

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the twentieth day of April A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Thomas Buck at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI.

PRESENT: Thomas Buck, Sylvia Thompson, Beverly Kenney, Barbara Capalbo, William Felkner; Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley; Town Manager William DiLibero; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

The meeting opened with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER R.I.G.L. 42-45-5 (A) 2 – LITIGATION; 42-45-5(A) 1 – PERSONNEL, JOB PERFORMANCE TOWN MANAGER AND CHIEF OF POLICE.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

HEARINGS

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Special Event License filed by Turning Pointe Therapeutic Riding for an Indoor Bazaar scheduled for May 31, 2009 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM to be held at Turning Pointe Therapeutic Riding located at 40 Collins Road, Ashaway, RI and identified as Assessor's Plat 5, Lot 71. There was no one present representing the applicant in this matter. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO CONTINUE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FILED BY TURNING POINTE THERAPEUTIC RIDING TO THE MAY 5, 2009 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Town Clerk will notify the applicant of the continuance.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ADJOURN AS A LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

2009 CDBG HEARING

The Council opened a Public hearing on the 2009 Community Development Block Grant application. Present for this matter: Town Planner James Lamphere; CDBG Coordinator Geoffrey Marchant; Affordable Housing Consultant Frank Spinella.

This year's application includes \$121,500 for Hope Valley Revitalization to support ongoing revitalization of Hope Valley through a series of inter-related activities designed to assure that the village remains a viable economic entity and

a suitable place to live and raise a family and includes \$75,000 for Hope Valley Housing Rehabilitation for low to no interest loans for the repair of housing owned and or occupied by low-moderate income households; \$20,000 for Hope Valley Streetscape for pedestrian enhancements to Depot Square to ease access to the park to include signage and crosswalks; \$6,500 for Hope Valley Water hook-ups for grants to connections to the public water line for micro-enterprises and low-moderate income households; \$20,000 for Hope Valley Revitalization Management for ongoing support to the consortium budget to manage construction of Depot Square Park and related activities, development of new activities and funding applications. Also included in the application: \$23,500 for Town Hall ADA Improvements to install a handicap ramp and parking improvements at Town Hall which are necessary due to the unexpected underlying structural problems encountered during the Town Hall renovation; \$85,000 for Crandall House Repairs to replace porch beams, and sand and paint porch and to create handicap parking near Crandall House; \$100,000 for the Rockville Mill Conversion to fund architectural and engineering work needed to develop construction grade plans and specifications that will serve to help convert this historic property to affordable housing; \$32,500 for Housing Rehabilitation Operating Costs of which \$7,500 are operating costs, are being requested to continue the housing rehabilitation activity operated by the Community Development Consortium via low or no interest loans for the repair of housing owned and/or occupied by low and moderate income households and operating funds for preparation of bid documents, lead paint inspections, etc.; \$8,000 for Bradford Jonnycake Center to support this agency that provides assistance to families in emergency need including fuel, rent, utility and similar critical situations; the WARM Shelter for two activities: \$8,000 to support the cost of operating the Jobs Readiness Site, which is designed to prepare shelter clients for employment leading to self-sufficiency and \$4,000 for architectural services needed to renovate the existing shelter to code after it moves its kitchen and dining facilities to the building next door; \$3,000 to Housing Information Program (HIP) to support the cost of participation in the area-wide fair housing information program, which is intended to promote fair housing awareness. The program is

operated by the Narragansett Housing Authority and is carried out in local schools, the activity qualifies as the Towns required fair housing activity mandated by federal regulation; \$2,000 for the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County for safety improvements and environmentally responsible renovations to their residential facility that includes their Safe Home and Transitional Housing Programs, specifically, funds will be used to convert from oil to gas heating, install central air conditioning and to purchase new kitchen appliances; \$2,500 to Washington County Community Development Corporation to provide operating support for this regional non-profit Community Development Corporation; \$12,000 for Program Administration to support the cost of managing the CDBG program, funds are used for consortium management, contract administration, reporting, fund management, environmental reviews, citizens participation and application preparation, for a total request of \$400,000.00.

