

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
June 6, 2005**

Present: Paul J. Leary, Chairperson  
Michael Smart  
Arthur Mathews  
Kenneth DiFazio  
Colin McPherson

Recording Secretary: Janet Murray

Chairman Leary called the Ordinance Committee Meeting to order at 6:35pm.

**05 026 – Proposed Amendment to the REO**

Robert Casimiro appeared before the Ordinance Committee with a proposal to amend the Responsible Employer Ordinance (REO). He stated that he is the Executive Director for the Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform.

The proposed change would require that employers verify the validity of Social Security numbers submitted by potential employees. He noted that this is done by making a phone call to an 800 number at the Social Security Administration. He also noted that a system called S.A.V.E., which is an acronym for Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements, makes it easier to verify an employee's immigration status. Currently employees are required to fill out an I-9 form which requires a Social Security number. However, verification of that number is not mandated.

He stated that there is a broader context to this amendment. He noted that there is another issue, which is the existence of an underground economy. Mr. Casimiro stated that the IRS has estimated that in 1992 this economy resulted in \$92 million in lost taxes, in 1998 \$195 million and in 2005 \$400 million.

He also noted that an additional issue is that of dead beat parents. An individual, who may well be a citizen of this county, may still use a false Social Security number in order to avoid being tracked.

Councilor Mathews stated that the REO applies only to projects of more than \$200,000.

Mr. Casimiro stated that the REO is a convenient place to start. He would like to have this in place for the entire town. He stated that he spoken to a town contractor, United Landscaping, and they were in favor of this ordinance.

Councilor Mathews stated that there is currently a law in place at the federal level- but it is not enforced.

Councilor Smart stated that Solicitor Lane should review this Ordinance.

Councilor DiFazio asked if when a business is applying for a Town license if the Social Security number is verified. Mr. Fryer stated that this is done.

Councilor McPherson asked for clarification on who would verify the number. Mr. Casimiro stated that the intention would be to have the employer/contractor verify the number. Employers are currently required to obtain an employee's Social Security number on an I-9 form, but verification of this number is not required. This requirement would be covered in the contract.

Councilor McPherson asked who enforces the REO. It was noted that this is the responsibility of the Mayor's Office. He recommended that the Committee receive the input from Administration.

At 6:55 pm, there being no further business, A MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to ADJOURN and was seconded by Councilor Leary and UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul J. Leary, Chairperson