

## **Municipal Government All Boards Meeting**

**March 27, 2012**

**Senior Center, 6:30 PM**

**Present:** Art Bellerive, Peter Cooper Jr., Peter Cooper Sr., Matt Gagner, Todd Girard, Dr. Robert Hartwig, Mike Lally, John McGrath, Chief Jim Pervier, Joe Szafarowicz, Stefan Sage, Willy Stevens, Ann Sellow, Brent Sellow, Kathleen Walker, Lisa Westwell, Ron Wilmot, Cathy Kuehl, Paul Gagner, Carl Ekman, Cheryl Hanson, Eric Borgeson, Peter Durant, Linda Bellows, Mary Devlin, Alex MacKenzie, John Perkins, Nelson Burlingame.

1. **Cathy Kuehl** – Earth Day
2. **Dr. Hartwig** from the Finance Committee mentioned hopes of a better future with regard to budget problems amongst all the town departments.
3. **Mike Lally** representing the EDC (Economic Development Commission) in partnership with planning board has been making efforts to complete the master plan. They want to streamline the site planning, along with reviewing bylaws to expedite development on the Rt. 20 corridor. A review of a major re-development was done in regards to Ted's Package store on Rt. 20.
4. **Chief Jim Pervier** thanked everyone for cooperation. Statistics from 2010 to 2011, there has been a 50% growth in incidents. Times are tough and people are out there stealing. State and Federal criminal history checks will be made for vendors in town to license them with full background checks. The cost is \$70 to the town and \$30 to the state per check. Lt. Eckman got a \$7500 grant to train dispatch personnel and another \$34,200 for training. Regional dive team was used at Buffum to rescue kayakers in a double dipping rescue. Grant for child safety seats was awarded \$1500. External defibrillator donated by Savers Bank.
5. **Paul Gagner** mentioned 500 additions to the sewer line. Loop to include Charlton Elementary is in the works. Water line is due to come on along Main Street Rt 20 up to Burlingame Road.
6. **Cheryl Hanson, librarian with Stefan Sage** – Mark Twain book was un-banned. Community policing to get materials returned was successful. A number of maintenance problems occurred this year resulting in electrical malfunctions that cost \$25,000. Incredible growth over the last five years. Cheryl said floors were closed at times and some residents have questioned this. Some were taking vacation time and left them shorthanded. Library cupola is finished.
7. **Peter Cooper Sr.** - Municipal Building Committee – worked with Peter Durant to keep him informed on town issues. Helped ensure the town hall sign replacement. Will be going into the schools regarding Rider Tavern – history day, cannon's fired, discussing the constitution. Furniture was donated by a Charlton family. Working on documenting farms that produced milk. This will be put on a CD.
8. **Eric Borgeson** – chair of cable access. Two mission – negotiate new contract and make sure channel 11 is running. Fiber optics now connects the major buildings in the town to enable high speed transmission between the buildings. It also allows cable television broadcasting. We have studio in the Library. Recordings in the Selectmen's building are sent there and broadcast. Ron Wilmot mentioned that the studio transplant.

9. **Joe Szafarowicz** on the finance committee. I have been learning a lot and have enjoyed working with this town.
10. **Peter Durant** said that the budget does not look good. Chapter 90 should be level funded. Transportation bond bill is in discussion. Local aid is likely to be level funded. Last year 65 million in 'free cash' was given to the towns. The governor wants to do the same thing this year. We are proposing to split that amount to \$32 million up front and the rest later. Regional school transportation is level funded along with the circuit breaker, however it is hoped that they will be increased. (MBTA) (McGrath said that money that would be going into free cash is being used for the MBTA.) Peter said they are trying other ways to avert fare increases. There are no new fees or taxes in view to raise revenue. Jim Pervier asked if the state gasoline tax could be forgiven for municipalities to reduce costs.
11. **Peter Cooper Jr.** checking to see what is going on around in town. Town elections are on May 5<sup>th</sup> and the May Annual Town Meeting is May 21, 2012. It was suggested that these dates be switched to reduce problems on current matters with which the incumbents were familiar. Kathleen Walker suggested that a bylaw committee attend to this matter. McGrath said to send the item over to the Town Council to be drafted.
12. **Linda Bellows** – recreation committee took Karen Gavin's place. **John Perkins** trying to get what we can out of current facilities. Ideas for trails. Charlton Rec Friends group was formed and it is a good group of people doing fundraisers. We have discussed trails developed along with the scouts for recreation. Ron Wilmot suggested teaming up with Todd Girard on the 70 acres off Daniels and Colburn Road as well as Buffum. John said that we are very limited.
13. **John McGrath** said that they are working on many large projects. (Gunter property off Rt 20, Ponnakin Hill, Senior living housing projects. Rt. 20 warehousing and office. Solar energy – four entities are making proposals. On Rt 20 behind Atlanta trailer sales should be online in early spring. We have consultants on the Master Plan. Tree planting efforts. Charlton 26 elderly residential housing units. Back of the Pack Relay race finish line is (57 miles) ending in the Town on June 2, 2012 is going to be a fundraiser for the tornado ravaged areas. (Some ultra elite runners will be doing the entire stint for this race.) Southbridge Savings Bank, Teds, Richardson Corner have also come in with proposals.
14. **Mary Devlin**, Selectman secretary. New secretary is there and things are up and running.
15. **Matt Gagner**, Chair of Board of Health. Landfill is almost completely capped. We sent a Health Inspector to solicit resident issues such as odor and traffic. Since that time there have only been one or two complaints. We have a rabies clinic April 14, 1-3 at the Charlton Animal Shelter at 15 Old Town Road. Harrington Hospital now offers travel vaccines here in Charlton. With this meeting we have a great deal of improvement with communication. Hope is there that a water line can extend to the Maynard Field. Nelson Burlingame and Willy Stevens were present for support.
16. **Skip Bellerive** on Conservation Commission Faye Mountain Farm Committee and Glenn Echo Lake Dam committee. Todd Girard helped us save thousands of dollars using state foresters to remove trees. Glenn Echo draw down was not very effective for lack of frost and now the lake is back up. It is anticipated that there will be a weed problem. Lycott is contracted to take care of the problem. Todd Girard is now at 30 hours and we would like to get him working full time. We are sure that when you hear his report, you will want to

have him full time. We have an agreement with Mr. Wilson from Stowe to take care of the farm. He has been up there trimming and we have a working farm. Apple trees are being saved.

17. **Todd Girard** looked at the barn with Curt Meskus. Trying to get the bakery and cider mill back up and running. They have secured the barn and redone some of the electrical work. Board of Health said the report was not all that rosy and they would like to see it operational.
18. **Alex MacKenzie** running for water and sewer commission
19. **Carl Eckman** – emergency committee. Reacted to the tornado by getting lots of training sending volunteers to Sturbridge and anywhere that is needed. He wrote a grant for community response training of 38 people. FEMA got \$4000 to buy a trailer move a shelter to areas needed. He hired Sarah Poole to compile communications. Purchased cots, carts to move equipment as well as shelter. Discussion with Gerry Foskett and they want to use a trailer for storage for non-perishables. He may pour a pad for the trailer so it can be accessed. Broadband access was mapped out. Charter did not know all the locations.
20. **Deborah Ceccarini** – chair of technology committee formed in 2000. GIS (Satellite and aerial land surveys) and 24/7 support of the network. Manage the budget and upgrade the software and hardware. Assessors department – very diverse community with a cross section of housing and commercial properties. Assessing has been a challenge. The market rollercoaster has made it worse. We have digitized all of the assessor’s maps.
21. **Anne Sellew** – Board of Health Animal Inspector – Done 115 barns with a few cases of animal abuse. Monitored animals that were quarantined. Did rabies clinic. She is an animal control officer having answered 1400 calls this year. New shelter is now open with heat and water. FOCAS has helped the town with donations raising over \$25,000. This along with in-kind donations from contractors assisted in building this shelter. We hope to do animal training in the future. **Lisa Westwell** – \$43,000 in revenue was brought in through licensing and fees. FOCAS has helped us with flea and tick meds. Most food is donated for free either from residents or local merchants. (One volunteer goes to Walmart every week.)
22. **Lisa Westwell** – web site manager. Elections page will be going live soon. Anyone running should send it in. All agenda’s are sent from Town Hall and are posted quickly in PDF format. Calendar is available for community events. Heritage Preservation Land Trust VP, she thanks Todd Girard for his work.
23. **Todd Girard** – Dudley resident enjoys working 30 hours/week, forestry management. Erosion control and storm water management. Program involves labor in the field. Pilot program of clean water through fishing. May 5<sup>th</sup> will be the first day of free fishing. Equipment will be provided. Inventory of all open space in town. Opened two parks, 70 acre parcel just opened last week. Trout park, Little River to bring new recreation to town at the same time focusing on clean water. Took GIS system live with the assessors.
24. **Brent Sellew** – completing first year as selectman. Enjoys the job and the town.

25. **Kathleen Walker** – recently appointed to Ma Selectman Association Board of Directors, one of eight in state. Also on Mass Municipal Association along with the Local Government Advisory Council. Working to slow the cuts in local aid. Because Prop 2 ½ provides so little, it is important for the Mass Municipal Association to battle for local aid. Recycling committee – looking for a transfer stations. There will be a candidates night on April 4<sup>th</sup> for the local Charlton Races at the Overlook. April 28<sup>th</sup> will be Earth Day. Thank you everyone for all the work all of you are doing for the Town. Thanks to Cathy Kuehl for providing food and taking pictures at all these events.