In addition the Town will submit a list of activities to be considered under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) that includes and additional \$210,000 for additional improvements to the Crandall House and any activities applied for above that were unable to be funded in the 2009 grant application.

The Council held discussion on the ranking of requests. Councilor Thompson noted the Planner had provided a review of the application. Information on the Rockville Mill was handed out by the Town Manager for Mr. Marchant with ledgers of expenditures to date on this project dating back a number of years reflecting a \$40,000.00 balance. Mr. Marchant explained that over the course of time the project had involved the architectural and financial feasibility studies, a technical assistance grant from the State of Rhode Island, the nomination of the property as a listing on the National Register of Historic Places; the necessity of a community water system involving the RI Department of Health, the RI Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Wetlands Division and RIDEM ISDS Division, for the septic, and the creation of a storm water collection system, an agreeable solution to all parties involved, a process that took four months instead of four weeks because of the back and forth between the various

parties. He stated the next hurdle was related to the second payment on the Rhode Island Historic Tax Credits, critical to the project. He noted the State of Rhode Island had restructured the Historic Tax Credit program requirements so that it was necessary to buy into the program. The first installment had already been paid approximately one year ago by way of an amendment to the CDBG budget to pay the first installment of \$61,000.00 and now the second payment of \$72,000.00 was due in May. He reported there was an interested party currently in negotiations willing to invest in the tax credits worth about \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million dollars. He stated the value could go up but that both of the tax credit payments were refundable if the project failed, then both payments would come back to the Town as program income. He felt that having passed the permitting process with DOH and DEM they were in good shape to move forward.

Mr. Spinella stated the project had been placed on the register of historic places; and the project was eligible for the State Historic Tax Credit; had one million dollars in subsidy that the State would release once financing was in place; they had received an additional \$400,000.00 capital grant and a \$600,000.00 operating subsidy in home funds through a federal program administered through RI Housing. Construction drawing was 50% complete and engineering was 80% complete. He stated there had been an unprecedented meeting between the RIDOH and RIDEM that led to them all talking and working together and the project was further along than ever. He stated the project could be in the construction phase before winter if the funds were granted. Councilor Thompson questioned who was the Rockville Mill Complex owner and was informed it was a private limited liability company owned by Marek Zamojsky, a jeweler and lone member of the LLC, because this was an affordable housing project it would qualify for a thirty-year affordable restriction. Councilor Thompson questioned who decided on the thirty-years as she preferred that it be longer. Mr. Marchant referenced state law and Mr. Spinella added the restriction could start at thirty years. Councilor Capalbo felt it should stay at thirty years and expressed concern that it was a private entity. She felt the project had been drawn out for too long a time and felt enough public money had been spent on the project already. She

questioned where the money was that the owner was putting into the project. Mr. Spinella stated no money was awarded for the project in 2008. He added there was to be four or five businesses to be located in the mill, plus the owner would be on the hook for over one million dollars. Mr. Spinella did not feel the owner was interested in making a profit, only preserving the mill. Councilor Felkner questioned how much affordable housing in Town was occupied, if there was a need for affordable housing. Mr. Spinella stated there was an incredible need for low income family units and these were affordable rate rental units that would have a \$350.00 to \$450.00 monthly rent for a three bedroom unit. Councilor Capalbo stated she thought the units were for artists. Mr. Marchant responded for artists with families. Councilor Thompson felt there had been good comments made and that she too was irritated the project had not moved forward more quickly. She stated this project would benefit low income renters, but she would prefer to see a 99-year affordable restriction. She stated the mill building would be saved and would not fall into the same state of disrepair as the Potter Hill Mill. She felt the Council should support the project and it would get done. Councilor Capalbo stated she would prefer to use the funds elsewhere suggesting the Jonnycake Center, WARM Shelter, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Hope Valley Housing Rehabilitation. Councilor Thompson suggested more for Hope Valley Housing Rehabilitation. Mr. Marchant stated there was no market for this, the demand was not there. He noted there was one individual who had a proposal that would use rehab funds but that it was not set in stone and may not happen. As far as Domestic Violence Resource Center, \$2,000 was the amount they had requested for building improvements and representatives from the WARM Shelter and Jonnycake Center were present to speak. He noted they were funded at the level they had requested.

