

PLYMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
March 11, 2013

Present: John Henry, Joe Freitas and Barry DeCristofano
Meeting began at 7:00 PM

7:00 PM APPOINTMENT Woodlands Senior Housing Facility, Ms. Megan Nye-Thomopoulos, Regional Manager of HallKeen Real Estate Management and Investment representing the South Shore Housing Administration and Ms. Janine Eaton, Resident Services Coordinator of the Woodlands Facility. The Board of Selectmen called the meeting as a result of the recent electrical power outages due to Blizzard Nemo. Also present at the meeting was Plympton Board of Health Chairman, Jack Doyle, Fire Chief, Warren Borsari, and 43D Coordinator, Ken Thompson. The topic of discussion was the fact that the Woodlands facility was without electrical power and heat for three and a half days due to the lack of a generator at the Woodlands.

Ms. Nye-Thomopoulos gave a brief explanation that a new generator to run the basic emergency fire sprinkler system, would cost \$150,000 There would still be no heat in the facility. An Americare grant was applied for in 2011 and it was denied. Ms. Nye-Thomopoulos stated that her goal is to work on funding opportunities to purchase a generator which may cost \$300,000 According to her recent study, Kohl quotes are as stated.

Mr. Doyle, Chairman of the Board of Health stated that with the support of the Board, he will take on an assignment to research the regulations with South Shore Housing - HUD to determine why the South Shore Housing did/does not provide a generator for the Woodlands.

Mr. Thompson recalled a visit to the Woodlands ten years ago to the Woodlands when it opened. He was viewing apartments for his Mother-in-law and was advised not to take an apartment on the northeast corner of the facility because that would be the location for the generator. It was agreed that both Mr. Doyle and Thompson will work on this assignment together. Mr. Thompson will visit contact the Town Building Department and research the building department records during the construction of the Woodlands as well.

Fire Chief Borsari reported that air pressure diesel pumps at the Woodlands property are full of water from Kingston. Once the electrical power is out for an extended period of time, they are "no good." Once the trigger status "Fire Watch" is activated an evacuation from the Woodlands and/or a Fire personnel must be on property for safety. This will be a great burden to the Town and overwhelm present resources. The Chief also stated that he borrows a small generator to provide power for a short time for coffee makers in the community room at the Woodlands, however, there is still no heat in the facility. If an evacuation is necessary, transportation for the evacuation will overwhelm the present Town resources. The primary shelter site is the Dennett Elementary School. The Dennett's generator only provides lighting to the building, (no lighting in rest rooms.) The Chief also reported that in a prolonged extreme event, NSTAR will loan a generator to the Town for the Dennett. The Chief reported that the Emergency Preparedness Plan framework is in place; however, there are many other steps and resources needed to have an effective plan for Town residents. The Chief stressed the importance of the communication element in future events to Town residents. Town residents need to know the location of a Town Shelter prior to loss of power outages in Town; Dennett Elementary School or the newly created Town House Warming Center.

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Ms. Eaton asked that the Town work in collaboration with the Woodlands to obtain a generator. Ms. Eaton thanked Fire Chief Borsari for his care and expertise during the power outages at the Woodlands. Eaton reported that if the Red Cross is contacted to set up a shelter, it was instructed to open it at the Dennett School. The Red Cross is prepared to set up a pet shelter area as well.

Mr. Freitas firmly stated that the collaboration to fund/find a generator for the Woodlands should not be a financial burden to the Town. Mr. Henry reiterated that Mr. Doyle plans to work on the subject at hand and the Board will meet again to rectify the challenges this presents to the residents at the Woodlands and the Town.

