



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES January 6, 2016 – 7:00 PM Town Hall

Call Meeting to Order

Joe Magnani called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present at the meeting were Chair Joe Magnani, Vice-Chair Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves, Rob Scherer, Carl Hakansson and Interim Town Manager Michael Herbert.

Joe Magnani announced that the meeting was being taped and broadcast live on WACA.

Joe Magnani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen's Participation

Mark Dassoni, 49 Hawthorne Road, congratulated Michael Herbert and explained that he looks forward to working with him and the new Economic Development Director.

Michelle Hudak, 15 Clark Street, thanked the Board for appointing the Override Study Committee and supports all the efforts the members have put into it.

Scheduled Appointments

Hanto Entertainment License

Joe Magnani read the public notice to open the public hearing.

Raymond Jiang owner of Hanto, 380 Union St, explained that he is seeking a change in his entertainment license because he would like to change the type of music played to live bands.

Tim Raffety, Agent for the landlord of the property, stated that he supports this request.

Janet Gamache, 10 Metropolitan Avenue, explained that she does not support the change because the noise at night is disruptive and creates a problem for many neighbors, in addition to the trash behind the building and the delivery truck serving the business.

Chuck Dabritz, 368 Union Street, explained that he feels that Mr. Jiang should have understood that his permit was for acoustical music, only.

Todd Ouellet, 17 Metropolitan Avenue, explained that he has not complained but has noticed that if he turns off his television he can hear the base from the music.

Mark Dassoni would like to know if there is something that can do to help with sound proofing.

Raymond Jiang explained that he has tried his best to be a good neighbor and made sound proofing improvements in the new section to help with the noise issue.

Paul Gamache, 10 Metropolitan Avenue, said that he does not support bands because of the noise and would like the back side of the building to stay clean.

Janet Gamache explained that when Hanto's back door is open the noise travels, so sound proofing will not help.

Joe Magnani requested that Raymond change his deliveries schedule so that deliveries are during the day.

Todd Ouellet explained that he is a commercial contractor and a drummer and he would be happy to share some sound proofing options.

Steve Mitchell wants to understand what the impact will be to the business if the change to the entertainment license is not approved. Mr. Jiang explained that they tried acoustic music only and it does not raise enough interest.

Bobby Andrews, 408 Eliot Street, explained that Raymond Jiang schedules bands 2 to 3 times a month for 3 hours at a time and supports the community in many ways, and therefore he requests that the Board support this request.

Dave Dionne, 7 Endicott Street, explained that he supports this business and feels that he should not be compared to other establishments.

Mark Dassoni asked that everyone consider a compromise.

David Giombetti, 364 Union Street, would like to know if the restaurant is looking to continue to be a restaurant or change to a nightclub. Mr. Giombetti stated his concerns about the change in clientele if the venue was changed to a nightclub and would like to know if there could be a rider on the permit that if the noise is not controlled the permit can be retracted.

Yolanda Greaves asked which days Hanto is requesting to have bands perform. Mr. Jiang said that for now it would be on Saturdays only.

Rob Scherer asked if Mr. Jiang has addressed the ongoing issues with the neighbors. Mr. Jiang stated that he has and his attorney notified him that his permit is for acoustic music. Rob Scherer explained that he supports the business, but wants to be sure the Board supports the needs of the neighbors.

Steve Mitchell reported that he has seen the trash stored behind the building and feels that this problem should be addressed along with the commercial truck delivery issues. Mr. Jiang explained that he is working with the landlord to relocate the dumpster to fix the trash issue.

Carl Hakansson explained that he has visited the site twice and understand the concern because he is a musician and gets the bass issue. Carl Hakansson suggests trying to sound proof and reexamine to see if this works for all concerned. He would like to see if some screening can be installed to improve the view the neighbors have and he would like the town to look into addressing the truck safety.

Yolanda Greaves explained that she does not support the change in entertainment license at this moment until Hanto abides by its current license for the next three months. Ms. Greaves would also like to see the plaza property management address the egress issue and Mr. Jiang address the trash issue.

Steve Mitchell said that he was there on Saturday night and enjoyed the band but he did not find it to be really loud, but he does not live nearby.

Joe Magnani appreciates the support that Mr. Jiang gives the community but he was offended when he saw bands being advertised when it was not allowed under the entertainment license. Joe Magnani feels

if Raymond Jiang feels it is necessary for the success of his business then he should look into soundproof.

Board members agreed and requested that Raymond Jiang come back to the board on February 3, 2016 with a plan.

Carl Hakansson requested that Mr. Rafferty look to see if he would add some screening to improve the view from Metropolitan Avenue.

Joe Magnani made a motion to continue the hearing to February 3, 2016 at 7:15P.M. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Warren Woods Ad Hoc Committee Expansion

Carl Hakansson explained that per the Board's vote the Committee will be expanded by four positions. The Board will wait to hear the recommendations when correspondence from each Committee Chair is received.

Old / New Business

Volunteer Breakfast

Michael Herbert suggested February 27, 2016 from approximately 8A.M. to 11:30A.M. for the Volunteer Breakfast at the Community Center.

Road Traffic Safety Committee

Michael Herbert explained that Ed Burman presented information at a prior meeting and Michael Herbert explained that a more formal proposal includes a charge and a suggested makeup of the committee.

Joe Magnani would like to have Technical Review look at taking this on instead of creating a committee for this purpose.

Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves and Rob Scherer are in favor of the proposal and the committee makeup.

Carl Hakansson raised concern about obsolete signs and assumes this committee would address this issue, and if so he is in favor of the committee.

Michael Herbert explained that he would discuss this with David Manugian, Director of Public Works, and see if Technical Review would consider adding this charge to its members. The Board will review the topic again after Michael Herbert has a chance to discuss it with David Manugian and make the recommended modification to the charge.

Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Michael Herbert is requesting that the Board open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and reviewed the time table.

January 6: Open the Warrant

February 16: Deadline for Notice of Intent to submit proposed warrant articles

February 16 – March 29: Due Diligence period

February 16 – May 3: Opportunity for Public Hearings

March 30: Board of Selectmen vote to closes and posts the warrant

February 19: No later than date for the warrant postings

May 4: Town Meeting

Steve Mitchell made a motion that the Board of Selectmen open the spring 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant as of tonight January 6, 2016, as revised date-wise. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Michael Herbert reviewed the Warrant Article guidelines.

Override Study Committee Update

Steve Mitchell explained that on January 19th a workshop meeting will be held for the Board of Selectmen to discuss the potential override.

Michael Herbert explained what has been the focus of the Override Study Committee and what the committee will be recommending. Michael Herbert explained the two options that are being considered and the monetary impact to the residents.

Downtown Parking Facilities

Michael Herbert asked the Board if he should look into the ARA property line. Joe Magnani explained that he and Carl Hakansson reviewed the condition of the parking area and sidewalks in the area of 125 Front Street.

Town Manager Public Forum

Joe Magnani explained that a Public Forum will be held on January 12, 2016 at the Ashland Community Center. The meet and greet with the interim Town Manager will start at 5:30P.M.

Vacancies – Board of Assessors and Water Policy Committee

Joe Magnani would like to thank Bill Browne for all his hard work and dedication to the town. He wishes him well.

Steve Mitchell sent his well wishes to Bill Browne and thanked him for all he has done.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept the resignation from Bill Browne from the Board of Assessors and the Water Policy Committee. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Michael Herbert explained that filling Water Policy Committee vacancy is straightforward via the talent bank form process. However, filling the Board of Assessors vacancy is more complicated as it would be an appointed and then an elected position.

Town Manager Reports

Michael Herbert explained that David Manugian said the town's water restrictions have been removed, because the reservoir water levels have risen to safe level.

Board Reports

Carl Hakansson

Carl shared a memorial of his Grandfather who served the Town of Ashland as a Selectman.

Rob Scherer

Rob explained that he is hoping to improve communication when road opening permits have been approved in the future.

Yolanda Greaves

Yolanda explained that she participated in a conference call concerning community engagement and part of conversation was how to improve communications. She explained that another meeting has been scheduled and they are hoping to follow up and implement some of the ideas.

Steve Mitchell

Steve reported the Downtown Summit will take place on January 12th

Farmer's Market Committee held its kick off meeting. The Health Harvest meeting will be held on January 16th at the Ashland Public Library and all are encouraged to get involved.

Steve thanked all the members of the Override Study Committee and he appreciates all the hard work.

Joe Magnani

Charter Review Committee will be hosting 3 public forum events on January 19th, 26th and 31st.

Joe wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Joe thanked everyone for their hard work.

Adjournment

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.