Melinda, representing the WARM Shelter, reported the funding requested would help fund the new kitchen that was being moved to an adjacent building that they were partnering with Johnson & Wales.

Lorinda McFadyen, present representing the Jonnycake Center, stated they had asked for more funding this year due to the upturn in activity, they were now serving three meals per day. She stated Hopkinton's Public Welfare Director had been staying involved as well. She stated the economy was hurting everyone. She stated they would appreciate any additional amount.

The Council brought the amount for the Jonnycake Center up to \$8,000, reducing the Rockville Mill Conversion by that amount to \$98,000.00. The Council moved the Domestic Violence Resource Center up to a #9 ranking behind Housing Rehabilitation funding at the \$2,000 level requested.

Councilor Kenney noted the application was for \$400,000, in past years they had only received \$200,000. She questioned the chances of receiving \$400,000.00.

Mr. Marchant responded slim to none, but it would depend upon what applications came in.

Councilor Capalbo stated she would like to see the Rockville Mill placed at the bottom of the rankings. Council President Buck stated he would like to see the project finished. Councilor Felkner questioned what the \$60,000 in funding had provided so far. Mr. Marchant responded it had provided the tax credits, State and Federal historic recognition and there was a good potential buyer interested in purchasing the credits. He went on to list the drilling of two wells, clearing and a leveling of a road to drill the well, water quality testing, wetlands permit, drainage design for the well, mechanical and engineering plans, legal fees, bidding documents, etc. He stated if they lost the tax credits, you go home and lose the money into the project. Mr. Spinella explained that when selling the tax credit, it meant that an investor would come in at the end of construction and would provide a bridge loan for the amount of equity in the building. He added that only a RI investor could benefit on a RI tax credit and stated there was a potential buyer for both the Federal and State credits.

The Town Council ranked the requests as follows:

#1 Hope Valley Housing Rehabilitation	\$75,000
#2 Hope Valley Streetscapes	\$20,000
#3 Hope Valley Water Hook Ups	\$6,500
#4 Hope Valley Revitalization Management	\$20,000
#5 Town Hall ADA Improvements	\$23,500
#6 Crandall House Repairs	\$85,000
#7 Rockville Mill Conversion	\$98,000
#8 Housing Rehabilitation	\$32,500
#9 Domestic Violence Resource Center	\$2,000
#10 Bradford Jonnycake Center	\$8,000
#11 WARM Shelter Renovations	\$4,000
#12 Housing Information Program	\$3,000
#13 Washington County CDC	\$2,500

The application includes \$12,000 for local administration. No ranking of this amount was required. There were no objectors present. Patricia Fontes of Lawton Foster Road suggested next year, the public be provided with more information.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO ADOPT THE AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE AMENDED RANKINGS AND AMENDED REQUEST AMOUNTS.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo

OPPOSED: Felkner

SO VOTED

The authorizing resolution is as follows:

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNING BODY

WHEREAS, funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island had authorized the Director of said department to disburse such funds; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the citizens of the Town of Hopkinton that application be made to undertake a local Community Development Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON: That the filing of this application for the amount of \$400,000.00 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized that Thomas Buck, Town Council President, is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide and additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island and to otherwise act as the Representative of the Town of Hopkinton in all matters relating to this application and any ward which may be based upon this application.

CONSENT AGENDA

The March 16, 2009 Town Council Meeting Minutes and the setting of a Special Town Council Meeting were removed from the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR KENNEY TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2009; Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2009; Accept the transcript of the March 23, 2009 hearing regarding Gordon Greene Post No. 27 as the record of the meeting; Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2009. Accept the Following reports: Town Clerk, Tax Collector, which includes adjustments, Tax Assessor, which includes abatements & supplements.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Thompson noted on page three of the March 16, 2009 Town Council Minutes, the first sentence did not read clearly. The Town Clerk suggested wording as follows: "Councilor Kenney explained each department's line items would stay at the current rate and within the department, the money could be moved around in the line items per each department".

