

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the fourth day of March 2019 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 6:15 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, Sharon Davis; 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 DAVIS TO CONVENE OPEN SESSION AND ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER: I. R.I.G.L. SECS. 42-46-5(A)(1) & (2) FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS AND LEGAL ADVICE AND/OR CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE HIRING OF A PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE AS A NEW TOWN EMPLOYEE WITH THE FILLING OF AN EXISTING AND CURRENTLY VACANT POSITION, INCLUDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS, IF ANY, ON EXISTING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

POLL VOTE:

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

The prospective candidate has been notified in advance and in writing of this agenda item, and has been advised that he may require that the discussion be held in Open Session.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Council President Landolfi reported no votes were taken in Executive Session.

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

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

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

**ROCK-PAPER-SCISSOR’S CHILDREN’S FUND BIKES FOR GIRLS PROGRAM**

Abbey Paradis was before the Town Council to give a presentation about the Rock-Paper-Scissor’s Children’s Fund Bikes for Girls Program. Ms. Paradis stated there would be an Art and Craft Fundraising Event being held at the Hope Valley Grange & Community Center on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. This event is to raise proceeds for the Bikes for Girls Program, a program created to assist with the education of Vietnamese girls who have to travel long distances by foot to get to school. Giving bikes to these girls provides them with a safer way to and from school with the hope to keep them in school. The fundraiser is an artisan event that will offer hand-made soaps, jewelry, pottery, etc. There will be food available, a raffle and silent auction. Ms. Paradis will sell her artwork and will donate 100% of these proceeds to Bikes for Girls. A representative from the organization will be on the premises and the event is being supported by many local businesses both large and small. She hopes this will be an annual event and mentioned that it may be an effort that will be taken up by students in the Chariho School District. Council President Landolfi asked how much did it cost for a bike as he was interested in giving a donation. Ms. Paradis explained \$65.00 covered the cost of a bike and helmet; the purchase is made overseas to avoid shipping costs. The Council thanked her for attending and wished her the best with the fundraiser.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Council pulled the February 11, 2019 Budget Workshop Notes and the February 19, 2019 Town Council Meeting Minutes in order to make corrections. February 11, 2019 Budget Workshop Notes: page two, first paragraph, the sentence will be reworded to read: “Councilor Hirst advised that what concerned him is the

regionalized school district has been in place for about sixty years and the cap was implemented after the regionalized school district was established”; page six, last line will be clarified to reword the sentence that Councilor Capalbo’s concern was that they had “no high voltage electrician on staff”.

February 19, 2019 Town Council Minutes: page 10, last sentence in the paragraph to clarify fund balance “policy” and strike the remainder of the sentence then to add a sentence: “She noted she and Councilor Davis found \$500,000.00 that could be cut”.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS:**

Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2019 as amended; approve transcript of February 19, 2019 as the record of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment & Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment decision filed by Joyce K. Luzzi/Joyce K. Luzzi Living Trust; Executive Session Minutes February 19, 2019; Budget Workshop Notes of February 25, 2019; Budget Workshop Notes of February 11, 2019 as amended; Approve refund resulting from duplicate payment of RE taxes submitted by the Tax Collector.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Walter Czerkiewicz of Exeter spoke that he was concerned that property rights were being ignored and had contacted Councilor Hirst about the letter he had published in the newspaper about big solar but had not heard back from Councilor Hirst. He felt the Council had thrown away two good sources of revenue and questioned what was going to be done to alleviate the taxes. He noted Westerly taxes were half of Hopkinton’s and he is against keeping industry out of Hopkinton. Council President Landolfi noted the matter was not listed on the agenda and could not be discussed but indicated he would call Mr. Czerkiewicz.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Landolfi provided a Status Update re: Proposed FY 19/20 Budget upon completion of the February 11 and 25, 2019 budget workshops and the Chariho

School Committee's school district budget adjustments. He reported to date the Council had cut \$2,400.00 on the expense side and added \$750.00 in revenue. He stated tomorrow March 5, 2019 is the Chariho District Financial Meeting, the hearing on the proposed school district budget. He hoped there would be support to the Council's efforts to mitigate the increase due to enrollment shifts and the decline in State Aid to Education. He explained the Council had invited Hopkinton's members of the Chariho School Committee to the last Council Meeting and the Council gave some suggestions on cutting the budget but none were considered. Councilor Capalbo mentioned that Lisa Macaruso did bring up the three or four points but no changes were made. Councilor Thompson indicated the Town received more State Aid to Education 25 years ago than we do now.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William McGarry reported during January and February, he and Planner Jim Lamphere worked on the proposed Stubtown Road dump/solar array. Jim is working closely with RIDEM officials and he was working with Chris Kearns of the RIDOA, who provided the town with two sample RFPs—one for financial consultant services and a second for a private/public partnership to construct a solar array in the future. The discussions are ongoing, and the town is awaiting a written confirmation from RIDEM that the newer of the two dumps has been properly capped. We also met with Planning Board Chair Al DiOrio, who provided us with documentation from past years on the dump. Jim has forwarded extensive documentation to the RIDEM that the landfill had been capped properly. There will be more information to follow at a later date. Mr. McGarry reported on February 21, 2019 he worked with representatives from the LaFramboise Water Company and the Town Solicitor on the current status of the paperwork required by the RIDOH, regarding the one-mile waterline in Hope Valley and the town wells at the Crandall House and Town Hall. We also scheduled a meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Crandall House with LaFramboise representatives, Solicitor Kevin McAllister and Finance Director Brian Rosso to ensure that we meet all RIDOH requirements. He reported on February 21, 2019 he interviewed four candidates for the position of part-time ACO (12 hours, per week). The town subsequently hired Ms. Chelsi Spakowski of Rockville for the position. She is scheduled to start work on March 11<sup>th</sup> and will be

introduced to the Council at a future meeting. The Town has also begun the process of renewing the license to reopen the animal shelter with the RIDOH.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & ZONING ORDINANCE MAP AMENDMENT RE: JOYCE K. LUZZI/JOYCE K. LUZZI LIVING TRUST**

This matter had been scheduled to discuss, consider and possibly approve two motions to reconsider and clarify the wording of the two motions made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Town Council at its February 19, 2019 meeting and pertaining to the then-pending Decision on the applications for a Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment and a Zoning Ordinance Map Amendment filed by Joyce K. Luzzi/Joyce K. Luzzi Living Trust, 145 Sakonnet Blvd., Narragansett, RI 02882 for property located at 165A Tomaquag Road identified as Plat 5, Lot 6, a Manufacturing Zone, to amend the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use Map from Manufacturing to Medium-Density Residential and to rezone the parcel from Manufacturing to R-1.

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider making it more clear that the Council's February 19, 2019 intent was to amend the Comprehensive Plan's Future Land Use map and the zoning classification for the referenced parcel from Manufacturing to R-1, and so that the final form of written Decision clearly and accurately reflects the intended action by the Town Council.

Solicitor Kevin McAllister indicated when the Council voted they inadvertently voted two times to amend the comprehensive plan's future land use map but did not vote to rezone the parcel. This was the reason it was before the Town Council again.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO RECONSIDER THE TWO VOTES.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

**SO VOTED**

Town Planner James Lamphere was present and further assisted in clarifying what was needed. The Council would proceed to motion and vote as follows:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN'S FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT FILED BY JOYCE K. LUZZI/JOYCE K. LUZZI LIVING TRUST, 145 SAKONNET BLVD., NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 165 A TOMAQUAG ROAD IDENTIFIED AS PLAT 5, LOT 6, A MANUFACTURING ZONE, TO AMEND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN'S FUTURE LAND USE MAP FROM MANUFACTURING TO MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE THE ZONING ORDINANCE MAP AMENDMENT FILED BY JOYCE K. LUZZI/JOYCE K. LUZZI LIVING TRUST, 145 SAKONNET BLVD., NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 165 A TOMAQUAG ROAD IDENTIFIED AS PLAT 5, LOT 6, A MANUFACTURING ZONE, TO REZONE THE PARCEL FROM MANUFACTURING TO R-1.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL TOWN ASSEMBLY**

This matter was scheduled to discuss and consider holding the Annual Financial Town Assembly scheduled for May 7, 2019 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, rather than in a local elementary school. There will be no change to the location of the FTA; it will be held at the Town Hall.

**HOPKINTON-WESTERLY SOLID WASTE CONTRACT**

This matter was scheduled to discuss, consider and vote to approve a two-year solid waste contract between the Towns of Hopkinton and Westerly in annual amounts of \$15,000.00 for FY 2019-20 and \$16,000.00 for FY 2020-21, which will allow Hopkinton, its residents and taxpayers the right to use the Westerly transfer station.

A motion was made by Councilor Capalbo and seconded by Councilor Hirst to approve the contract which led to discussion: Councilor Hirst questioned how the contract would affect the solid waste tonnage cap the school district would like a share of. Mr. McGarry indicated there was nothing to give to them under the allotted cap. Councilor Capalbo added the Town of Richmond would be assisting the school district with that. Councilor Capalbo commented that this was a great deal for the Town and the Westerly Landfill was run well. Councilor Thompson confirmed that users must still buy orange bags to dispose of household waste. Councilor Capalbo stated that they also take recyclables, books, electronics, mattresses, yard waste. Councilor Thompson asked how it worked in Richmond and questioned the fee to use the Richmond Landfill and was told it was an annual \$25.00 fee and a per pound cost to dispose of household waste; zero to 49 pounds was \$4.00; there was no charge for recyclables. Mr. McGarry was asked if the Town's municipal trash was included and he responded no, there was a separate vendor who was contracted to pick up the Towns municipal trash. Dorothy Gardiner of Canonchet Driftway noted if you rented a dumpster you can understand why there is a high cost. She explained her neighbor rented one for \$500.00 plus she had to pay extra for the material in the dumpster she was disposing of, so she felt the fees were for transporting and disposing of the waste. Councilor Thompson indicated she would review Richmond's budget as it pertained to Richmond landfill. Discussion ended and the Council proceeded to vote as follows:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR HIRST TO APPROVE THE TWO YEAR SOLID WASTE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HOPKINTON AND TOWN OF WESTERLY.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

## **BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

### **Recreation Commission**

This matter was scheduled to discuss and consider appointing Christine Cook to the

Recreation Commission who had been interviewed on February 19, 2019.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO APPOINT CHRISTINE COOK TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Ronald Prellwitz of Main Street serves on the 1904 School Building Subcommittee and reported they had sent out letters to reclamation companies with a negative response from all so they were now pursuing companies that will come out to demolish the building.

Mr. Prellwitz noted everyone is upset about solar but every day we must purchase 16% of our electricity from Canada just to keep the lights on; 16% of 7 days is 26.88 hours, so if we shut off everybody's power from 6:00 Monday morning until 8:45 Tuesday morning we would be even. We need electricity and he felt it was something people should be aware of. Whether you are solar pro or con, it needed to be done in an equitable manner; we need electricity from somewhere. He stated much of our local sources of electricity from power plants had been shut down in the southern New England region over the past couple of years: Millstone, Braden Point, Thames, Montville – they are all shut down and they were big power suppliers. People are moving in; our children are growing up and buying homes; people are a burden on the electrical grid, we all use electricity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND JEAN BARRY.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk