

**Selectmen Present:**

Ralph Dormitzer  
Robert Spofford  
Frederick Koed  
Gary Vanderweil  
Edwin Carr

**Others Present:**

William R. Griffin, Town Manager  
Jennifer Oram, Recording Secretary

Chairman Ralph Dormitzer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager, William Griffin, discussed the two alarm fire that destroyed the Dramatic Kitchens and Sunroom Conservations, LTD building in the village. He commended the hard work of the Town's Fire Department, and expressed thanks to the Towns of Hingham, Hull and Scituate for their support and assistance during the blaze.

Mr. Griffin also informed the Board that this would be the last Selectmen's meeting that Cohasset Mariner reporter, Samantha Brown, would be covering. Chairman Dormitzer wished Ms. Brown luck in her new endeavors, and stated that she would be missed.

**Selectmen Comment Period**

Selectman Koed reiterated Mr. Griffin's words of appreciation to the Fire Department and further commended the Department for keeping the rest of the village safe that evening.

Selectman Robert Spofford stated that he was pleased to see progress being made on Forest Avenue in preparation of the installation of new sidewalks.

Selectman Ted Carr also commended the Fire Department, and expressed additional thanks to both the Cohasset Police Department, and the Department of Public Works.

Chairman Dormitzer asked Mr. Griffin if the cause of the fire had been determined. Mr. Griffin stated that the preliminary investigation was pointing to a propane heater, but that the insurance company and Fire Marshall would be determining the exact cause.

Chairman Dormitzer also stated that the MBTA had held its Golden Spike Ceremony to celebrate the last connection of the Greenbush line.

Chairman Dormitzer also informed the community that he had attended a meeting with the School Committee and the Advisory Committee to review the budget of the School Committee. He stated that he felt the Schools were doing a great job this year, and that they really don't want an override.

**Public Comment Period**

Ronnie McMorris of Doane Street addressed the Board. Mrs. McMorris asked what the status was on the study looking at putting a treatment plant near water sources. Mr. Griffin said he would see where the study is in regard to completion, and would let her know if it's at a point where the information would be useful. Mrs. McMorris also stated that she tuned in to Mr. Griffin's budget presentation, and state that she felt it was one of the best presentations she had ever seen. She said that Mr. Griffin should be commended on a job well done. Chairman Dormitzer echoed her statement, and also gave Finance Director, Michael Buckley, credit as well.

**Jim French – Proposal for litter clean-up**

Mr. French of,10 Jerusalem Road, addressed the Board about his concerns with litter in various areas of Town. Mr. French sent a letter to the Board listing his areas of concern, They are: North Main St., King St., Sohier St., Beechwood St and Cedar Street. Mr. French suggested that the Town work encourage local businesses to contact the state about their "adopt a highway" program. He stated that he realizes that 3A is supposed to be handled by the state, but that the other areas in Town he had mentioned, could be taken care of by volunteers, other adoption programs and organized cleaning efforts. Chairman Dormitzer asked Mr. French if he would help spearhead the effort, to which he replied he would. Mr. Griffin also agreed to work on the effort with Mr. French.

**School Committee – Goals for FY08 Budget**

Mr. Alfred Slanetz of the Cohasset School Committee addressed the Board. Mr. Slanetz explained that his committee was now focusing on how to make the schools in Cohasset great. Their ultimate goal is to become a top ten school system. To achieve this, they have outlined the a five year plan to begin addressing and working on the multiple measures that affect the schools. To identify what percentages they need to achieve to this goal, they have looked at their current quantitative measures in various areas. These areas are: Advanced Placement (AP courses), MCAS results, applications to private schools, SAT scores, National Merit Scholarships, extra curricular competitions, and college attendance and scholarships.

Mr. Slanetz explained that to achieve the goals they have now set, funds will need to be spent to maintain, and then improve the services the schools currently provide. He stated that if the schools are given the funds to invest, they will begin to see the goals they have set being achieved. He stated that currently, the 5.5% increase that is being recommended, would keep the services level. If, however, other funds become available, and the schools are allowed to invest/purchase the supplemental items listed, the faster their goal will be realized. Mr. Slanetz also explained that the schools will need the continued support and commitment of the community. He went on to say that after this year, he will report back on how the schools have done against these goals they have set. The Board thanked Mr. Slanetz for his time and his presentation.

**Conservation Restriction on Town Property**

Ms. Karen Quigley, and Mr. John McNabb of the Water Commission, addressed the Board. Ms. Quigley explained that she was before the Board once again to ask for the Conservation Restriction on this parcel of Town owned land (on Sohier St., across from the Cook Estate). She stated that the Town had shown its approval of the restriction when it approved it at the Annual Town Meeting of 2006. Mr. McNabb stated that he and the other Water Commissioners were in full support of the restriction due to the land's proximity to Peppermint Brook. Chairman Dormitzer asked Ms. Quigley to explain what restrictions would apply to the parcel. Ms. Quigley read them aloud. Chairman Dormitzer stated that the restriction, in its current form, says that nothing can be built on the property. The audience then spoke. Margy Charles said that she felt the land should stay as it has for the past 40 years, and that she did not see the reason for placing so many restrictions upon it. She went on to say that the Town has plenty of conservation land and parks. Mrs. McMorris then spoke, and suggested that the Town should stand back and see if there were any other ways the Town could utilize the property. Ms. Quigley then responded, and agreed that the Town does have conservation land; however, she felt that placing the restriction on the parcel to protect the watershed was reason enough to vote for it. Mr. Wayne Sawchuck then interjected, and stated that he felt it would be a shame not to put language in the restriction that would allow some sort of public use. Selectman Spofford then spoke, and stated that he felt the Town should get an appraisal of the land, and that he agreed with Mrs. McMorris that it may be premature for the Town to place the restriction. Selectman Koed stated that the restriction would protect Peppermint Brook, one of the main sources of the Town's water supply. He went on to say that the parcel has been surveyed many times by developers, and that the land could not be perked. Chairman Dormitzer stated that he had walked the land, and that he did not see how anything could be built on it due to the amount of wetlands and the difficulty of gaining access to the property. Selectman Spofford stated that he felt that there was interest amongst developers in the Town. Ms. Quigley interjected, and said the fact that developers were expressing interest, spoke to the land being built on, thus endangering the watershed. In addition to the water issue, she once again stated that placing the restriction was approved by Town Meeting by a 2/3 vote. There was then further conversation about the parcel. Selectman Vanderweil stated that he felt that the Conservation Restriction should be placed as the land seems unusable. Chairman Dormitzer stated that he had agonized about the decision, but that he did feel the land could not be accessed, and therefore he felt he would support the restriction. **Selectman Vanderweil then moved to place the Conservation Restriction on the parcel of Town owned land. Selectman Koed seconded the motion. Selectmen Dormitzer, Koed and Vanderweil voted in favor of the motion. Selectmen Carr and Spofford voted against.**

**Cohasset Land Foundation – Right of First Refusal on Ingram Property**

Members of the Cohasset Land Foundation addressed the Board to review their purchase and sale agreement they have with Osborne F. Ingram. Selectman Vanderweil recused himself from the discussion, and took a seat in the audience, as he is a member of the foundation. Mr. Dick Avery, Mr. Jack Keniley and Mr. Wayne Sawchuck, all members of the Cohasset Land Foundation, were also present for the discussion. The members reviewed the pending sale for the Board, explaining that they had been working on the acquisition since 2003, to put together the best deal for all parties involved. In that time, the foundation was able to get three perks on the property. The purchase price for the land would be \$1.25 million dollars, and would be for

37.5 acres of land. Mr. Keniley went on to explain foundation's planned use for the parcel, should the Selectmen waive their right of first refusal. Six acres of the parcel would be divided up, and sold as buildable lots (the land with the areas that perk), another 6 would be offered, and most likely sold to the abutting Vendanta Center, to give the center a larger buffer zone. One other abutter on Ledgewood Drive would have an option to buy a small portion of the parcel that abuts their property. The remaining acreage would be kept as open space. The sale of these parts of the parcel would finance the purchase for the land foundation. Currently the entire parcel is under Chapter 61, however if this P&S should be completed, only the remainder of open space would remain under chapter 61. After further conversation, it was agreed upon by the Board that a public hearing to discuss the Town's options would take place on Monday, February 26, 2007. Should the Board waive their right of first refusal, and not purchase the land, the Board could then assign their first refusal rights to the Cohasset Land Foundation. The Board thanked the members of the Foundation for their time.

**Peter Pratt – Requests to discuss the role of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and the sun-setting of the committee's duties.**

Mr. Peter Pratt addressed the Board. He asked the Board to review the charge of the EDC. Mr. Pratt stated that he felt, due to recent events, that people should be respectful of elected officials, and the offices they hold. He stated that he felt the EDC had been quite helpful with the TOD, however, when it comes to Zoning Bylaws, he suggested the Board call on the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC).

Chairman Dormitzer thanked Mr. Pratt for his suggestions and time. Mr. Dormitzer thanked the EDC for all of their hard work, and agreed with Mr. Pratt that the Town's Boards and Committees need to work together.

Mr. Chuck Hurd, a member of the EDC, then addressed the Board. Mr. Hurd stated that he found it 'almost offensive' that a public official would come forward and try to sunset a committee. He went on to say that he and his committee were looking forward to working with all of the Boards and Committees in the future. Chairman Dormitzer again thanked the EDC for their hard work and dedication.

Selectman Vanderweil asked if the charges for both the Stormwater Committee, and EDC, could be emailed to the Board.

**Selectman Vanderweil then moved to adjourn the meeting, Selectman Koed seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph S. Dormitzer  
Chairman