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR TO APPROVE THE MARCH 16, 2009 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, AS AMENDED.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A Special Town Council Meeting was needed to adopt the proposed FY 09/10 budget that would be submitted to the taxpayers for consideration during the June 9, 2009 Budget Referendum. The meeting would have to be scheduled after the May 5, 2009 Financial Town Assembly and before May 13, 2009 in accordance with the Town Charter requirements. The Council selected May 11, 2009.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FELKNER TO SET MAY 11, 2009 AS A SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. TO ADOPT THE FY 09/10 BUDGET.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

Scott Bill Hirst of Maple Court requested the Council adjourn their meeting in memory of the late Eugene O. Wright who served on the Chariho School Committee and the Hopkinton School Committee; Mr. Hirst noted the Tri Town Council would be meeting in Hopkinton this week and suggested a management study be pursued through the Tri Town Council.

TOWN SOLICITOR REPORT

There was no report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Buck reported the Congress of Councils was scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 5:30 PM and that he, Councilor Capalbo and the Town Manager were planning on attending.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager William DiLibero reported he had been discussing the police contract proposal to Daniel Kinder, Esq. for study and recommendation; that he and Carol Baker had spoken about the candidates for the GIS/IT position and that the top three candidates had withdrawn so they would be reviewing the remaining candidate's applications; reported he was finishing up the electrical, heating and finances of the Town Hall repairs and finalizing the bills; was reviewing the proposed budget and new proposals for school funding with the Finance Director; that the Finance Director had been at a meeting this afternoon and apparently the Town would be required to pay the pension allowance to Chariho which would be in accordance with a regulatory requirement relating to the federal stimulus funds. Council President Buck, Councilor Felkner and Councilor Thompson asked for an explanation. Mr. DiLibero explained we would have to pay Chariho for pensions then they would reimburse the Town. He stated \$459,791.00 was the total amount that would be reimbursed in two payments, at specific times: April 30 and May 28, 2009, within the same month, because the federal stimulus money had a lag time. The State Department of Education came out with the figures a couple weeks ago on what the State Aid to Schools allocation was going to be, comprised of three parts: permanent school aid, pension aid and federal stimulus money totaling approximately \$860,000.00 for Hopkinton and Richmond as well. Of that amount, \$98,000.00 was permanent school aid, which we would not be getting but that was alright because the Town had not budgeted for it. The other two amounts was pension money that is distributed April and May \$459,791.00 which gets reimbursed by Chariho directly back to the Town. Councilor Thompson questioned the procedure for Chariho to receive the money and whether it would be paid out one way or another. Mr. DiLibero responded the State was looking at pension reform and if there was pension reform that money would not have to be paid out. As far as whether they would receive it one way or another, Mr. DiLibero noted not necessarily, there were a couple of things, if the pension money was needed, they would get it, but the Federal Government had to approve the use of the stimulus money for that portion of the state aid and if approved, then application had to be made apply through a grant application under certain line items. The one issue was that Chariho had significant amounts in the line items

that met the requirement, so that was the only unknown. He reported that right now, Brian Stanley and the three finance officers from the Towns were meeting on a weekly basis on this matter. Councilor Capalbo questioned if the Town would be required to take out tax anticipation notes. Mr. DiLibero noted that was a concern of his as well, whether we would have the money for it, but because was a collection period, the town should have the money. Councilor Capalbo, asked if the other towns were considering this an acceptable approach now in regards to changing the time frame of the Chariho payment. Mr. DiLibero responded that it had not been fully discussed, but it was not a concern for Hopkinton.

Mr. DiLibero reported he had finalized the newsletter and was expecting proof sheets this week; in regards to the website, he reported he had come up with a system to convert the DVD's to cable. Mr. DiLibero noted he had received a letter and spreadsheet on affordable housing percentages, and the Town was listed at 6.97% affordable and was in good shape compared to other small communities. Councilor Thompson suggested an option was to have the Town Sergeant drop of the DVD of Council Meetings to the cable company. She had offered. Council President Buck asked Mr. DiLibero for a final breakdown of costs for the Town Hall Meeting Room repairs.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWN BILLS

There were three additions to the bill list: A voucher in the amount of \$1,100.96 to Council 94 for dues, submitted by the Finance Director; vouchers in the amount of \$550.00 for poll worker payroll and \$88.24 for food for the poll workers for the Chariho Budget Referendum, submitted by the Town Clerk. She reported these costs were reimbursable by the Chariho Regional School District. Councilor Capalbo questioned the mileage reimbursement on page five to Mary Lynn Caswell, who she was. Mr. DiLibero responded she was the Deputy Tax Collector with reimbursement for mileage related to bank runs. Council President Buck stated the Car Quest Auto Parts contained a typographical error that included litigation related to Saugatucket Springs. The finance office will make the

correction. Council President Buck questioned item two on page four for floodlights and stated he thought the Town was looking at reducing costs and noted there were a number of public works vouchers included in the bill list. He suggested the Director try to reduce those numbers and consider ways to slow down spending and if purchases could be put off it would be preferable.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FELKNER TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO PAY THE TOWN BILLS WITH THE ADDITION OF \$1,100.96, \$550.00, \$88.24 AND NO DELETIONS.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

INTERVIEWS – APPOINTMENTS – RESIGNATIONS

Historic District Commission

A motion was made by Councilor Capalbo and seconded by Councilor Felkner to appoint Patricia Fontes to the Historic District Commission which led to discussion: Councilor Capalbo felt Ms. Fontes would be a good addition to the commission, she had a lot of intensity, there was a lot of work to do in the historic district and people on the commission were anxious to work with her. Discussion ended and the Council proceeded to vote as follows:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR FELKNER TO APPOINT PATRICIA FONTES TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: Thompson

ABSTAIN: Kenney

MOTION CARRIED

HOPKINTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING HOUSE DONATION

Councilor Thompson referred to how the Hopkinton Historical Association had generously provided the use of the Historic Meeting House to the Town and its

various boards and commissions during the repair of the Town Hall. She felt it would be appropriate to donate some funding to the association to reimburse them the expense of their heating bills or towards their utility costs for the Historic Meeting House. Councilor Capalbo noted how gracious the association had been to the Town. Councilor Kenney questioned if there was enough funding in the Council Contingency line item. Agnes Hall from the Finance Office stated she felt there was but would check the level in the line item.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR KENNEY TO APPROPRIATE \$500.00 FROM COUNCIL CONTINGENCY LINE ITEM #5065-001 AS A DONATION TO THE HOPKINTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION TO REIMBURSE THEM THE COSTS FOR THE USE OF THE SPACE BY THE TOWN.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Kenney stated she misses seeing the monthly report from the finance office that showed the balances in every account. Ms. Hall stated she would bring that to the Finance Director's attention.

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE GARDEN

This matter was before the Town Council for authorization to establish a community vegetable garden at the Crandall House Recreational facilities. Recreation Director Mary Sawyer and Master Gardener Prudence Patnoad were present. Mrs. Sawyer had provided written correspondence about the program. She explained that Mrs. Patnoad is an Ashaway resident and Master Gardener, that the University of Rhode Island Master Gardener's Harvest from the Heart Garden Project was a program that establishes community vegetable garden in different regions in Rhode Island, with the harvest to be donated to local food banks or similar agencies. She stated there was no community garden this part of the State and felt Hopkinton would be a good place for the garden. She reported that because the project would be on the fast track, a quick walk around the field had been done and identified approximately 2300 square feet of land could be

offered for the project. Councilor Felkner commented on the wet condition of some areas on the field. Mrs. Sawyer agreed that there were some wet areas, but the site they were targeting near the old tennis court could be a suitable area. She stated they needed Town permission before proceeding further. Mrs. Patnoad distributed some information about the program. That each garden would have a master gardener leader, the garden would serve as a training site for future master gardeners and may include teacher led classroom groups with children involvement. She stated the master gardeners would be mentoring and training adult volunteers and working with children in an educational aspect and the RICAN organization in Charlestown would be willing to take the produce. Councilor Thompson suggested there be some coordination with Public Welfare Director Marjorie Rekowski so the produce got to area families. Mrs. Patnoad noted the master gardener program was starting this project as a regional effort with the ultimate goal of having one community garden in every town. Councilor Thompson questioned why the Charlestown RICAN agency was selected as the recipient organization. Mrs. Patnoad responded the reason she called them was because she aware that they would take fresh produce. Councilor Thompson stated she hoped that other agencies like the Jonnycake Center and the WARM Shelter would receive the vegetables so that it got to people that needed it. Councilor Capalbo supported bringing Mrs. Rekowski in on the project as well. Mrs. Sawyer noted it did state in the mission statement that the vegetables produced could go to the RI Food bank and other agencies. Mrs. Patnoad went on to explain that initially a small group of people were involved with the project, but a very large group was presently involved. Councilor Felkner questioned if there would be any costs related to the garden in the future. Mrs. Patnoad stated URI provided initial costs for loom, tools and prep the garden space, but any donations by volunteers to till soil or donate loom, would be gladly accepted. Councilor Felkner questioned what other costs could be associated with this, referring to the program intention to be independent of URI after three years and expressed skepticism that they would come to the Town looking for money. Mrs. Sawyer stated the hope is to get many involved so that it becomes sustainable, would serve as a training site for master gardeners and could involve the seniors

and kids at camp in the project, but if in three or four years no one was around to continue the project the area could be re-seeded for grass. Councilor Capalbo stated the garden was good idea but posed a number of questions involving logistics, the water table, access to water, how the sod would be turned over, how it would be built, how it would be fenced, as it was a very busy place. She questioned how it would be accomplished so it was safe and enclosed with no insurance issues. She asked if they would come back with the fencing ideas, a planting plan, how they would make sure it stays healthy and well and was not an eyesore and so there were no tomato throwing incidents. In regards to which food pantry, she stated she preferred local organizations be used. Mrs. Patnod responded that once permission was received to move forward the URI Master Gardeners Association would provide an initial one thousand dollars in seed money. She stated the garden has to be fenced in because of deer and animals, but they would not have any control over vandalism. She agreed that it was a big task and an endeavor but the Master Gardeners from the region will be involved. Mr. DiLibero reported he had spoken to the Town's insurer, The Trust about the volunteers and this would be no different than other volunteers, a background check (BCI) clearance through the Attorney General's office, and a sign off waiver form which the Solicitor would review. Mrs. Sawyer stated she had liability forms as well. Councilor Capalbo asked that they come back in three or four weeks to provide an update and more information. Council President Buck reported there used to be a community garden on Power Plant Road near Garrity Lighting and felt it was a great idea. Councilor Felkner questioned if Mrs. Sawyer had spoken with Jack Syren, the neighbor. Mrs. Sawyer stated she had not gotten over there yet, but felt he may like the idea, but stated she would speak to him. Councilor Thompson noted to make sure to avoid the road drainage from Route 3/Main Street.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR KENNEY TO GRANT THE REQUEST OF THE RECREATION DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT CRANDALL FIELD BY THE URI MASTER

GARDINER ASSOCIATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOWN SOLICITOR'S REVIEW AND APPROVAL, TO BE MONITORED BY THE TOWN MANAGER.

IN FAVOR: Buck, Thompson, Kenney, Capalbo, Felkner

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Mrs. Sawyer noted she hoped to have a kick-off Memorial Day weekend but was flexible. The Town Clerk questioned who should be contacted in regards to volunteers and whether they would welcome the involvement of the boy scouts.

Budget Status

This was done under Town Manager's report.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilor Felkner commented on the correspondences between Mr. Ward and Mr. Lewis and was wondering if there was an avenue to discuss the issue.

Councilor Thompson noted the Council would have to be careful about that.

Council President Buck suggested he contact the Solicitor on this matter for guidance. Councilor Capalbo noted she would be interested in a follow up also.

Town Manager William DiLibero noted RI Department of Transportation meeting with Michael Lewis on April 30, 2009 had been rescheduled to May 7, 2009. He added that on April 22, 2009 was the date scheduled to do test with the One Call Now Notification System. He stated it had been placed on the website and will be in the newsletter. Councilor Thompson suggested a notice in the tax bill also because not everyone gets a newspaper or accessed the website.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the second public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF EUGENE O. WRIGHT. SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk