

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

June 25, 2018

Chairman Kevin A. Caira called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Jonathan R. Eaton, Edward P. Loud, Sr. and Michael V. McCoy. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

A motion was made and duly seconded and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies with respect to litigation involving the Wilmington Police Department in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)3, as an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's position with the intention to return to open session.

Chairman Kevin A. Caira called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Jonathan R. Eaton, Edward P. Loud, Sr. and Michael V. McCoy. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman Caira asked those present to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

TREASURY WARRANTS

Chairman Caira asked for a motion to accept the Treasury Warrants. A motion was made by Selectman Loud, seconded by Selectman McCoy and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen accept Treasury Warrants 50, 50A, 51 & 51A.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Eaton, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held June 6, 2018 and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held June 11, 2018 and all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

THERESA MARCIELLO, DIRECTOR, AND LAURA PICKETT, CASE MANAGER, DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES, RE: PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Marciello gifted the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager with water bottles that has this year's logo/theme "Better Together" on it. She stated that the logo was designed by a student. Ms. Marciello stated that over 25 students participated in a contest to create a logo and those entries were narrowed down to two finalists. She stated that graphic arts teacher Jennifer Fidler had her classes participate in the contest and held classes at the Senior Center.

Ms. Marciello reviewed activities that have taken place as part of the Inter-generational Program. The Department of Elderly Services was the beneficiary of Zachary Danciewicz' Eagle Scout Project where he redesigned the attic space at the Buzzell Senior Center to allow for more efficient storage.

Other department activities include delivering meals to help homebound seniors feel included in the Fourth of July Festivities; a spaghetti and meatball dinner on July 26 which will be completed before the opening ceremony for the Moving Wall; a five series class on stress management; receipt of a grant from Massachusetts Council on Aging to promote exercise within the community which will be used on Sunday, September 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Yentile Farm Recreational Facility. In addition, regular classes such as Zumba and yoga continued.

Ms. Marciello stated that, based upon the computerized sign in-program, there was an increase of 24% in activity over the course of one year and attributes the increase to new programs and making sure seniors feel comfortable to attend and meet with friends.

Ms. Marciello addressed the space needs at the Senior Center. She stated that one solution has been to utilize the Fourth of July Building on Thursday mornings for an art class. Ms. Marciello noted that there may be another opportunity to use the Fourth of July Building in the future.

Ms. Marciello introduced Case Manager Laura Pickett and noted that August will mark the 7th anniversary of her employment with the Town.

Ms. Pickett stated that she is often in the community with the seniors to assess their needs and, like other parts of the country, seniors in Wilmington experience issues related to Alzheimer's and dementia. Ms. Pickett provided statistics related to Alzheimer's and dementia.

Three years ago the Department of Elderly Services worked with Minuteman Senior Services to provide powerful tools for caregivers. A 6 week program/workshop provided caregivers the skills they can use and much needed support. As a result, a Caregiver Support Group formed and meets on a monthly basis.

Ms. Pickett stated that she and Ms. Marciello have been working to develop a new program called the Memory Café. They have met with other towns which have implemented the same program to learn how to have a successful program. Ms. Pickett stated that a Memory Café provides a welcoming space for people with memory loss and their caregivers to attend together. It offers an opportunity to socialize, participate in activities and meet new friends in an accepting environment. Ms. Pickett explained that often caregivers are reluctant to have an outing with people who are experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's because of certain exhibited behaviors. In a Memory Café everyone knows what those behaviors are and are accepting of them.

Ms. Marciello stated that she applied for a grant and unfortunately it was not awarded to Wilmington. She explained that this type of program requires six months to one year of knowing exactly what activities will take place, which restaurant to attend, what musician/entertainment, etc. to offer.

Ms. Marciello noted that the Board of Selectmen receives the Buzzell Buzz, the monthly newsletter, and invited members to attend programs that interest them.

Chairman Caira thanked Ms. Marciello and complimented her on programs she is running. Chairman Caira asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Each selectman thanked Ms. Marciello and Ms. Pickett for doing a wonderful job and they are excited to hear about the new programs. They are not surprised by the 24% increase and the Selectmen appreciate their efforts.

Town Manager Hull stated that Ms. Marciello's department, for many years, has been an inviting environment despite space constraints. He noted the constant effort to work inter-departmentally.

MICHAEL R. BEGONIS, POLICE CHIEF, AND JOSEPH T. McMAHON, FIRE CHIEF, RE: NORTH WILMINGTON RAIL CROSSING

Deputy Fire Chief William Cavanaugh was present on behalf of Chief Joseph McMahon.

Chairman Caira stated his understanding that there was an issue recently at the North Wilmington Rail Crossing and Town Manager Hull believed it would be beneficial for representatives of Public Safety to provide an update to the Board of Selectmen.

Chief Begonis stated that the Town of Wilmington has had an ongoing issue at the North Wilmington Crossing and over the years have had multiple meetings and discussions with representatives of Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) regarding the operations of that station. He acknowledged that it is a very small station and there is some sight distance issues relative to the building that sits next to it heading northbound. One issue is when a northbound train arrives and the first car stops at the platform it leaves approximately four cars across Route 62.

Emergency responders are concerned that while the train is in the depot, emergency vehicles and equipment cannot get past. Chief Begonis noted that the stop lasts approximately one minute to one and one-half minutes. He stated that last Monday emergency vehicles were responding to a call for service and the ambulance was first. As the ambulance approached the crossing red lights began flashing, the crossarms came down and the train entered the station. Chief Begonis opined that common sense would have dictated that the train move forward so that the emergency vehicles could pass. However, the train held up a couple pieces of apparatus as well as responding police vehicles. Chief Begonis described the location of the call and the difficulty for fire apparatus to respond. He stated that ordinarily the train blocking the roadway would be logged and he noted that a two-year history was provided to MassDOT. He stated that he was perplexed on Monday by the delay and why the engineer had stopped where it did. Chief Begonis noted that he spoke to the Chief Operating Officer for the railroad for MassDOT who has been very helpful. There has been open dialog and they plan to have a meeting to review protocols going forward. Chief Begonis explained that, when one looks north from the platform, there are several number cards indicating to the engineer if the engine stops at that location how many cars can stop and not block the intersection. Chief Begonis stated that is an established protocol and cited turnover at MBTA for it not being adhered to. When observed, Keolis is made aware of the issue. Chief Begonis acknowledged that the issue has been a source of frustration. There was a serious call for service that they would have hoped to have an earlier response. The Town was able to open a dialog with the state and speak with someone higher ranking in MassDOT who will oversee the issue.

Chief Begonis stated that there will be a meeting which will involve officials looking at the station and the improvements that are planned including the expansion of the car cards as the cars are larger than they were when the cards were initially installed.

Chairman Caira thanked the gentlemen for the update and asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board. Selectman Loud advised that he had a conversation with a neighbor who was at Elia's and observed the train did not pull up far enough. He expressed his concern and thanked Chief Begonis for addressing the situation.

Chief Begonis stated that Senator Tarr's office was extremely helpful in the Town being able to contact the Chief Operating Officer. The Town made the decision to make sure state officials understand clearly it is not acceptable to block the roadway and protocols need to be followed. He noted that instances also depend on the engineer. Chief Begonis stated that it is governed by Railroad Law. The law is not designed with the community in mind but officials appear amenable to working to solve the issue.

Selectman Bendel asked whether there is some type of lighting or signal technology, similar to the opticom for motorists, so that the engineer can be aware of approaching emergency vehicles. He asked whether there is anything the Board can do to assist the Police Department in reinforcing the importance of this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Margaret M. McKenna, Trustee, Irene M. Brennan Family Trust. Ms. Brennan was a beloved school teacher and a familiar figure to anyone who has been in Wilmington for any amount of time. A portion of her estate, in the amount of \$53,171.96, was left to the Town of Wilmington Scholarship Fund. Ms. Brennan's wish is that two (2) \$1,000 scholarships be awarded annually to Wilmington residents attending Salem State University with a preference that the funds be first given to any student pursuing a degree in education.

Town Manager Hull reviewed correspondence from Margaret J. Hurley, Assistant Attorney General, regarding Wilmington's Special Town Meeting of December 16, 2017, Article 2. Ms. Hurley wrote "Based on the Attorney General's limited standard of review of town by-laws, we approve Article 2 from the December 16, 2017 Wilmington Special Town Meeting. However, for the reasons explained below, the Town should consult closely with Town Counsel before applying the amended by-law to any substance abuse treatment facility to avoid violating the Massachusetts Zoning Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §§, 12132 et seq.), the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794 (a)), and the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. § 3604 (f)(1) et seq.)."

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum, a memorandum from School Committee Chairman Julie Broussard and Margaret Kane's letter of resignation as a member of the Wilmington School Committee.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Michael Morris, Town Accountant, advising the Board of Selectmen of his intention to retire July 12, 2019.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter to Hiram Shah appointing him to the Finance Committee and letters to Michele Kincaid, Bernard Nally and Kevin Stokes reappointing them to the Finance Committee. Chairman Caira confirmed that letters will be sent to those individuals who were not selected to fill the vacancy.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum advising the Board of his attendance at a quarterly meeting of the state Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) at Worcester City Hall. The Analog Devices, Inc. application was unanimously approved by the EACC and he expects to receive a TIF resolution from the EACC within the next several weeks.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Senator Bruce Tarr to Deputy Secretary Carolyn Kirk, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, wherein he offered strong support of the application by Analog Devices, Inc. for Tax Increment Financing.

Town Manager Hull reviewed information from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) regarding the commuter rail system. There will be no train service on weekends from July 7 to December 2018 while improvements are made. Free bus shuttles will run between Lowell and Wellington Station on the Orange Line, making stops at every commuter rail station. The Orange Line should be used for service to North Station.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter from Martha K. Stevenson, President, and Suzanne M. Sullivan, Vice President, Wilmington Environmental Restoration Committee, supporting Daniel Deutsch, Esquire, and requesting that the Board of Selectmen not change counsel at this time.

Town Manager Hull reviewed correspondence from Niall Connors, Verizon FiOS, advising the Board of upcoming consumer pricing changes.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF SHERI PALMISANO FOR RESIDENTS OF LUCAYA CIRCLE TO HAVE A NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2018 FROM 12:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Sheri Palmisano for residents of Lucaya Circle to have a neighborhood block party on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF JESSICA WEAVER, RE: DISCLOSURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 268A, SECTION 20 (B) RELATIVE TO SUMMER EMPLOYMENT WITH WILMINGTON RECREATION

Town Manager Hull advised the Board that Ms. Weaver was recently hired as an Educational Assistant with the School Department. She also works as a lifeguard during the summer. One of the requirements, because she is employed in two different capacities, is to seek an exemption from the Board of Selectmen. Town Manager Hull stated that he spoke to Town Counsel who does not see issues with this being granted by the Board. Town Manager Hull read requirements that must be met before the Board of Selectmen may grant the waiver. Town Manager Hull noted the difficulty in obtaining lifeguards for Silver Lake.

A motion was made by Selectman Loud, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen acknowledges receipt of Jessica Weaver, Lifeguard with Recreation Department, disclosure and determine that her employment as a Lifeguard with the Recreation Department is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee.

Selectman Bendel encouraged certified lifeguards to contact Recreation Director Karen Campbell.

BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF SAMANTHA REIF, HEALTH & RECOVERY COORDINATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COALITION, TO (1) USE TOWN COMMON AND GAZEBO FOR A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. (2) PLACE SIGNS AND BANNERS THROUGHOUT WILMINGTON AND (3) WILMINGTON TOWN COMMON BE ILLUMINATED IN PURPLE DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH.

A motion was made by Selectman Loud, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Samantha Reif, Health & Recovery Coordinator, on behalf of the Substance Abuse Coalition, to (1) use Town Common and Gazebo for a Candlelight Vigil on Monday, September 17, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (2) place signs and banners throughout Wilmington and (3) Wilmington Town Common be illuminated in purple during the month of September in observance of National Recovery Month.

BOARD TO CONSIDER PROCESS TO FILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VACANCY

Town Manager Hull reviewed the process to fill a School Committee vacancy, which is laid out in Chapter 41, Section 11. Ms. Kane's term is due to expire in 2019.

He stated that he has had conversations with the Chairman regarding dates to have a joint meeting with the School Committee. Mr. Ruggiero, Interim Superintendent of Public Schools, was able to determine that School Committee members are available to meet on August 13. Town Manager Hull suggested that the Board announce that letters of interest will be received through the close of business on Friday, July 27 in the Town Manager's office. The letters will then be provided to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee which will allow an opportunity for them to be reviewed. Town Manager Hull advised that the successful candidate will need a simple majority to be appointed.

A motion was made by Selectman Loud, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the procedure to fill the vacancy on the School Committee as described.

BOARD TO CONSIDER TOWN MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT AND CONTRACT RENEWAL

Chairman Caira stated that he is appointing Selectman Loud and Selectman Eaton to be a subcommittee and to begin to review and investigate the contract. Chairman Caira advised that before the process begins he would like to have an executive meeting with board members for the meeting of July 9, 2018.

BOARD TO CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF TOWN AND LABOR COUNSEL SERVICES

Selectman McCoy referred to the Town Manager's memoranda regarding counsel services noting that one was regarding references and the other was regarding costs. He pointed out favorable comments by department heads regarding the current firm representing the Town, Brooks & DeRensis, and comments made by references regarding KP | Law.

Selectman McCoy stated that the Board needed to look at the history of the firm and what they have provided the Town of Wilmington over the past fifteen (15) years and one of the most important issues is Olin Chemical and New England Transrail.

Chairman Caira clarified that only three department heads were referenced in the memo and there were positive comments made regarding KP | Law.

Selectman Bendel stated that this is one of the bigger decisions he has had to make and in addition to looking through the resumes, reviewing the interviews and contacting references, he also took into consideration recommendations of the screening committee and reached out to additional department heads. Selectman Bendel stated that he also reached out to six prior members of the Board of Selectmen. He stated that he was impressed with all five firms and believe each to be capable of representing the Town. He noted that it is not uncommon for communities to have counsel, labor counsel and special counsel. He stated that he would like to see a combination.

Selectman Bendel noted that, since the Board's last meeting, information has been received adjusting price proposals.

Chairman Caira invited Town Manager Hull to offer comments. Town Manager Hull acknowledged the importance of retaining Dan Deutsch due to his experience dealing with Olin Chemical and New England Transrail. He stated that Mr. Deutsch has been involved since 2005 although the history of Olin dates back to approximately 1986. Anyone who assumes the role in a new capacity, it will take a period of time to "come up to speed".

Town Manager Hull stated that when he spoke to Mr. DeRensis he noted that he found the presentation disappointing and the firm would have been better served if the presentation accented why the Town should retain Brooks & DeRensis rather than negative aspects of the competition.

He stated that regarding the other aspects of municipal law, he enjoyed working with the various attorneys and found them very capable, Wilmington will not fall off the end of the earth if it hires other counsel. Town Manager Hull stated that he was impressed with Collins, Loughran & Peloquin for labor counsel. He was impressed with KP | Law and Mead, Talerman & Costa and both have capable attorneys that would serve the Town well. He reiterated that he would like the Town to retain Dan Deutsch for environmental issues related to Olin. He stated that he has had multiple communication with Mr. DeRensis and noted that Mr. Deutsch has been on vacation.

Mr. Bendel stated that there is no question Mr. Deutsch is invaluable to the community regarding Olin Chemical and New England Transrail. He noted that even if the Town did opt for Brooks & DeRensis, at some point Mr. Deutsch will retire and he needs to begin to transition his knowledge to somebody, either in his law firm or another.

Selectman McCoy stated that when the Board of Selectmen voted to hire Deutsch Williams, he voted for Kopelman & Page. He asked whether the Town Manager spoke to Mr. DeRensis regarding hiring Dan Deutsch as special counsel. Town Manager Hull confirmed that he did and there were multiple email exchanges as follow-up. Town Manager Hull stated that he advised all the firms that the Board was considering different options. He stated that he did not receive a response regarding the NET piece. Mr. DeRensis indicated in one exchange that it was a team effort and not just Mr. Deutsch who is involved in Olin and NET.

Selectman Eaton offered his opinion as to why Mr. DeRensis did not provide the information Town Manager Hull was asking to receive.

Selectman Loud stated that he followed up on information provided during the interview process and over 70 of the communities KP|Law represents are west of Worcester and are very small. He noted that approximately 12 towns are similar in size and a few are larger communities than Wilmington. Selectman Loud recollected Mr. DeRensis being before the Board of Selectmen, a short time after Deutsch Williams was selected to represent the Town, seeking to increase the retainer or he would not continue to represent the Town. He wondered whether that would be the case again where Mr. DeRensis adjusted his price proposal.

Selectman Eaton opined that one of the benefits of a larger firm is that you have younger attorneys coming up through the ranks who are gaining experience under the more experienced attorneys. He stated that the Board is in agreement that retaining Dan Deutsch is in the best interest of the Town.

Selectman McCoy noted there were several residents in the audience and expressed his desire to know their thoughts. Chairman Caira advised that they would have their opportunity under Public Comments.

Chairman Caira reviewed the options available to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman McCoy stated that he would be happy to make a motion but first asked audience members to raise their hands if they would like to retain the services of the present Town Counsel.

A motion was made by Selectman Loud that the Board of Selectmen appoint KP|Law as Town Counsel for the Town of Wilmington and further to engage the services of Daniel Deutsch as Special Counsel relative to Olin Chemical and New England Transrail. Selectman Bendel seconded for discussion. He asked whether Selectman Loud would be amenable to including retaining the services of Collins, Loughran & Peloquin for Labor & Employment. Selectman Loud did not wish to amend his motion and Selectman Bendel seconded Selectman Loud's motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Caira called for a vote. With a vote of four in favor and Selectman McCoy opposed, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen appoint KP|Law as Town Counsel for the Town of Wilmington and to engage the services of Daniel Deutsch as Special Counsel relative to Olin Chemical and New England Transrail.

Town Manager Hull asked how the Board wished to proceed regarding the price options presented by KP|Law. Chairman Caira expressed his wish that there be a maximum that the Town would pay.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Gennaro Grasso, 885 Main Street; Ms. Debra Thompson, 94 Morse Avenue; Ms. Kelly Richards, 31 Shady Lane Drive, and Mr. Anthony DiFraia, 46 West Street, expressed concern that the Town chose not to retain Brooks & DeRensis as legal counsel.

Suzanne Sullivan, 60 Lawrence Street, stated that she understood why the Board of Selectmen went through the interview process but asked what Deutsch Williams did that was so egregious the Board would put the Town at risk. She expressed concern that Mr. Deutsch will not serve as Special Counsel and opined that the vote the Board took is political and not in the best interest of the Town. Ms. Sullivan commented regarding the

length of time members have served on the Board. She opined that the Board of Selectmen deserves to have the best representation against Olin Chemical and New England Transrail.

Robert Fasulo, 28 Marjorie Road, stated that he expected this outcome and wanted to remind viewers that there is an election next year and two individuals will be up for re-election.

Frank West, 2 Birchwood Road, stated that, in 2003, he was in the position of being a new member of the Board, along with Suzanne Sullivan, and having to decide whether to stay with current counsel, which was a stand-alone law firm or to go with a larger firm. He stated that he was able to justify his selection of Deutsch Williams and though the law firm is different, he contends the principals are the same. Mr. West requested that the Board of Selectmen reconsider their decision.

Town Manager Hull observed that, based upon the comments being made, because of the expertise of Dan Deutsch and the knowledge he has regarding Olin and New England Transrail, the Board of Selectmen is being asked to retain the entire firm of Brooks & DeRensis strictly on that one issue. He does not believe the Board should be making the decision hinged upon one individual who has the history of dealing with an environmental situation.

Members of the Board of Selectmen took issue with Ms. Sullivan's comment that the vote was political.

Selectman Loud stated that Brooks & DeRensis is not the same firm that Mr. West and Ms. Sullivan hired 15 years ago. He was disappointed in their presentation and he expected more of them. He acknowledged receiving letters from residents near Olin and during the interview process each candidate was asked about their environmental experience.

Selectman Eaton stated that his brother is a survivor of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia which may have come as a result of drinking contaminated groundwater. He stated that it is not a decision that he is making for political purposes. He recognized that Attorney Deutsch is one of the best attorneys in the commonwealth and one of the best to have for such a sensitive, high conflict issue. He understands that retaining Dan Deutsch is in the best interest of the town so other families do not have to go through what his family went through. Selectman Eaton emphasized that his family is one of the lucky ones. Selectman Eaton stated that the Board is doing everything they can to retain the attorney and recognized that institutional knowledge is not easily replaced and he is confident that the Board's actions are done in the best interest of community.

Geoff Wood, 18 Frederick Drive, asked if the Town would have continued to be represented by Deutsch Williams had the firm not dissolved. He asked what changed so drastically for the Board to not retain Brooks & DeRensis and hire another labor counsel.

Ms. Sullivan opined that the change in counsel is an experiment for the Board of Selectmen. She stated that if it were not for Dan Deutsch and Paul DeRensis, the Town would not have a Tolling Agreement. She expressed her belief that they have done a good job for the town and she has not heard a good reason for the Selectmen to change Town Counsel and put the town at risk. Ms. Sullivan stated her intention to contact Attorney Deutsch and Attorney DeRensis and ask them to stay and "not to take it too personally what they have had to put up with from this board."

Town Manager Hull reiterated the events that led to the Town issuing a request for proposals for Town Counsel and Labor Services. He stated that the Town was put in the position of having to determine who would cover the legal issues in a short time frame. The inference is being made that the Town is critical of DeRensis and punishing the firm without consideration that Deutsch Williams' decision that they could no longer serve as a firm was a major inconvenience.

Selectman Bendel agreed that there were positives of the former firm. He resents the notion that he is a Selectman for political gain. He makes decisions for his family and other families in the community. Selectman Bendel stated that he is surprised to hear from former selectmen who recognize there are difficult decisions to be made. He understands that some decisions won't please everyone but he did what he thought was best.

Kevin MacDonald, who identified himself as a resident of Wilmington, stated that he finds it hard to believe that the limited amount of attorneys who were before the town are the only ones qualified to represent the town. He asked why the Board is in a rush to appoint a firm. Mr. MacDonald stated that he heard that the firm that is currently representing the Town had a joint venture with the firm that the Town just appointed and opined that it would invalidate proper bidding as there may be a conflict of interest. He believes the board ought to reach out to other firms.

Mr. MacDonald asked Selectman Eaton about his campaign and the lack of a handicapped accessible bathroom at the Senior Center and what has Selectman Eaton done to address the problem. Mr. Eaton stated that earlier this evening Ms. Marciello discussed their programs and also current space constraints. Whether the solution is a new senior center or making physical adjustments to the bathroom as is, it is not going to be resolved overnight. Selectman Eaton assured Mr. MacDonald the issue will not go by the wayside.

Mr. MacDonald stated that a couple of months ago he was over Deming Way and noticed many vacant units. He suggested that Mr. Bendel was going to take the lead to get veterans into the vacant units in a quicker way.

Selectman Bendel assured Mr. MacDonald that Lou Cimaglia, Director of Veterans' Services, is in constant contact with Maureen Hickey, Executive Director of Wilmington Housing Authority. He finds it hard to believe there are many vacancies as the last time a unit was open to residents, the waiting list was hundreds of people long.

Mr. MacDonald asked that there be an agenda item at the next meeting to answer how many vacant units, how long they have been vacant and why homeless veterans are not occupying the units. Chairman Caira advised that the information will be obtained for him.

NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Loud noted that the Vietnam Moving Wall will be in Wilmington on the Town Common from July 26 through July 30 and recognized that four young men from Wilmington lost their lives in Vietnam: Richard W. Welch, KIA September 13, 1968; John A. Rich, KIA August 25, 1966; Robert W. Parent, KIA July 21, 1968 and John J. Fullerton, KIA January 31, 1968.

Selectman Eaton noted that Assistant Town Manager Dee Casey was part of the Massachusetts Municipal Association group that put together a local government workforce skills gap report which highlights the difficulty municipalities are having statewide hiring financial professionals. The Board of Selectmen will have a difficult decision as a lot of people in the accounting profession are turning towards private industry and private firms.

Selectman Bendel acknowledged Margaret Kane and thanked her for her time on the School Committee.

Chairman Cairra recognized the family of Irene Brennan who generously donated money to the scholarship fund.

Members of the Board wished residents a happy Fourth of July.

IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

- June 29- – Fourth of July Festivities – 978-657-8081 (funonthefourth.com) – Town Common
- July 2 Spectacular Fireworks – July 2
- June 30 – Family Day – Town Common

- June 30 – Wilmington Fire Department vs. Wilmington Police Department
Charity Softball Game to Benefit Wilmington Food Pantry
Wilmington High School Baseball Field – 4:00 p.m.

- July 4 – Town Offices Closed – *Fourth of July*
- July 7 – Library Closed Saturdays for Summer
- July 9 – Board of Selectmen – Town Hall – Room 9 – 7:00 p.m.
- July 11 – Concert on the Common – “Jimmy & the Jesters” – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- July 11 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- July 12 – Commission on Disabilities – Emergency Preparedness – Town Hall Auditorium
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (*RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER 12*)
- July 14 – Brush Drop-Off – Old Main Street – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- July 18 – Concert on the Common – “Peking and the Mystics” – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- July 25 – Concert on the Common – “Perfect Crime” – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- July 26-
- July 30 – The Moving Wall – Town Common

A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary