

Council President Budway said that he agrees with her and that Mr. Provonsil has been working on a plan to have the State shut off the old lights in the village.

Town Treasurer Przybyla said that he would like to thank Mr. Bobby Napier, Street Light Coordinator, for all of his hard work and all of the meetings that he sat through trying to convince us to do this years ago.

Tim O'Grady, 432 Field Hill Road, asked if the lights at the Clayville school parking lot could be put on a switch so that they don't have to be on all of the time. He suggested that if a switch was installed in the school they could turn them off and on as they wished.

Mike D'Amico, 308 Quaker Lane, said that the street light budget is such a small part of the total budget is it worth it to compromise public safety?

Council President Budwy said that Foster has no street lights and all of the new developments in the Town have no street lights and there haven't been any major problems. He said that he agrees that it is a small amount of the total, but we have to do something to help with the lost revenue. He said that the Town has asked its employees for a pay freeze for the last two years and had to lay off employees to save money. He said that this will not solve all of our problems but it will help. He said that after this meeting the budget committee is meeting to finalize the budget. He said that the reason the Council is holding this special meeting is to let people know what the Council is considering to do, they feel that it is very important to let the public know.

Richard Kells, Mary Hopkins Road, said that he feels that it is a good idea but asked if there is a problem can the lights be turned back on.

Council President Budway said that the Town Council will always listen to the people and try to anticipate any problems.

Bobby Napier, Polebridge Road, said what the Town is doing is not a unique situation; he said that many towns in Massachusetts have been shutting off the street lights for years. He said that with energy costs increases it is a prudent decision to shut off the street lights. He said that when you cross over the boarder into Massachusetts you can actually see the difference. He said that the State is spending millions of dollars in unnecessary lighting. He said that the state of Massachusetts uses reflectors lights to mark the lanes of travel on their road. He said that this works well for them.

Council President Budway said that he is going to suggest that we draft a resolution for the State to conduct a survey to see what lights on State roads can be eliminated and how much that will save the State and to have Bobby Napier review the resolution.

Bill Brown, Westcott Road, suggested that we use street signs with reflective backing.

Motion made by Council Vice-President Collins, seconded by Councilman Winfield and voted to accept the recommendation to shut off selected street lights.

Council Vice President Collins – aye

Councilman D’Agostino – aye

Councilwoman Frederickson – aye

Councilman Farrar – aye

Council President Budway – aye

Councilman Hanna-aye

Councilman Winfield-aye

Motion passes.

Next on the agenda is the Rambone solid waste contract. Town Solicitor D’Agostino said that the memorandum of agreement covers mostly everything but the length of the contract. He said that the original contract was for three years with a provision to renew for up to an additional three years. He said that Mr. Rambone has agreed to no increase for the first year and then for the increase to by the consumer price index (CPI).

Councilman Farrar said that he eels that the Council should renew it for the full three years because then the Council would know how much to budget. He asked Dale Langlais and Ted Przybyla what they thought of the proposed contract.

Director of Public Works, Dale Langlais, said that he feels that it is a good deal and would like to see it extended for three years because the Rambone’s are so easy to work with and that they have been very good to us.

Town Treasurer Przybyla said that he feels that this is a good financial decision and agrees with Mr. Langlais that the Rambone's have been a pleasure to work with.

Councilman Winfield said that he has a philosophical problem with not going out to bid for the contract.

Town Treasurer Przybyla said that the original contract was bid out, three years ago with a provision to extend the contract for up to three additional years.

Councilman Hanna asked if we had contacted the Town of Foster about what they are going to do.

Council Vice-President Collins said that a previous company went bankrupt and it was Rambone's that bailed us out.

Councilman Hanna asked if we are waiving any other parts of the original contract.

Town Solicitor D'Agostino said that he thinks the only thing that is different is the part about the age of the vehicles.

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Councilwoman Frederickson to extend the contract for one year with an additional two year extension at our option.

General discussion followed.

Council President Budway said that there are two things that can be done at this time, renew for one year with a two year option or just renew for the full three years.

Councilman Farrar said that he recommends that we extend it for the full three years because of the recommendations of the Director of Public Works and the Town Treasurer.

Councilman D'Agostino withdraws his motion and Councilwoman Frederickson withdraws her second.

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Council Vice-President Collins to ratify the contract Rambone for a term of three years.

Council Vice President Collins – aye

Councilman D'Agostino – aye

Councilwoman Frederickson – nay

Councilman Farrar – aye

Council President Budway – aye

Councilman Hanna-aye

Councilman Winfield-nay

Motion passes with five affirmative and two negative votes.

Chief Randall explained about the two grants that he asking for the Council's permission to submit. He said that one is linked to the stimulus package and the other Byrne/Jag grant. He said that with these grants he will update the cell block and the dispatch area.

Councilman Farrar asked if there are any matching funds required for these grants.

Chief Randall said no matching funds from the Town are required. He said that he has already been approved for these grants but needs Council's approval to accept them

Motion made by Councilman D'Agostino, seconded by Council Vice-President Collins and voted to approve both the Byrne/Jag and ARRA grants.

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

Councilwoman Frederickson – aye Councilman Farrar – aye

Council President Budway – aye Councilman Hanna-aye

Councilman Winfield-aye

Motion carries.

During Legislative remarks, Representative Michael Marcello said that he is working on getting a grant for a new senior van. He said that at this time it looks like the Town will get the 3rd and 4th quarter motor vehicle tax revenue from the State, but doesn't know what will happen next fiscal year.

Town Treasurer Przybyla asked him how the budget looks for next year and how are the state finances.

Representative Marcello said that it doesn't look good.

Motion made by Council Vice President Collins, seconded by Councilman D'Agostino and voted to adjourn at 8:29 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 to allow the Town Clerk 14 days to prepare the minutes of the meeting.

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

Councilwoman Frederickson – aye Councilman Farrar – aye

Council President Budway – aye Councilman Hanna-aye

Councilman Winfield-aye

Motion passes.

For complete discussions, refer to audiotape.

Attest:

Margaret M. Long

Town Clerk