

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the first day of February 2016 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02832.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, David Husband, Thomas Buck; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister; Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER R.I.G.L. 42-46-5A (2) EXISTING LITIGATION.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

HEARINGS

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Council opened a hearing on the renewal of the following commercial haulers license: Republic Services, 1080 Airport Rd., Fall River, MA.

The application and filing fees had been received and notice had been posted.

There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO GRANT RENEWAL TO THE COMMERCIAL HAULERS LICENSE FOR REPUBLIC SERVICES, 1080 AIRPORT RD., FALL RIVER, MA, SUBJECT TO RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION AND FILING FEES.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

The Council opened a hearing to consider and act upon an amendment to the Town's Comprehensive Plan concerning energy consumption and production, natural hazards, and planned improvements to Langworthy Field. Town Planner James Lamphere was present with Shawn Martin from Fuss & O'Neill. Mr. Lamphere reported that there were new state requirements requiring Cities and Towns to address natural hazards and energy production in comprehensive plans. Funds became available in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and the Town received \$8,600.00 to go forth and address those issues in our Comprehensive Plan in advance of the overall comprehensive plan update. They enlisted the services of Fuss and O'Neill, our on-call engineering firm, who went forward and addressed those issues. Then it went before the Planning Board on December 2, 2015 where some changes and minor amendments to the map were made. He reported the Town Council had before them an underlined/strike through version of the amendments. In addition he stated he took the opportunity to piggyback the

Langworthy Field improvements into the comprehensive plan amendments.

Council Discussion:

Recreation, Conservation, Open Space Element.

Councilor Capalbo questioned whether Recommendation 1A, the Amendment to Recreation, Conservation, Open Space Element Implementation Schedule, was part of the comprehensive plan. Mr. Lamphere confirmed that it was part of the comprehensive plan amendment. Councilor Capalbo stated that she had no problem with the recommendation. Mr. Lamphere noted it had already been tentatively approved by the State of Rhode Island.

Energy.

Councilor Husband commented page ten, to correct “works” to “public works” and “slow plow” to “snow plow”. Councilor Husband commented on the energy consumption on page four that indicates the municipal consumption of electricity for street lights is approximately 169,000 kilowatts or 80%, costing \$50,000.00 annually and it indicates the police station uses 94,300 kilowatts per year at the police station, he questioned the percentages as they seemed to be off. Mr. Lamphere will check the math. Councilor Husband commented on page six, second paragraph, relating to the yearly estimates on gas consumption; that the police department uses 17,300 gallons at a yearly cost of \$38,900.00 and the Public Works uses 9,968 gallons at a yearly cost of \$32,500.00. This is only \$6,000.00 behind so he questioned the calculations. Council President Landolfi noted it could be attributed to DPW Trucks getting less miles per gallon. It was also noted they use diesel fuel in DPW trucks which could account for the difference. It could be a combination of the two fuels and diesel costs more than gasoline. Councilor Husband asked what the data had been based on because the price per gallon for gasoline is presently low. Councilor Buck suggested it may be based on historical averages of the past few years; the last comprehensive plan update was five years ago. Mr. Lamphere stated the data was current. Councilor Thompson added the Town periodically bids this out so it could be related to the price in the contract of the vendor who provides the fuel. Councilor Husband noted he was glad to see they

were looking at the location of the former dump on Stubtown Road as a photovoltaic site. This was listed in the implementation schedule on page 45.

Land Use.

Councilor Capalbo asked about the grayed out goals and recommendations found on page 38 and 39. She noted #22 refers to conducting a vulnerability assessment and create a natural hazards vulnerability map which sounded like it would be costly. Councilor Capalbo read #25 – Develop a strategy to implement the stormwater management projects, dam, culvert and bridge improvements, sediment removal projects and green infrastructure opportunities identified by the Pawcatuck Watershed Management Plan. She asked how Mr. Lamphere planned to have that done within the three year time frame. Mr. Lamphere agreed a full blown vulnerability assessment would not be inexpensive. He noted the Town was trying to get State approval and this was what the State wanted to see. He added that it was not the first thing in the comprehensive plan that didn't get done within the time frame. He stated we would have to do the best we can. Councilor Capalbo questioned how this recommendation could be done that without having a vulnerability study done. Mr. Lamphere stated that would be a good project to request funding from RIEMA for and will keep his eyes open for a RIEMA funding opportunity. Councilor Capalbo supported this effort so the Town is not charging our citizens for it. Councilor Capalbo commented on #24 – Utilize the Pawcatuck Management Plan developed by the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association in order to improve the Town's resiliency to impacts of storms and climate change, and to lessen Hopkinton's impacts on the watershed. She stated she had no problem with this but the State seemed to ignore it. Council President Landolfi asked how so. Councilor Capalbo stated our watershed management was for all of our water and our aquifer. She referred to the proposed Welcome Center and Love's Truck Stop in areas over the aquifer; that we have our own rules to protect the water but the State runs right over our efforts to protect our water. Councilor Thompson commented on the floodplain in Hope Valley and how the State's DEM granted the developer a permit but the Town was successful in stopping the development, yet the State allowed them to fill in a floodplain area. Councilor Capalbo indicated she

