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SE Town Board Meeting 8/17/06

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Message #1742 of 1768 < [Prev](#) | [Next](#) >

Hi All,

Fri Aug 25, 2006 1:06 pm

Last Thursday evening (8/17/06) I attended the regular Southeast Town Board meeting.

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As is customary with most regular meetings the agenda was covered in the blink of an eye. The three Public Hearings were painless and it was only New Business that held a few surprises. And one surreal moment when Councilman Honeck, who's apparently had it with me (Dick, take a number), took me to task. In prime time no less- I would have been a little flattered but looking back on it, the request from Mr. Honeck seems a tad petty and pretty silly. Anyhow, it's all covered under New Business.

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I thought Supervisor Dunford kinda, sorta slipped up when Cathy Croft asked a simple question on Southeast participation on Team Brewster but more on that later as well.

As usual all the fun was at the pool hall afterwards. I always feel like the homely girl **not** asked to the prom as I walk by Jack and Jills' spotting some of the Town Board inside. Incidentally, this is an even more desperate and pathetic sight in the depths of winter. Cue maudlin violin solo: it's below freezing, the wind's howling and snow is swirling about my feet I press against the glass, my breath fogging the window, looking longingly at a quorum of the Town Board and the town attorney warm and huddled around a table discussing, well... who knows what. I do know that this week there was a mystery guest with them. Ooooooo, and the Town Attorney who was MIA during the regular meeting deigned to show up for the 'after party'. Well, who wouldn't.

As you can already see, and as always, my caustic comments and cynical observations are strictly my own. Thankfully, they reflect no Board of which I am a member.

Regular Meeting:
Public Hearings:
Reduction of Performance Bond- Arborscape

I asked if all zoning violations had been cleared up- answer: Yes. I asked what the bond was being reduced to. No one knew.

Road name change- Fields Corner Road to Pugsley Road

No questions.

Extension of Route 22 Commercial Moratorium:

I asked how much longer the Moratorium would extend. The Board wasn't sure. I asked how long the Moratorium had been in effect. Since January 1, 2002.

1. Review of Minutes: July 2006- Regular Meeting

Approved 4-0

2. Correspondence

Accepted 4-0

3. Approval of Voucher List:

In the amount of \$903,700.73 approved 4-0

4. Motion- Approval of Budget Transfers-

Approved 4-0

5. Motion Setting Meeting Dates:

August 31, 2006	7:30PM Civic Center	Work
Session /Special Mtg		
September 7, 2006	7:30PM Civic Center	Work
Session		
September 14, 2006	7:30PM Civic Center	Regular
Meeting		
September 21, 2006	7:30PM Civic Center	Work
Session		

Approved 4-0

6. Resolution Fisher Subdivision- Special Permit:

This was to grant a 280-a to the subdivision located on Nelson Blvd.

Approved 4-0

7. Resolution.- Establishment of Performance Bond- D Quinn Subdivision:

This subdivision is located on Turk Hill Road. The amount set was \$16,500.

Passed 4-0

8. Resolution- Extension of Route 22 Commercial Moratorium:

Passed 4-0

9.Resolution- Open Space Bond for November 2006 Ballot

This item was moved to the August 31st special meeting as the Board had not been in touch with bond counsel.

Deferred 4-0

New Business:

Michael Hecht (spelling- sorry) said that he had been complaining about a commercial concern operating across the street from him on Nichols Road. He said that there had been no response from the town and he would like to have the issue resolved. Supervisor Dunford said he would have an answer in a week.

Bradley Schwartz asked about large, detailed maps of the proposed Peach Lake Sewer District and when they might be available. Supervisor Dunford said that he didn't know. Mr. Schwartz seemed to indicate that preliminary maps were done

last January.

I asked about a proposed bond reduction on Ace-Endico from \$2 million to \$20,000. The Board had not heard about this as it happened at the Planning Board meeting last Monday night. My concern was outstanding zoning violations. These violations should be cleared up by August 22nd. I also mentioned the dead and/or crooked trees on site.

I asked about the Landfill status. The DEC will meet with the town the week of August 21st.

I asked about the garbage contracts. So far five possible bidders have come in for specs.

I asked about the discrepancy of '06 vouchers vs. '05 vouchers. Through July of '05 the vouchers totaled \$5 million plus and this year they total over \$7 million. I realized that there was a bond renewal of \$1.2 million in April but wondered about the higher total. The Board said that I could call the Supervisor's office to get an explanation.

I asked if the new zoning code books were available. Yes, about a month ago and all were distributed to every Board member in SE.

I thanked the Board for their consideration of an Open Space Referendum.

Cathy Croft mentioned that there had been no town representation at the last three TeamBrewster meetings and asked if a town representative would be sent. Supervisor Dunford said that attendees both in the Town and County level consider participation a waste of time.

I questioned whether or not the Town could speak for the county as there are several county representatives who still attend.

Councilman Honeck then requested a little time for himself. He said that some residents liked to 'hog' time under New Business and that it was particularly important for Lynne Eckardt to identify herself as the SE Democratic Chair as her questions were political in nature. Just as at times he discloses that he is the SE Republican Chair.

I disagreed saying that I wear a lot of hats and although my questions may relate to various groups I was not speaking as a Board member as I would have to have clearance to do so. And that I was asking as 'Lynne Eckardt' resident.

Mr. Honeck said it was confusing and at least '10 people' asked him 'Who's Lynne Eckardt'. I said to feel free to give out my number if anyone should have any questions. I asked the Board if they would be happier if I disclosed my credentials before speaking. There didn't seem to be a consensus one way or the other.

Bradley Schwartz commented that he didn't feel the need for this disclosure.

COMMENTS:

Route 22 Moratorium...

Unbelievably, it's four and a half years and counting. Scheesh, it's a miracle we haven't been sued over this. And speaking of lawsuits. What ever happened to Councilman Honeck and

Johnson's elaborate election year scheme to sue the DOT over Rt. 22 road improvements? Perhaps we should take bets on whether the Moratorium lifted or the road widened first. I'm guessing that both follow the unveiling of 'Leplerville'.

New Business:

Peach Lake:

As always Brad Schwartz is on top of the sewer system and seems more informed than many on the Board.

Ace-Endico:

Where to begin on our monument to bulk cheese and lemons... A proposed bond reduction from \$2 million down to \$20,000 seems ridiculous. With zoning violations (selling retail without a 'special permit'- which were due to be cleared up), no waste water treatment plant and dead and crooked trees I can't believe this kind of reduction will fly. I have no idea what the town engineer was thinking but honestly the bond reduction amount proposed is ridiculous.

Landfill:

Like waiting for Godot we finally have a meeting with the DEC. I'm betting on a 'postponement' due to vacation schedules but hopefully not.

Garbage Contracts:

Apparently indictments against Galante seem to have leveled the playing field as five carters have been in to pick up specs.

The Vouchers:

Even with the bond renewal of \$1.2 million the vouchers seem a tad higher than they should. I just called the Supervisor's office to get the skinny and the Supervisor will give me a buzz on Monday.

TeamBrewster:

I was stunned by Supervisor Dunford's answer when Cathy Croft asked why the town wasn't sending a representative. It was one thing to speak for Councilwoman Mitts in her absence but speaking for the county who sends at least four representatives a month. Huh?

Look, the meetings are for one hour a month. If nothing else we get a progress report on the sewer system, the Main Street Grant, 55 Main and the train station. Is it really too much to ask that a town rep show up? I'm hoping Supervisor Dunford will grace us with his presence at the September meeting. I actually think he might provide valuable input and at the very least I'd look forward to his sardonic sense of humor.

My Creds:

Well, this one really came out of left field. Dick Honeck asked for the floor and preceded to kinda, sorta accuse me of 'hogging' air time- which apparently is unfair as I don't provide a resume. Scheesh. I'm annoying enough without reciting the litany of civic minded stuff I do. Anyway, I'd be curious to see just how much time I take up- I don't watch Channel 8 as, sadly, I pretty much live channel 8. I also figure if you see me on TV the off button is only a finger away (and hey, who doesn't want to 'turn Eckardt off'). And, I'd just love to know who the 'Mystery 10 ' are who bugged Dick about me. I mean, even the board looked a little perplexed.

And earth to Dick, I've never heard you disclose that you're the Republican Chair at a Town Board meeting. And by the way, I haven't seen any need to.

I don't know why it's so difficult to understand that I ask questions I think need answering. I don't know why my lofty position as SE Democratic Chair, my board memberships on CRSE and PSGA would negate the importance of the questions I ask- or why anyone should be singled out to provide any more information than simply their name.

Oh, and thanks to Brad Schwartz who found the whole idea a little absurd and spoke out.

The After-Party:

This was probably the highlight of the evening. While walking past the Pool Hall I spied a table with: Councilmen Honeck, Johnson and Dunford. And then, although not at the regular meeting, there sits Town Counsel, Willis Stephens.

What I found weird about this was the fact that there were Public Hearings and a regular voting meeting held and Mr. Stephens wasn't there. Nor was there any legal representation for the town- and this is somewhat unusual.

The plot really thickened as it seems that the mystery guest, with his back to the door, was Rick O'Rourke. Of course, I'm sure they weren't discussing Town Business as it wouldn't be ethical so I'm sure I can also assume that there was no discussion of the court case recently lost by the town and Mr. O'Rourke's client/applicant 'The Meadows'.

On that note, I'm gonna snap if I hear that the town is even remotely considering an appeal of this important decision (on our dime no less) especially given that the odds that the highest court even hearing this appeal are about 7%-8%. We also have a chance of seriously trimming the number of homes in 'The Meadows' (now at 104) which would certainly be good news in the school tax department.

That's it from my desk- Please feel free to e-mail me with any comments or questions you may have. Have a great weekend!

With best regards,
Lynne Eckardt

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Message #1742 of 1768 < [Prev](#) | [Next](#) >

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Lynne Eckardt
[lynneeckardt](#)

Aug 25, 2006
1:07 pm



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