

LELAND A. DINGEE
President

CHARLES RYAN
Vice President

HAROLD RANDOLPH
At Large

CHARLES KOKOROS
District 1

JOHN MULLANEY
District 2



THOMAS BOWES
District 3

HENRY JOYCE
District 4

RONALD DENAPOLI
District 5

PAUL "DAN" CLIFFORD
District 6

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

June 4, 2008

A meeting of the Town Council was held in the Horace T. Cahill Auditorium, Braintree Town Hall, on Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Dingee was in the chair.

Clerk of the Council, James Casey, conducted the roll call.

Present: Leland A. Dingee, President
Charles B. Ryan, Vice-President
Harold J. Randolph
Charles Kokoros
John C. Mullaney
Thomas Bowes
Ronald DeNapoli
Paul Dan Clifford

Not Present: Henry N. Joyce

Also Present: Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor
Peter Morin, Chief of Staff
Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor
Various Members of the School Committee
Representatives of Blue Hills Regional School
Various Department Heads
General Public
Members of the Press

There was a moment of silence for all those serving in our armed services, past and present, and the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Dingee informed those assembled that this evenings meeting served two purposes:

- Regular Bi-Weekly Town Council Meeting (Items 4 & 5 in Agenda Handout)
- Inaugural Annual Town Meeting (Items 6,7 & 8 in Agenda Handout)

REGULAR BI-WEEKLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to open the Regular Bi-Weekly Town Council Meeting

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Town Council Meeting of May 20, 2008

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Town Council Minutes of May 20, 2008

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

- NEW BUSINESS

- 08 031 Mayor: Appointment of Board of Registrars
Committee of Ways & Means Chairman Mullaney reported favorable action on all appointments.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to accept Committee Report

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve William H. Dykstra, Richard E. Frye and Margaret M. Johnson as the Mayors' appointments to the Board of Registrars.

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

- 08 033 Verizon/BELD Joint Pole Petition-Wood Road

Motion: by Councilor Kokoros to hold a Public Hearing on June 17, 2008

Second: by Councilor Ryan

Vote: Unanimous

- 08 034 Authorization Policy to Sign Bills
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to place on June 17, 2008 Council Agenda
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

- 08 035 Mayor: Re-appropriation for Human Resource Consultant (\$16,000)
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to assign to Committee of Ways & Means
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

- 08 036 Mayor: Re-appropriation for Stabilization Fund (\$500,000)
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to assign to Committee of Ways & Means
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

- 08 037 Mayor: Appropriation from Water and Sewer Rehabilitation Fund (\$250,000)
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to assign to Committee of Ways & Means
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

- 08 038 Mayor: Departmental Line Item Transfers (\$1,156,244.23)
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to assign to Committee of Ways & Means
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

- **Public Hearings**
08 029 Mayor: Re-appropriation for Veterans' Benefits (\$18,000)
Motion: by Councilor Ryan to open public hearing
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: No discussion from public or council members

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to close public hearing
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Re-appropriation for Veterans' Benefits
Second: by Councilor Randolph
Vote: Unanimous

08 030B Mayor: Re-appropriation from Overlay Surplus Account to Medicare Account (\$87,500)

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to open public hearing

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion: No discussion from public or council members

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to close public hearing

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to approve Re-appropriation from Overlay Surplus Account to Medicare Account

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Close the Regular Bi-Weekly Town Council Meeting

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to open public hearing for 08 32A-FY09 Budgets, 08 032B-Reorganization Plan and 08 032C-Revolving Funds.

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

COUNCIL PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Council President Dingee began the Inaugural Annual Town Meeting by introducing each of the Council Members. Members were given the opportunity to briefly speak to those in attendance. President Dingee then informed the public that during the Annual Town Meeting the public is invited to speak on each departmental budget as it is presented. In addition, an open public comment period would be available prior to accepting a motion to close the public hearing.

