

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the second day of January 2018 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

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

The Meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

#### **HEARINGS**

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

#### **CAMPGROUND LICENSE RENEWALS**

The Council opened a hearing on the renewal of the following campground licenses:

Frontier Camper Park, LLC– Scott W. Thompson, 180A Maxson Hill Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 225 Campsites & Safari Sites.

Mrs. Thompson was present. Filing fees were paid and notice posted.

Greenwood Hill Campground Association, Inc. – Jeffrey P. Aldrich, 13 Newberry Lane, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 80 Campsites & Safari Sites.

Mr. Aldrich was present. Filing fees were paid and notice posted.

Holly Tree Campground, Inc. – Marie Patrizzo, 109 Ashaway Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 158 Campsites & Safari Sites.

Mrs. Patrizzo was present. Filing fees were paid and notice posted.

Whispering Pines Campground – Cameron May, 41 Saw Mill Road, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 213 Campsites & Safari Sites.

There was no applicant or representative present. The application and filing fee had been received this day and notice posted.

Ashaway RV Resort - Clint Ramsden, 225 Ashaway Road licensed for 260 Campsites. There are no Safari Sites.

William Corbin was present. Filing fees were paid and notice posted.

There was no discussion. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO GRANT RENEWAL TO EACH LICENSE SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE, EXCEPT FOR WHISPERING PINES CAMPGROUND.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2017 were removed from the Consent Agenda to vote on them separately as Councilor Buck will abstain.

They will be scheduled for approval on January 16, 2018.

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

FOLLOWS: Set January 16, 2018 as a hearing date for a Multi-Event Permit filed by ABK, LLC d/b/a Boneyard BBQ; Approve refunds resulting from the Motor Vehicle Phase-Out Program submitted by the Tax Collector; Approve abatement due to real property adjustments/exemptions submitted by the Tax Assessor.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Scott Bill Hirst, 20 Maple Court, Ashaway spoke regarding the Chariho Omnibus meeting. He indicated that he felt that people should be able to discuss other things if they wished, rather than limiting this to just the budget. Mr. Hirst also stated that when considering thoughts and ideas to provide to Lt. Governor McKee and the local legislative delegation for the upcoming 2018 legislative session, it was very crucial for local government to remember that the foundation of this state was not only its people but the 39 cities and towns; also, that the assessable base is different for each; and lastly, how they address funding of education is different because some towns can fund education more easily than others. He believed there should be a better understanding from the State of the financial situation of regional school districts particularly with regard to the budget cap and that the State should be addressing the State Constitution, specifically Article XX, Section 1 which states that the General Assembly should promote education. Mr. Hirst indicated that it does not say that you have to finance education, but the bottom line is the financial wherewithal of every city and town is different. Mr. Hirst believes that the State specifically looks at Towns like Hopkinton as being financially more able because a lot of people have more property unlike people in urban areas. He believes the State has to step up to the plate and look more at their ability to finance public, secondary and elementary education. He continued by stating that he believes we have a misguided set of priorities in this State. The General Assembly is where the action is, as far as State mandates and things of that nature.

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Landolfi indicated that the Coffee with a Cop event was very well attended and he thought it was a great idea by Community Officer Justin Laroche. He invited Chief Palmer to say a few words. Chief Palmer indicated that Officer Laroche did some research on this event and noted that Coventry had done something similar in the past. Seven officers volunteered their time to attend the Dunkin Donut event. Chief Palmer indicated that twelve families came down specifically for the event and then others came in and ended up speaking with the officers. They have also come up with some additional ideas for community events, such as reading to the children at the library. Council President Landolfi indicated that at this event the police were handing out pencils, rulers and stickers and the kids were very excited. Councilor Capalbo indicated that they also had lights for the children's bikes.

Next Council President Landolfi spoke about the firework display which had been rescheduled from the Ashaway Stroll. He indicated that it was a very nice event and there were no traffic concerns. Councilor Capalbo indicated that the fireworks were exquisite. Council President Landolfi wished to thank the Ashaway Fire Department who was the entity that sponsored the event.

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William McGarry reported during December, his office worked to develop the FY 2018-19 Annual Goals and the FY 2020-22 Multi-year Goals in preparation of the upcoming budgetary process. A department head meeting to discuss and consider these goals was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 4, 2018 but because of the impending snow storm, has been rescheduled for January 10, 2018; He reported during the last week in December, his office distributed a two-page memorandum listing the significant Town-wide accomplishments for calendar year 2017. Copies of the memorandum were included in the Council packet.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SCHEDULE BUDGET WORKSHOPS**

The Town Council reviewed the budget timetable and scheduled the following Town Council Budget Workshops beginning at 6:30 PM: Monday, February 12,

Thursday, February 22, Monday, February 26; Thursday, March 8 and if required, Monday, March 12, 2018.

**JANUARY 10, 2018 CHARIHO OMNIBUS MEETING RE: FY 19 BUDGET**

The Council held a discussion relative to the January 10, 2018 Chariho Omnibus Meeting where the topic would be the FY 19 Chariho School Budget.

Councilor Capalbo suggested there were two issues that needed to be addressed, the first being transportation. The State did not give us money for the regional district and this needed to be addressed as early as possible; and, the second issue being in-housing aid in the building fund. She indicated that if we needed to raise \$100,000 and we raised \$30,000 the State would give us \$70,000 back. They were letting us raise \$30,000 and then they would pay the \$70,000, or letting us save and raise the lower amount rather than the entire amount. I would like to continue to encourage them to do that. Council President Landolfi indicated that his concern was the Chariho budget and the four union contracts coming due which needed to be negotiated with the Town employee unions. He believes this is going to be a very difficult budget year. He is looking for cooperation from the School Committee and Barry Ricci. Councilor Capalbo believed that overall the budget is a lot better than last year. Councilor Buck asked what the percentage was that it went up and Councilor Capalbo believed it to be 1.53%. Council President Landolfi asked what part of that was contractual and what part was non-contractual. Councilor Capalbo indicated that overall the contract went up 1.98% but Hopkinton went up 2.97% because our school enrollment went up. She indicated that we do need to work on getting the budget lowered.

**2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The Council held a discussion relative to any thoughts and ideas to provide to Lt. Governor McKee and the local legislative delegation for the upcoming 2018 legislative session.

Council President Landolfi indicated that Lt. Governor McKee and the local legislative delegation had reached out and asked whether the Council had any thoughts or ideas regarding the upcoming 2018 legislative session. He acknowledged Councilor Capalbo's thoughts on transportation and categorical aid that is being level funded again so he planned on sending something to Lt.

Governor McKee's office to let them know that this was not acceptable. The legislature passed something some time ago that they are supposed to fund this and they continually fail to do so and this hurts the regional school districts, including us and the Town's budget. His other thought was that the State has a fiscal year deficit of about \$60,000,000 and a structural deficit of about \$200,000,000 so with the motor vehicles being phased out, how do they plan on fixing that? Councilor Buck indicated tolls. Councilor Capalbo indicated that another thing to discuss because of tolls is that they were supposed to be doing more work on infrastructure. She indicated that if they are going to institute the tolls then she would like to see infrastructure moving forward in a more timely fashion because not only do we need our roads fixed, but our bridges have got to be done. Councilor Buck asked Town Manager McGarry if we knew when the Woody Hill Bridge was going to be shut down. Town Manager McGarry indicated that the bridge was not going to be shut down. They put out some temporary plastic barriers on the side of the road so that they vehicles that travel that road won't overload the beams. He indicated that they had heard from the Department of Transportation who said that would suffice. Town Manager McGarry indicated that they had sent a letter of Janet Coit, head of RI Department of Environmental Management who admitted that they did own the bridge, the spill way and the dam and that was further confirmed by RI Department of Transportation so the responsibility to repair or replace that bridge lies with the State as opposed to the Town because the Town doesn't own it. According to the Department of Transportation, the temporary work that the Town did is sufficient until they repair or replace that bridge. Town Manager McGarry also indicated that at the request of the Town Council they had sent a letter to Janet Coit asking her to expedite the repair or replacement but they had no time-line. Councilor Capalbo also questioned the two bridges in Hope Valley that needed work. Work was supposed to be commenced in the Spring of 2018.

## **RESOLUTION**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly vote on a Resolution recognizing the Community Development Consortium.

Town Clerk Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin indicated that they had received this from Richmond Town Planner’s Office. Council President Landolfi wished to send this Resolution thanking Geoffrey Marchant for all of his years of service and for helping the Town secure Community Development Block Grant money over the years.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO SEND A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM AND GEOFFREY MARCHANT AS ATTACHED.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The resolution follows:

TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RHODE ISLAND  
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

WHEREAS, The Community Development Block Grant Program (hereafter, the “Program”) helps provide decent housing, expand economic opportunities, and create suitable living environments by developing viable communities with federal funds administered through the State of Rhode Island (hereafter, the “State”); and

WHEREAS, Geoffrey A. Marchant has worked with Program funds since 1998:

First, during his tenure at South County Community Action, assisting the Town of Hopkinton (hereafter, the “Town”) with home repair from the start;

Then, founding the Community Development Consortium (hereafter, the “Consortium”) on March 18, 1996; and

WHEREAS, The Town joined the Consortium in 2000 and has benefitted from the Consortium’s assistance to its most vulnerable and financially strapped populations through activities such as housing rehabilitation, public services like food pantries, public improvements, and job training for the last seventeen (17) years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Marchant is the Consortium’s founder, Director, and only full-time staff, and assists ten (10) municipalities with their Program applications, procurement, contracting, administration, compliance, monitoring, drawdown, and overall management, and has remained knowledgeable, personable, accessible, and responsive through the ever-changing regulations and guidance from the State and federal level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town acknowledges the void to be filled as the Consortium pursues a replacement entity, and recognizes, appreciates, and thanks the Consortium and Geoff for his invaluable and incalculable support to the Town and its residents, and to neighboring communities and the State, over these many years.

GIVEN UNDER THE SEAL OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON THIS 2<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one spoke during the second public forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BUCK AND SECONDED BY  
COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF RICHARD  
WILLIAMS.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk