

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the second day of June 2008 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Vincenzo Cordone at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

**PRESENT:** Vincenzo Cordone, Beverly Kenney, Sylvia Thompson, Thomas Buck, Barbara Capalbo; 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.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD AT 6:30 P.M.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Kenney removed the Executive Session Minutes of April 21, 2008 from the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve Financial Town Assembly/Budget Hearing Minutes of May 6, 2008; Financial Town Assembly/Budget Hearing Minutes May 13, 2008; Special Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2008.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAIN: Buck, Capalbo

SO VOTED

Councilor Buck and Councilor Capalbo abstained as they were not present on May 13, 2008.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Scott Bill Hirst of Maple Court noted there would be an oral history presentation at 7:00 PM at the Chariho Middle School on June 3, 2008 involving students portraying various individuals in Town; stated he had attended the second hearing regarding the Chariho bonding legislation before the RI Board of Education. He stated Representative Carol Mumford expressed concerns regarding the school's accreditation and added that he was unsure how the full House of Representatives would respond, or what Representative Brian Kennedy would do.

**TOWN SOLICITOR REPORT**

Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley noted much of her report had been given in the executive session. She reported the draft Dispatchers Contract had been forwarded to the Union; that the compiled version of the Chariho Act had come back from the two other Chariho Town's Solicitors with the minor changes she had suggested made and when she received the revised version, it would be distributed to the Council.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Cordone reported that the Town's Budget Referendum was scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at the Town Hall, with voting to take place from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM; reported the Council had received a copy of a letter of resignation from Lieutenant Michael Gilman, indicating that he would be retiring from the Police Department as of June 8, 2008, after serving for the past twenty three years. He felt this was a loss for the Town, but that he wished him the best of luck. Solicitor Buckley stated Lt. Gilman handled prosecutions for the Town, along with Solicitor Romano and Solicitor Levesque, that he was a consummate professional who had taught them a great deal about prosecutions. Councilor Thompson stated Lt. Gilman was a quiet man who had a good rapport with young people and knew how to relate to residents; that he was a professional, honorable and honest individual and the Town has been lucky to have him as an employee. She stated she was sorry to see him go. Council President Kenney concurred.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William DiLibero reported he had worked on the Dispatchers Contract; had met with representatives of the Westerly Sun regarding comp time;

had advertised for a part time dispatcher in an effort to beef up the dispatcher list as one dispatcher was out on surgical leave and another had been ill; had been working with the GIS/IT Director to enhance the senior link on the Town's website; had attended a purchasing agents meeting where bulk purchasing was discussed in an effort to reduce costs; reported he had met with the South Kingstown Town Manager regarding their recycling plan and had also met with Westerly Town Manager Joseph Turo in an effort to avoid increases in tipping fees and to save space and extend the life of the State landfill. He hoped to involve local haulers and would bring the matter to the Town Solicitor and Town Council when ready.

Councilor Capalbo noted the senior services section of the website was improving with a lot of information including the tax-related documents had been added.

Councilor Buck asked if all of the State's trash was taken to the State landfill in Johnson. Mr. DiLibero replied it was. Councilor Buck questioned if a trash to energy plan had been considered. Mr. DiLibero responded that it had been spoken about, but was not sure if anything specific had been decided.

Councilor Thompson referred to the recent incident involving rabid foxes and an adult had been bitten. She suggested notification be placed on the Town's website. Mr. DiLibero was in agreement and commented that incidents of this nature would be a part of the announcements made by One Call Now. He reported police officers had been out on Friday going door to door to inform the residents in the area of the problem. He stated Animal Control Officer Nancy Meissner had responded to this complaint, but that there had been another incident involving two dogs and she was setting up quarantines. Councilor Thompson noted there had also been an incident involving children.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **TOWN BILLS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO

PAY THE TOWN BILLS WITH NO ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**INTERVIEWS – APPOINTMENTS – RESIGNATIONS:**

**Highway Commission**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR KENNEY TO APPOINT DONALD LILLY TO THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**Recreation Commission**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO APPOINT MARK HAMMOND TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**LAND TRUST BONDING**

Land Trust Board of Trustees Member Carol Baker was present to provide the Council with an update regarding their bonding proposal. She reported that after researching the matter it was determined that there was not enough time to have an open space bond question on the November 2008 ballot as legislation would have to be written by bond counsel and would have to be forwarded to the Town's Senators and Representatives for introduction, which could sit for months before going to the floor. She noted that South Kingstown Town Clerk had experience with an open space bond question and she informed her that it should be submitted in the February/March time frame. She stated the Land Trust would re-group and will consider their options for next year.

Councilor Buck questioned if the Land Trust had received their check from the RIDEM, which was referenced in their minutes. Mrs. Baker responded that Solicitor John McCoy was reviewing the paperwork for this grant, so the check could be issued to the Land Trust.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. DiLibero provided a hand-out from the Town's insurer, The Trust, identified as Judicial Fairness for Rhode Island Government and related legislation that would reduce the statutory interest assessed against governmental entities on court judgments. It would limit instances when governmental employees can be sued in their individual capacity. It would limit the liability of governmental entities with the joint tortfeasors law. He requested that the next agenda include a resolution of support to the legislation sponsored by Senator V. Susan Sosnowski on the June 16, 2008 Agenda.

The Town Clerk noted the Office of the Superintendent had contacted her regarding whether the Council would consider a second Omnibus Meeting. Council President Cordone suggested placing the matter on the June 16, 2008 Agenda.

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Patricia Fontes of Lawton Foster Road commented that she had received the second zoning permit for the Pro Systems business located on the American Kuhne site. She objected that they had been classified as commercial when they were a manufacturing company. She stated Councilor Capalbo had asked that American Kuhne submit a best management practices work plan and that Ms. Fontes was now asking the same of Pro Systems. Ms. Fontes noted that at a recent Planning Board Meeting, Ray Quinlan of the Hopkinton Industrial Park indicated that a large water bottling firm may locate at his facility due to the "ocean" of water under his property. Ms. Fontes expressed her objection and asked the Council to think "outside the bottle", that plastic bottles used massive amounts of fossil fuels. She stated people complain about \$4.00 per gallon gasoline but have no problem buying bottled water.

Scott Bill Hirst of Maple Court suggested the Town Council write a letter to the cable company as he had heard that they may do away with the televised coverage of Town Council Meetings. He suggested they be asked to continue broadcasting the regular meetings as it is important for the public to know what occurs during the meetings. He noted that no were reporters were present either. Councilor Thompson stated Hopkinton was the first Town outside of Westerly to have televised meetings and it would be a shame if it were to stop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk