

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the nineteenth day of June 2017 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO CONVENE OPEN SESSION AND RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER: 1). R.I.G.L. sec. 42-46-5(a)(7) for Preliminary Discussions and/or Considerations Related to the Investment of Public Funds Where the Premature Disclosure Would Adversely Affect the Public Interest; and, 2). R.I.G.L. secs. 42-46-5(a)(2) (potential litigation) and 42-46-5(a)(7) for Preliminary Discussions and/or Considerations Related to the Possible Investment of Public Funds Where the Premature Disclosure Would Adversely Affect the Public Interest.

POLL VOTE:

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Landolfi reported there were no votes taken in Executive Session on either matter.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

**HEARINGS**

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

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO WAIVE FURTHER SCHEDULING AND CONDUCT THE HEARING FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT**

The Council opened a hearing on an application for a Special Event Permit filed by Nathaniel Mitkowski on behalf of Ashaway Cub Scout Pack 1 – Narragansett Council BSA, P.O. Box 965, Ashaway, RI 02804 co-sponsored by Hopkinton Recreation Department and Ashaway Volunteer Fire Department for a Family Camp-Out scheduled for 12:00 noon on June 24, 2017 through 10:00 AM on June 25, 2017 at Crandall Field.

Nathaniel Mitkowski was present. The application was complete, no waivers are requested. This event is co-sponsored by Hopkinton Recreation Department and Ashaway Volunteer Fire Department. Filing fees are not required. There were no

objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FILED BY NATHANIEL MITKOWSKI ON BEHALF OF ASHAWAY CUB SCOUT PACK 1 – NARRAGANSETT COUNCIL BSA, P.O. BOX 965, ASHAWAY, RI 02804 CO-SPONSORED BY HOPKINTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND ASHAWAY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR A FAMILY CAMP-OUT SCHEDULED FOR 12:00 NOON ON JUNE 24, 2017 THROUGH 10:00 AM ON JUNE 25, 2017 AT CRANDALL FIELD.

IN FAVOR: LANDOLFI, BUCK, CAPALBO, HUSBAND, THOMPSON

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

#### **DIGITAL SIGN ORDINANCE PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

The Council opened a hearing on an amendment to Chapter 249 Digital Sign Ordinance, in Code of Ordinances, Chapter 134 – Appendix A “Zoning” Section 27. Signs. The proposed amendment would add language to Section T (p)(1) as follows:

p. The following colors shall be used in digital signs:

1. Blue, Green or Amber for digital signs in Commercial, Neighborhood Businesses, Industrial or Manufacturing Zones, with the added allowance of the use of red digital numbering of posted gasoline prices included on digital signs located at licensed gasoline facilities that are subject to regulation under RIGL secs. 31-37-11 – 31-37-13, inclusive;

2. All other Sections of Chapter 134. Section 27 to remain in full force and effect.

3. This amendment shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Council discussion:

Councilor Capalbo indicated she had no problem with the ordinance amendment as long as it was consistent with State Regulations. She stated the dimming requirement in the Digital Sign Ordinance would have to be adhered to and

followed. Councilor Thompson commented that the Town did not want the red LED's used. Councilor Buck stated the Town did not want any LED's at all but an error made by a former Building & Zoning Official allowed the garages to have them by issuing them a CO and this screw-up caused this Town Council to jump through hoops to try to make it fit and find a way to allow the two gas stations to have them. He agreed with Councilor Capalbo that that there is no change in the dimming requirement. Councilor Thompson concurred that the dimming requirement is in the original adopted ordinance. Councilor Husband stated there would be no hardship to a business to have to dim the lights. Council President Landolfi indicated he had not seen an amber light at any other gas station. Councilor Capalbo stated amber, red and green are on traffic lights. She felt it was gracious of the Town Council to allow this amendment, but the dimming requirement stays and the LED's have the ability to dim.

Public comment:

Amir Javed, owner of Best Way gas station did not understand the dimming requirement during night hours as they close at 10:00 PM. Councilor Husband explained the normal intensity of the LED light was fine during daylight hours but at night from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, there was no need to keep the LED as bright. It was noted the LED streetlights would be dimmed at night once they were replaced. Mr. Javed will check with his electrical contractor. Attorney George Comolli was present and he thanked the Council for considering the ordinance amendment.

Town Manager William McGarry made one suggestion; to use the word "illuminated" instead of "included". There were no further comments.

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

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The Council set Monday, July 3, 2017 as the date to render a decision.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The request to approve refunds as a result of overpayments submitted by the Tax Collector was removed from the consent agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve Executive Session Minutes of May 15, 2017; Town Council Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2017; Accept the following monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk; Approve abatements for tax exempt church motor vehicles submitted by the Tax Assessor.

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

OPPOSED: None

**SO VOTED**

Councilor Capalbo was interested in addressing the Tax Collectors request to adjust off 2003 and 2004 uncollectible tangible and motor vehicle taxes. This particular item is scheduled under old business so she will address her concerns during this portion of the agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE REFUNDS AS A RESULT OF OVERPAYMENTS, SUBMITTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR.

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

OPPOSED: None

**SO VOTED**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Harvey Buford of Oak Street and Chairman of the Conservation Commission submitted a hard copy of proposed amendments to the Farm Viability Ordinance which will be reproduced by the Town Clerk's Office and disseminated to the Town Council, Manager and Solicitor for their review.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Landolfi reported he had attended the June 9, 2017 Chariho Graduation which was a nice event. He reported the turnout for the June 13, 2017 Town Budget Referendum Vote resulted in 156 electors voting; 40% voted opposed and he would like to find a way in the future to drum up more support. He reported he had attended a Farm Tour on June 16, 2017 at Russet Valley Farm with Lt Governor McKee. This farm is owned by the Panciera family which consists of 237 acres. The objective is to receive feedback from the farmers on their concerns and hopefully pull some legislation together that would help further their efforts.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William McGarry reported on May 31, 2017, he and Council Vice President Thomas Buck and Town Planner James Lamphere met with National Grid Officials Paul Stasiuk and Richard Boyle at the Crandall House to discuss the Ashaway Road substation, double poles and the upcoming repair of Ashaway Road. They advised that the substation is 95% complete. Also, Verizon is now responsible for the removal of the double poles once National Grid and Cox Cable have removed their wires, and National Grid plans on permanently repairing the pavement on Ashaway Road this month. This repair is nearly complete.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ADJUST OFF 2003, 2004 UNCOLLECTABLE MV TAXES AND TANGIBLE TAXES**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to adjust off the 2003 and 2004 uncollectable motor vehicle taxes in the amount of \$22,109.48, and the 2003 and 2004 uncollectable tangible taxes in the amount of \$11,638.68.

Tax Collector Rita Deane was present. Mr. McGarry noted that the original request was to adjust off four years but a decision had been made instead to address them incrementally over time: 2003/2004 now, then 2005/2006 and eventually 2007/2008. Solicitor McAllister had researched the matter and determined State Law clearly states the Town should periodically write off uncollectable taxes and is appropriate to do so. Mrs. Deane indicated the office sends out delinquent tax bills on motor vehicles and tangibles once per year. She does not foresee receiving payment for these years but should happen to come

forward, they would accept payment. Councilor Capalbo commented that it was a lot of money and it meant that the other citizens of Town were in essence paying the bills through their taxes for the delinquent taxpayers. She asked if Mrs. Deane had any suggestions. Mrs. Deane explained that there was no authority to hold a tax sale for motor vehicles or tangibles so there was no leverage as there is for real estate delinquencies. She stated the office can freeze and block them at the DMV level but without a Business License Ordinance there is no ability to collect tangible taxes. Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin noted the Business License Ordinance required the submittal of legislation and there had been hesitation in pursuing it so it was dropped. Some discussion was held on whether or not camp trailers were taxable and whether to publish the delinquent list but this latter suggestion was not advisable. The State Legislature is considering phasing out the motor vehicle taxes, so it may become a moot point. The Town Clerk will provide the Council with a copy of the last version of the Business License legislation.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE REQUEST OF THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ADJUST OFF THE 2003 AND 2004 UNCOLLECTABLE MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,109.48, AND THE 2003 AND 2004 UNCOLLECTABLE TANGIBLE TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,638.68.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Capalbo indicated she voted in favor under duress.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR BUCK AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO TAKE THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER AND MOVE UP NEW BUSINESS ITEM #6 TO THE TOP OF NEW BUSINESS.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**WORLD WAR II MONUMENT DONATION**

This matter had been scheduled to hold discussion regarding an offer to donate World War II Monument to Polish Park.

Henry Holland was present. He noted the last order of business for the American Legion Gordon Greene Post No. 27 is the Polish American WWII Monument. He noted the monument had been moved from its original location at the Polish American Citizens Club that had been located on lower High Street and Mechanic Street and it had been to the Gordon Greene Post for safe keeping. The monument is presently located at the former site of the American Legion Gordon Greene Post No. 27 at 34 Thelma Drive, now privately owned by Thomas Gilligan. Mr. Gilligan has provided written permission for the Town to access his property and remove the monument from his property. The monument had been included in the sale of the property to Mr. Gilligan by the RI Superior Court. Mr. Gilligan is gifting the memorial back to the American Legion. The Public Works Department will be moving the monument to the Polish Park. The dimensions of the monument: base is 41” wide; the monument itself is 37” wide x 31” deep. Depending upon how the monument was constructed, a new cement footing may be needed for the granite base. Councilor husband suggested replacing the two benches at the park as they were in poor condition. The existing benches will be inspected by the Public Works Department.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE OFFER TO DONATE THE WORLD WAR II POLISH AMERICAN MONUMENT AND TO AUTHORIZE ITS MOVE TO THE POLISH PARK.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**APPROBATION OF DEPUTY TOWN CLERK MARITA BREault**

This matter had been scheduled to consider and vote to provide approbation for the Town Clerk’s appointment of Marita Breault as Deputy Town Clerk to

November 2018. The Town Council would like to meet Mrs. Breault. Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin will arrange for her to attend an upcoming Town Council Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE THE APPROBATION FOR THE TOWN CLERK'S APPOINTMENT OF MARITA BREAUT AS DEPUTY TOWN CLERK TO NOVEMBER 2018.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to adopt the Financial Resolutions now that the Budget Referendum has been held and the budget and warrants decided. There are six Resolutions and the Tax Resolution.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO ADOPT THE FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The resolutions follow:

### **TOWN OF HOPKINTON, RI FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 1**

RESOLVED: In accordance with R.I.G.L. 44-5-1 et seq, that the electors of the Town of Hopkinton qualified to vote on any proposal to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money, in a Town Financial Referendum, lawfully assembled on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June A.D. 2017 and approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. The estimated tax rate for Real and Tangible property is \$20.07, a decrease of \$0.57 from the current rate of \$20.64. The tax rate for Motor Vehicles is \$21.18.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2**

RESOLVED: the voters of the Town of Hopkinton in consideration of the questions on the June 13, 2017 Town Financial Referendum Ballot did approve the following:

Local Question 1 - Resolution restricting the unspent balance of the Salt & Sand Budget Line Item #5350-6000 and Overtime Pay Budget Line Item #4060-6000 in the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Public Works Department Budget be restricted and placed into the Public Works Emergency Winter Operations/Snow Removal Restricted Account to be renamed as the Public Works Emergency Winter Operations Restricted Account.

Local Question 2 - Resolution renaming the Contract Negotiations/Arbitration Restricted Account

as the Legal Fees Restricted Account.

**RESOLUTION NO. 3**

RESOLVED: That the Town Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and empowered to credit to any appropriations fund any receipts or donations which apply against that fund and all others not so designated to the General Fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4**

RESOLVED: That the several appropriations specified be expended under the direction and supervision of the Town Council, except those pertaining to public school, bills payable, and interest which sum shall be disbursed and paid out by the Town Finance Director.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5**

RESOLVED: That the Town Finance Director of the Town of Hopkinton be and is hereby authorized and empowered to borrow upon the credit of the Town as the same may be necessary during the present Fiscal Year such sum or sums as may be required to meet the expenses and obligations of the Town, provided however, that such loans shall not at any time exceed the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000.00).

**RESOLUTION NO. 6**

RESOLVED: That the over-expenditures in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget, identified by the Town Finance Director, are hereby approved.

**TAX RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED: That the Town Council of the Town of Hopkinton based on the budget adopted by vote of the Town Council on June 19, 2017 pursuant to section 2370 of the Hopkinton Town Charter following approval of the proposed FY 2017/2018 budget by the voters at the Financial Town Referendum on June 13, 2017, hereby impose a tax levy at a Town Council Meeting held this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2017, and order the apportionment and collection of a tax on the ratable real estate and tangible personal property in a sum not less than \$18,386,299 and not more than \$18,786,299. Said tax is for ordinary expenses and charges of the Town, for payment of interest and indebtedness, and for the purposes authorized by Law. The Assessor shall apportion said respective taxes upon the assessed valuations of the ratable property of said Town as determined by the said Assessor of the Town as of the 31st day of December A.D. 2016, at twelve o'clock midnight, according to Law. The said respective Tax Levies shall be applied to the assessment roll as aforesaid and the resulting tax roll certified by the Assessor to the Town Clerk not later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 2017. The Town Clerk on receipt of said completed tax roll shall forthwith make a copy of the same and deliver it to the Town Finance Director, who shall forthwith issue and affix to said copy a Warrant under his hand, directed to the Collector of Taxes of said Town, commanding her to proceed and collect said taxes of the persons and estates liable therefore. Said Taxes shall be due and payable on and between the first day of August and the eighth day of September A.D. 2017 next, and/or may be paid in equal quarterly installments, the first installment of twenty-five per centum on or before the eighth day of September A.D. 2017, and the remaining installments as follows:

Twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of December A.D. 2017, twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of March A.D. 2018 and twenty-five per centum on the eighth day of June A.D. 2018. Each installment of taxes, if paid on or before the last day of each installment period, successively and in order shall be free from all charge for interest.

EXCEPTING HOWEVER, that where the combined total of said tax and additional tax levied is an amount not in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) it shall be due and payable in a single installment on and between the first day of August and the eighth day of September A.D. 2017.

If the first installment or any succeeding installment of taxes is not paid by the last date of the respective installment period, or periods, as they occur, then the unpaid quarterly payments shall be due and payable immediately and shall bear interest on any unpaid quarterly payments at the rate of twelve (12) per centum, per annum.

RESOLVED: That the Collector of Taxes shall collect and pay unto this Town's Treasury, as the same is collected, the tax this day ORDERED.

**APPROVAL OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS RE: RENTAL REHAB PROGRAM**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to approve legal documents re: rental rehab program - Affordable Housing Partnership. Town

Planner James Lamphere, AHP Chairman Jared Rhodes and Consultant Andrew

Teitz, Esq. were present. Attorney Teitz had submitted a proposal in responds an RFP to prepare the legal documents and they had been reviewed by the Solicitor who had no legal concerns and found them to be in good order. Councilor Thompson noted this was a new rental rehab program which would allow for owners and landlords with affordable rental property to receive a grant to rehab the property in exchange for a written agreement that the property would be kept as affordable for thirty (30) years. This is a way for the Town to reach the 10% affordability level.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO APPROVE LEGAL DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE RENTAL REHAB PROGRAM AS RECOMMENDED BY THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**AWARD BID RE: MUNICIPAL WASTE REMOVAL SERVICES**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to award a bid for Municipal Waste Removal Services to Patriot Disposal Company, Inc. of Johnston, Rhode Island, the lowest bidder, in the amount of \$485.00, per month, from July 1, 2017 until June 30, 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HUSBAND TO AWARD THE BID FOR MUNICIPAL WASTE REMOVAL SERVICES TO PATRIOT DISPOSAL COMPANY, INC. OF JOHNSTON, RHODE ISLAND, THE LOWEST BIDDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$485.00, PER MONTH, FROM JULY 1, 2017 UNTIL JUNE 30, 2020.

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

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**FULL SERVICE TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE – ROUTE 3 & ROUTE 216**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to authorize the Town Manager to formally request that RIDOT install a full-service traffic control device at the Route 3 (Main Street) and Route 216 (Ashaway Road) intersection. Chief of Police David Palmer was present.

Councilor Buck stated he was not in favor of installing a traffic light. He referred to the Chief's memorandum on page two, second paragraph that says the installation of a traffic signal at this intersection may not improve the overall safety of the intersection; same page, fourth paragraph that says that only one quarter of the 24 accidents may have been prevented by the installation of a full service traffic light; the crash summary (2014-2016) showing two accidents at Spicer Marketplace involving parked vehicles; two accidents were the result of being hit by a deer and a light would not have made any difference for these; he asked how many of the remaining accidents were due to drunk driving, texting or talking on a cell phone. Chief Palmer responded none that he knew of. Councilor Buck commented that the overview photo of the area does not show "stop ahead" painted on the road as is done on Route 1-95 warning of lane changes and he felt that is an option. He is against installing a flashing light or full service light. He suggested maybe something more could be done with the stop signs such as adding reflective buttons. Councilor Buck had questioned how many of the accidents happened after dark and the crash table shows this. Councilor Buck commented that when the Spicer gas station had submitted their traffic study a few years ago, none of this information came up; their traffic study indicated there were not going to be any issues with traffic or with coming and going at the site. He felt this was a big change from the traffic study paid for back then to what it is now. Chief Palmer indicated he recognized Councilor Buck's position and addressed his memorandum and paragraph that stated it may not prevent accidents but it does say however, that it would improve the overall operation of the intersection and that is one reason why he supports the installation of a light. He felt the study didn't go as far as he would have liked it to go. His concern is with the overall congestion of the area, not just the Ashaway Road and that is what they focused on and is why the area is eligible for a light but it is not mandatory.

He distributed a hand out to the Town Council, Solicitor and Manager with data from the past three years that focused on Maxson Hill Road to Church Street; a congested area of just over one half mile in length; a quarter mile on either side of Ashaway Road. The study the Town Council had in their Council Books had not taken into account the accidents on High Street; an intersection that is nearly the same as the Ashaway Road intersection. This stretch contains 10 businesses, 23 residences, a fire station, the Crandall Field/Crandall House property and 2 churches – all vying to get out onto Main Street. In a 5 hour period, over 1000 cars per hour travel the road during that peak 5 hour period which is roughly 17 cars per minute, coming out of High Street and Ashaway Road. He commented there are 11 intersections in this vicinity; the intersection of Cemetery Lane, Main Street and Maxson Street has four businesses clustered in the plaza there; it is very congested there. He feels a light would stop the flow of traffic and allow cars to get onto Route 3 (Main Street) and maybe prevent accidents; there were 13 accidents in the general area of Maxson Hill Road and Cemetery Lane. He stated Representative Kennedy jumped on this at about the same time as he did and he asked for a crosswalk at Our Lady of Victory Church; Chief Palmer feels a crosswalk there makes sense. He also felt a traffic light makes sense too. Councilor Buck noted the light is one half mile away and there would not be a back-up of traffic from there all the way to Hillside Avenue to allow people to cross; there is Route 216, Palmer Street and Crandall Field. Chief Palmer agreed there was not a perfect solution but he is looking for something to mitigate or slow down the traffic in that area. Councilor Capalbo stated Our Lady of Victory Church has a huge parking lot behind the church and they are parking across because it is convenient and often it is older people. She did not support a crosswalk there and did not feel the Town should encourage people to cross that road. Councilor Thompson thought the extra lot was there because the parking lot in the back gets full. Councilor Capalbo responded no, it is used but does not get full. Chief Palmer noted that is one part of a potential solution for the entire area. Councilor Husband asked if the speed limit on Ashaway Road was posted at 45 mph and he asked if it could be reduced; Chief Palmer responded, yes. Councilor Husband suggested dropping the speed limit down to 30 mph in a portion of the

road and Councilor Buck suggested the reduced speed limit begin in area of Crandall Field parking area. Councilor Husband added that Route 3/Main Street is posted 25 mph. He commented on the Chief's draft memo that indicated peak hours in an afternoon in May showed 86 cars coming out of Ashaway Road wanting to take a left and at the same time there were 100 cars coming out of High Street wanting to take a left and that is a problem if a short distance down the road there is a traffic light. It will cause a back-up in front of High Street; drivers won't be able to move and that will not make people happy there especially if there are 478 cars traveling north on Main Street. There are more people coming out of High Street going north than there are coming out of Ashaway Road. Councilor Capalbo noted she understands where Chief Palmer is coming from and referred to the 12 hour volume analysis and most of the time the volume wasn't a problem. She felt it there was a way to place a traffic light, consistently blinking red/yellow, but between the hours of between the hours of 6 and 9 AM and 3 and 6 PM it becomes a proper traffic light. She stated they have the ability to switch like that but it will have to dim at night. She is open to a light. Councilor Buck commented that once it is installed it will not go away. Councilor Capalbo noted the town is growing and it would be was best if people could just stop and go as they do now. She is open to the idea of a traffic light but added that they will not be able to take a right on red. Councilor Husband felt that flies in the face of what he just said about heavy traffic in the area and with a stop light there it will certainly cause a back-up. He prefers the installation of reflective signage. Councilor Thompson prefers to leave things alone. She noted there have been a few accidents; some involving deer and parked vehicles. She noted when she has gone through the area during rush hour it has not been a huge deal but she understands the safety aspect. She noted though, before there is a light, another option would be that it is a three way stop sign stop - no one supported that idea - she doesn't want to see a traffic light there. Council President Landolfi defers to the concerns of the Chief but he recognizes that the Council does not favor a traffic light so he recommended the alternate methods be explored first. These alternate measures are to install a stop ahead sign with reflective buttons or flashers triggered by the advancement of a vehicle at the approach of Main Street.

Painted indicators on the road warning of the traffic stop; reduced speed limit signs at the approach near the swamp. Councilor Buck suggested the Chief place a second line patrol car in that area. Councilor Capalbo suggested a larger format stop sign. Chief Palmer hopes that these added measures may help. He will submit the recommendations to the State as they are interested in hearing what the Town Council wishes. There was no vote on the matter.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one spoke during the second public forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk