Council

Continued from page 1

cil member William Kelly would be present. Kelly is out of town for several weeks. The commission did however, set the date for the public workshop on the matter for March 13.

Council members voted unanimously to approve the Patricia Tuff application for a water service connection on Walcott Avenue. They also gave unanimous approval for a water connection for the town at Freebody and Bay View drives, which would serve the new highway garage, once built at that site.

The council further discussed a proposed purchase and sale agreement the town received from affordable housing developer Church Community Housing Corp. concerning the appraisal of the former town office at 44 Southwest Ave.

Town Administrator Bruce Keiser said the appraisal of $450,000 for the property should be checked for accuracy. Although the town has been doing business with CCHC for years, the appraisal was done by the buyer's appraiser and should be verified, he said.

Keiser also said that he discussed the matter with tax assessor Ken Gray and they decided to engage an appraiser that Gray knew who was knowledgeable of the area and commercial values.

The CCHC proposes to purchase the property for $450,000 and add two new structures to the property for the development of nine residential units at the site. The project is tied to the development of six additional units at the Conanicus Avenue housing development for a total of 15 new units. CCHC is tying the two developments together to be eligible for state and federal funding.

Sutton said that he wasn't convinced that the CCHC proposal was the best choice for pursuing an affordable housing project. He said that getting all the required approvals to even start the project, as well as state and federal funding, was time consuming.

"I'm not saying that everyone doesn't have good intentions," Sutton said. "But this has all the earmarks of a project that could take years and possibly never get done. I think we should look at some alternatives.

"We have a piece of property worth $450,000 and $160,000 to develop affordable housing. Why don't we see what we can do with that money ourselves, and get something done. Even if we only build two units, that will be two units that we don't have now. Then we can say that we did something and move on to do something else. Projects like this just have a tendency to lose momentum and get bogged down," Sutton said.

Town Council President Julio DiGiando cautioned the fellow council members about being too hasty to give up federal money. He said that looking at alternatives was not a bad idea, but suggested that the town see where the CCHC proposal goes.

Szepatowski said, "Why not see if someone else is interested other than CCHC?"

Sutton then suggested that no matter who gets involved, "we must set a timetable for getting the project completed."

Keiser said that the project has been evaluated by the state and the feds for subsidy dollars. "If we can agree on the price, I see no reason why we can't set benchmarks for performance."

Council members agreed to discuss the matter further after the town appraisal figures were made available.

In an unrelated matter, DiGiando swore in Officer Joel Pinocci as permanent Police Sergeant in a ceremony at the beginning of the meeting. Sgt. Pinocci is celebrating 10 years with the department next month. "After 10 years, it feels great to move up," Pinocci said. "I look forward to continuing service with a great department."

Women's poetry presentation scheduled

The Friends of the Jamestown Library host Living Literature performing "Phenomenal Women: Fabulous Female Authors of Poetry & Short Prose" at the Jamestown library on Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m. in the meeting hall.

Living Literature, with grant funding from the League of Women Voters of Rhode Island and donors, created this 45-minute program in their unique readers theatre style to celebrate Women's History Month in March.

Joining Artistic Director, Barry Press, will be actor/writer, Nehassaiu deGannes, and Living Literature members Tanya Anderson and Sharon Carpentier who will present excerpts from works by the following artists: Julia Alvarez, Maya Angelou, Margaret Atwood, Kate Chopin, Sandra Cisneros, Emily Dickinson, Sharon Olds, Grace Paley, Dorothy Parker, Phyllis Rose, Edna St. Vincent Millay and May Sarton. The members of the cast will be available for a discussion of the material to follow the performance.

The program is free and open to the public and made possible by the support of the Friends of the Jamestown Library. For more information, call the library at 423-7280.

Choristers to perform in March

The Newport Navy Choristers, under the direction of JoAnn Loewenthal, will present "Music for a Sunday Afternoon" on Sunday, March 9 at St. Barnabas Church, in Portsmouth. Proceeds from this concert will benefit Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and the Newport Navy Choristers.

This concert, which begins at 4 p.m., features light fare music that the entire family will enjoy. The church is located at 1697 East Main Rd.

Tickets will be available at the door, or may be purchased in advance by contacting any Chorister member. Tickets are $6 for adults, $4 for seniors and children under the age of 12, and $15 for families.

For more information call Steve Larson at 848-6623, or JoAnn Loewenthal, at 849-4823.

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