Chief Borsari stated that depending on the time of year, the Dennett School will be used as the primary shelter site and Town House Warming Center as the secondary site during winter events. The Town House presently has an undersized generator which runs on natural gas and not electricity. The Town House does not have handicap bathrooms at this time. The Chief reported that if the Town had had to shelter people on the third or fourth day of the recent blizzard, Halifax and Kingston shelters were already full to capacity. In order to evacuate the Woodlands or any residents will present an added burden on Town services. Chief Borsari also stated that many Town residents prefer to "shelter in place," however, as a natural disaster event progresses, residents will have no water or heat and this presents a public health risk. The Chief stated the Emergency pre-plan for local additional resources are the State and private fuel company contracts for fuel for the Fire trucks. It was also reported that the initial phase of an event in Town is for the Police, Fire and Highway Departments to keep the roads open, then the Local Emergency Planning is activated. Federal Agencies will be contacted as the level of an event increases. This appointment concluded at 7:50 PM.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Freitas to proclaim Childhood Cancer Awareness week in Plympton from April 21, 2013 through April 27, 2013. Second Mr. DeCristofano. 3/0.
Copied the Board of Health and post in lobby.

Mr. DeCristofano reported that he went on the Animal Control Officers Association website. There have been many recent changes since October 2012 regarding provisions and dog licensing training. The new Act is twenty one pages in length. Since the repeal, any fees collected will go into the General Fund instead of the Library and School funds. Mr. Freitas added that he has contacted local surrounding Town's and Lakeville has offered to act as Town Animal Control boarding site. Mr. Freitas will report back in two weeks with more findings.

7:55 PM APPOINTMENT Finance Committee Members: Ms. Ossoff, Ms. Hart, Mr. Russo, Mr. Gabriel and Mr. West were present to discuss the Reserve Fund, Warrant Articles versus budget line items. Ms. Ossoff stated that it is anticipated that the Reserve Fund will be depleted For the FY 2013 budget. She encourages all Departments to stay within the current budget. Some of the unexpected budget increases to date are: Veteran's line – four new Veteran's in Town, Insurance, Zoning Board, Wiring, Animal Inspector, and Verizon.

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Mr. Henry suggested that the Finance Committee rethink the amount for the FY2014 Reserve Funds line and increase it since there are so many unknowns. Mr. West agreed and suggested that \$10,000 to \$20,000 be added to the Reserve Fund for FY 2014.

Ms. Ossoff brought to the Board's attention that during the Finance Committee budget meetings with various Departments/Boards, five new positions were included in various department budgets. Ms. Ossoff asked for direction/clarification as to funding type, Warrant Article or Line items for new positions. Mr. DeCristofano recommends all "hiring" go into a Line item.

There was some discussion regarding the OPED and Trust Fund account be set up by the Town Accountant. Mr. Pleau has a "place holder" in the Warrant for the OPED. Mr. Henry recommended that the FY14 budget include the OPED.

REPORTS:

Mr. Pleau a Regional Public Safety Dispatch – quotes: Duxbury \$50,000 Halifax \$60,000 Council on Aging Chair, Ms. Maiorano requested a space for two file cabinets and office for one day a week at Town House. Mr. Henry suggested the COA use the former Selectmen's Room and notify Town Clerk for calendar reservation of room.

Finance Committee concluded their meeting with Board at 8:55 PM

CORRESPONDENCE:

Notification of Free Cash Approval from Mass DOR "free cash" as of July 1, 2012 is \$647,321. Commonwealth – Department of Agricultural – Nomination of Inspector of Animals application By April 01, 2013. "Hold."

Mosquito workshop – forward to Board of Health.

Town Clerk, Ms. Wick – Ballot for 2013 Elected Officers for Elected Officials.

Resignation from Ms. Susan Day – Recreation Commission.

MEGA – Worker's Compensation contact list.

Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee – Agenda for March 14, 2013.

Xfinity – Annual License Fee 2012 Notice 2013 with check for \$425.00

Email from Board of Health in Agreement with Contract – Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod's proposal. Board will sign Contract once it is received. DATES: None to report.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. Freitas to accept the Meeting Minutes of March 04 2013 as modified. Second Mr. DeCristofano. 3/0.

VOTED: Motion made by Mr. DeCristofano to adjourn Meeting at 9:15 PM Second Mr. Freitas. 3/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Krance,
Board of Selectmen, Assistant