08 32A – PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENTAL FY09 BUDGETS

• 08 032A-111 Town Council

Council President Dingee provided an overview of the Town Council FY09 Budget request for \$351,728.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as presented. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-161 Town Clerk**

Council President Dingee provided an overview of the Town Clerk's FY09 Budget request for \$224,033.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that one position was eliminated from the budget and the Mayor's Chief of Staff indicated that if a problem came up during any election due to the position reduction, all would work together to get the job done. The Committee voted to accept the budget as presented. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-610 Library**

Betsy Wolfe, Director of the Library, provided an overview of the Library's FY09 Budget request for \$1,162,397.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as presented but, with questions concerning the shift of custodial responsibilities. Councilor Clifford pointed out that the \$83,916 budget reduction from FY08 was attributed to the custodial positions/supplies being shifted to another department as a result of the reorganization. Councilor Randolph informed the public that he had checked with Town Solicitor regarding his position as a Library Trustee and was assured that a conflict did not exist on his voting on the Library budget. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-210 Police**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinshurf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Police Departments FY09 Budget request for \$7,218,635. Police Chief Frazier was in attendance to answer any questions.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the budget reflected a reduction of one administrative position and the shift of custodial responsibilities as a result of the reorganization. Committee voted to accept the budget as amended. Councilor Bowes commented on the outstanding job Chief Frazier did in detailing his budget to the Ways & Means Committee. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-220 Fire**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinshurf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Fire Departments FY09 Budget request for \$6,642,832.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the budget reflected a reduction of one administrative position and the shift of the mechanics responsibilities as a result of the reorganization. Committee voted to accept the budget as amended. Councilor Bowes asked if the Acting Fire Chief could provide insight on the effectiveness of the 24-hour shift. Mr. Morin stated that Acting Fire Chief McHugh was on vacation. He indicated that the Mayor has asked for regular reviews of sick time usage and the impact on the overtime budget. Councilor Bowes has asked if those reports could be shared with Council members when they become available. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-121 Mayors Office**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Mayors Office FY09 Budget request for \$389,099.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as amended. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-133 Municipal Finance**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Municipal Finance FY09 Budget request for \$3,787,368.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as amended. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-151 Law Department**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Law Department FY09 Budget request for \$207,209.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-152 Human Resources**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Human Resources FY09 Budget request for \$13,458,499.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that much discussion on this budget centered on the reduction of job classification of the Veterans' Agent in addition to the loss of the secretarial position. The Committee was aware that the Charter prohibited it from increasing the budget and felt its hands were tied as to rejecting the change in position via the reorganization plan. The Charter required the Council to either accept the reorganization plan as is or reject it in its entirety even if the Council sought to make even one change. The Committee voted to accept the budget as amended and with reservation. / Public: Mr. Al Varrasso, Commander of the American Legion Post stated these changes would water down veteran services with the loss of \$13,000 in salary, the Veteran Agent would leave. He also pointed out that assigning the work previously performed by the Veteran Agent's Secretary to several clerks would put confidential issues of veterans' at risk. Mr. Frank Drago, former National, State and Local Veteran Official was concerned on who would be addressing veterans issues when the Veteran Agent was out of the office doing his job or on vacation.

- **08 032A-175 Planning and Community Development**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherf, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Planning and Community Development FY09 Budget request for \$351,511.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-241 Municipal Licenses & Inspections**
 Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Municipal Licenses & Inspections FY09 Budget request for \$729,071.
Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted to accept the budget as proposed. / Public: No comments.
- **08 032A-400 Public Works Department**
 Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Public Works Department FY09 Budget request for \$5,780,972.
Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee voted earlier that evening not to approve the Mayor's request to amend Program #18 (Grounds Maintenance), Line Item # 5104 (Labor/Custodians/Mechanics) by \$11,535 as funding for a few months of consulting by the Grounds Superintendent, who was to retire this week. The Mayor requested that the Grounds Superintendent be retained through the summer to oversee grounds maintenance during this peak season. The Committee recommendation was to reduce the budget by \$11,535 to \$5,769,437. / Public: No comments.
- **08 032A-541 Council on Aging**
 Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Council on Aging FY09 Budget request for \$194,161.
Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the budget reflected the loss of one position and the shift of custodial responsibilities as reflected in the reorganization plan. The Committee recommends accepting the budget as proposed. / Public: No comments.
- **08 032A-400 Golf**
 Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Golf FY09 Budget request for \$1,126,463.
Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the budget reflected a reduction in work force and the Committee recommends accepting as amended. / Public: No comments.
- **08 032A-436 Sewer**
 Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Sewer FY09 Budget request for \$7,830,421. . It was also pointed out, due to a printing error, Program #01 (Administration) was omitted from the budget and is reported under Program #05 (Sewer System Rehab), Line Item #5104 (Labor/Custodians/Mechanics).
Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the budget reflected a reduction in work force and the Committee recommends accepting as amended. /

Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-438 Water**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff, Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor and Eric Kinsherb, Mayor Sullivan's Financial Consultant, provided an overview of the Water FY09 Budget request for \$4,569,265

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-350 Blue Hill Regional School**

Joseph A. Ciccolo, Superintendent, Blue Hills Regional School, John McFadden, Business Manager, Blue Hills Regional School and Robert Kimball, Braintree Representative to Blue Hills Regional, provided an overview of the Blue Hill Regional School FY09 Budget request for \$1,833,089.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032A-300 Education**

Sean Powers, Chairman of the School Committee introduced School Committee members Shannon Hume and David Ringius, Superintendent Peter Kurzberg, Assistant Superintendent Maureen Murray and Business Manager Peter Kress.

Peter Kurzberg, Superintendent of Braintree Public Schools , provided an overview of the Braintree Public Schools FY09 Budget request for \$45,203,204.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

At 10:20 PM, Council President Dingee called for a five minute recess.

At 10:25 PM, Council President Dingee called the meeting back to order and introduced Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan.

08 32B – REORGANIZATION PLAN

Mayor Sullivan presented a reduced PowerPoint presentation of the submitted reorganization plan that highlighted the key changes in the organizational structure proposed. The Mayor spoke of a streamlined government with the total number of departments being reduced from 22 departments to 9 departments as outlined in the Charter.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as amended. / Public: No comments.

08 32C – REVOLVING FUNDS

- **08 032C AI-1 Council on Aging**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Council of Aging Revolving Fund request to spend up to \$30,000 for services and activities for the Town's elderly residents.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the

Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-2 Board of Health**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Board of Health request to spend up to \$40,000 costs associated with purchasing and administering public health immunizations.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-3 Library Trustees**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Library Trustees request to spend up to \$40,000 for purchase of library books and audiovisual materials.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-4 Mayor (Composting/Recycling—Bins/Bags)**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Library Trustees request to spend up to \$5,000 for purchase of home composting bins, curbside recycling bins, and recycling bags.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-5 Mayor (Recycling Initiatives & Events)**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Library Trustees request to spend up to \$35,000 to promote town recycling initiatives and events.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-6 School Committee (Extra Curricular Activities)**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Library Trustees request to spend up to \$100,000 for the operation of extra curricular activities.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

- **08 032C AI-7 School Committee (School Bus Transportation)**

Peter Morin, Chief of Staff and Carolyn Murray, Town Solicitor, provided an overview of the Library Trustees request to spend up to \$175,000 for the operation of school bus transportation services.

Discussion: Committee of Ways and Means Chairman Mullaney responded that the Committee recommends accepting as proposed. / Public: No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, Council President Dingee asked if anyone would like to comment on the material presented. No one came forward. President Dingee asked for a motion to close public hearing on the Annual Town Meeting.

Motion: by Councilor Ryan to Close the Annual Town Meeting

Second: by Councilor Randolph

Vote: Unanimous

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James M. Casey
Clerk of the Council