was happy to follow this recommendation but did not know how the Town could make the State follow it. Councilor Capalbo read Recommendation #30 - Explore possible tax incentives for property owners to implement qualifying improvements to their property to increase resilience to storm impacts. She believed we were not even considering this and it hasn't come up before. She asked if it can be removed. Mr. Lamphere noted it only says to explore it, not that it actually had to be done, but it would not hurt to take a look at it. Councilor Capalbo mentioned Recommendation #28 and #29 in the Implementation Schedule and read Recommendation #28 – Examine sea level rise projections and create a map of affected areas and Recommendation #29 – Incorporate sea level rise projection areas into regulations and ordinances. She asked how would we do that and did it affect us; might it be something that should be in a community like Charlestown. Mr. Lamphere agreed it was more appropriate for a coastal community and it should have been deleted so yes, it could be removed. Councilor Thompson requested the Conservation Commission be added in the Responsibility column with the Town Manager in Implementation Schedule #9 on page 41. Councilor Buck had no other changes or amendments to add.

Public Comment:

There were no questions or comments by members of the public in attendance at the hearing on the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO CLOSE THE HEARING AND SET A DATE FOR DECISION.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Council set February 16, 2016 as the date to render a decision.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Capalbo had a question on the January 19, 2016 Town Council Meeting Minutes; on page six, first paragraph, line ten, relating to Google funds and whether that was an appropriate descriptive term. Chief Palmer replied it was,

and explained it was the police improvement fund and was the same thing. The use of Google funds are to supplement not supplant, there were specific guidelines as to its use. There were no changes to the minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS

FOLLOWS: Approve Town Council Minutes of January 19, 2016; Approve abatements submitted by Interim Tax Assessor.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the first public forum.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager William McGarry reported that the proposed budget should be ready by Wednesday, February 3, 2016. They were waiting for the Governor's Budget and numbers on the State Aid to Education. Councilor Capalbo asked if he knew how much aid would be given to the school. Mr. McGarry anticipated receiving the state aid to education figures on Wednesday morning. Council President Landolfi noted the first budget workshop was set for February 8, 2016. Councilor Buck reported he would not be able to make the February 29, 2016 Town Council Budget Workshop.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Frank Landolfi reported he and Councilor Barbara Capalbo had attended the The Trust Dinner on January 21, 2016 and had enjoyed a very entertaining speaker. He reported that he had tried to schedule a meeting with the House Speaker through a contact of his brothers and had managed to solidify a daytime appointment on January 28, 2016 with the Superintendent and School Committee Chairman but the meeting was cancelled at the last minute by the Chief of Staff and the reasoning he gave was because he learned the Hopkinton Town Council was opposed to the tolls. He was not very happy about this as he wanted to speak about education and transportation; not about the tolls.

OLD BUSINESS

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote to adopt a Resolution opposing Truck Tolling Gantries proposed throughout the State of Rhode Island. Council President Landolfi noted he worked with the Town Manager's Office in coming up with a draft resolution based on a Resolution from the Town of Narragansett with some town related additions. He stated it appeared it would be a forgone conclusion that the State would enact the tolls. Councilor Thompson stated she was happy to consider passing a resolution this evening but would like to add wording in the last "whereas" to include some wording regarding the Historic District and the lack of any shoulders on the road. She suggested the Council approve it and then she would help beef that section up and make it personal to our town. Councilor Husband suggested wording "such as Route 3 which runs through a historic district". Councilor Thompson stated yes, but wanted to add wording to beef it up further and make it personal to our town. Councilor Capalbo felt it was personal to our Town but it was personal to other towns as well. It was not just local but across the State including those roads that pass through Historic Districts.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution opposing the tolls with the small change made by Councilor Thompson. This led to discussion: Councilor Buck asked how many other Town's had opposed the tolls. There was no official count as yet as other Town's resolutions were just beginning to come in. Councilor Thompson stated she was glad to read the RIDOT letter where it stated how they would monitor the trucks; they would have the State Police monitor them. She doubted they would stop every truck and questioned what right they would have, she felt that was ridiculous and wouldn't work. Councilor Husband doubted there would be officers assigned to monitor the trucks. Council President Landolfi noted that alternative options such as an addition to the fuel tax or a diesel tax had not been properly vetted and he would like to see it in writing that no cars would be tolled because the revenue levels would not be there. He wanted to think they would be trustworthy but was having his doubts. Councilor Buck referred to the State's past history with other funding plans related to the

school alone: the regional school district bonus, the deal with the Vo Tech School, the lottery, never mind transportation issues. He felt the State's past history does not promote trust. Councilor Husband commented about the Sakonnet River Bridge tolls that were put up and then taken down, and how much that cost the taxpayers. Councilor Capalbo noted if electric cars really burgeon and take off, they don't use gas and don't pay the gas tax that is used to take care of the roads. She felt tolls on cars would occur ten or fifteen years down the road. She added trucks will never be electric. Councilor Buck reported he heard tonight on the news that Rhode Island gives the RIDOT \$600 million a year, and they pay \$50 million in interest payments on previous loans so one sixth of their allotment from toll revenue will go towards interest. Councilor Capalbo added that Hopkinton gets along very well with the RIDOT, and had nothing against them. Discussion ended and the Council proceeded to vote as follows:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING TRUCK TOLLING GANTRIES WITH THE SMALL CHANGES MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Capalbo, Thompson, Husband, Buck

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business scheduled under this agenda heading.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke during the second public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO ADJOURN.

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk