

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes

Date: April 09, 2014

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Steve Ingerson

Time: 6:58 p.m.

- 2) Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining at 7:00 p.m. and will reconvene in open session.

Motion:

Seconded:

Vote: MM/SI/JF - Aye

Return to Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

Town Common Well Discussion: MM brought BOS up to date on town well progress.

Explanation on what has been to date. He and Alan Pease went to Worcester to meet with DEP representative. Suggestion was made to go with existing school well. Rene Rainville, who owns property next to Town Hall, is willing to help the town with passing pipes through his property. The goal is to only supply water to buildings that are in need of it to keep the costs down.

Question from Resident: Who owns the well?

Answer: MM – The Town owns it. He explained how the well that supplies water to the school is used and paid for. School well can't be used for residential property. 2 articles would be needed for town warrant. 1 is for an easement for Rene's property and the other would be if the Town is going to use any grant or loan money for this. Interest could be 2 or 3% depending on which option is used.

Question: JF – How will the Town get money back for this?

Answer: MM – Possibly the Town could pay half and the other buildings could possibly pay half.

Question SI – Wanted MM to further explain where the water lines would go.

MM – Answer: He explained where the lines would go tentatively. He also understands that Mr. Rainville is going to give this "right of way" as a gift, although this is not yet in writing.

Question: Would the line run north through his land?

Answer: No, it would be in a straight line.

Question from LW: Has anyone thought about putting water to the Historical Society building?

Answer: Yes, this has already been stated.

There will be more meetings to get information out to the residents.

Question: SI – Are you asking the Town to vote on this before the information and price is known?

Answer: Yes – It will probably be a "not to exceed" amount. It is unlikely by next Wednesday (which is the deadline for the warrant) that the price and options would be available.

All of this will be explained at Town Meeting if it goes on the warrant.

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
April 9, 2014

Joint meeting with Finance Committee regarding FY15 budget and Town Meeting warrant articles:

Kevin Stetson was the main speaker for the Finance Committee.

Local Aid was explained by Bob Hanson.

SI asked about Highway Superintendent's change from hourly to salary.

This will effect what the Town pays to County Retirement in the long run.

His pension was discussed. Bob Hanson states that we are not paying anything on his pension at this time.

Question from Lillian Whitney: In the Middlesex Retirement System line of budget have the new wages been adjusted?

Answer: No – It will be addressed when the new Fiscal Year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. How much is taken out of his check to go towards County Retirement will be changed.

Question regarding potential raises for non-union people.

Mr. Hanson told the Committee there is no money for any raises.

If no more bills come into the Town for snow and ice removal, there will be \$27,000 left in Free Cash with an additional \$5,000 to be added at a later date. The budget is balanced.

Overall from FY14 to FY15 was a 3% increase.

The Budget requests submitted were a 6% increase over last year.

This was cut in half.

Mr. Maynard asked what the results were from the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting when SI brought up some questionable spending in the Highway Dept. SI stated he saw the bill in the warrant and it was for \$900 to rent the truck at \$50/hour while all the Highway vehicles were sitting at the Town Barn while that was going on. MM stated that it was reported in the press that the amount was \$2000 and that was wrong. SI said he was quoted that it was a truck rental for \$2000 a week and maybe there was some kind of forgiveness of the debt he does not know. Mr. Hanson stated that the rental truck was only rented for 18 hours to aid in snow removal and actually saved money on labor. MM stated that Bill Davis made a judgment call and is very careful with the Town's money. SI was upset that the truck was trying to get delivered and that Mr. Davis refused delivery of the truck for 2 weeks. MM states that was not the case. Mr. Maynard asked if anyone was getting receipts for all of the purchases. MM explained that all Dept. Heads are very careful with their budgets. He suggested that Mr. Maynard speak with the Supt. about his concerns.

Finance Committee said they were not able to add another patrolman or highway person because there are no funds available to do this.

Question from FinCom: Is there any way that the leftover monies from several years back in different accounts could become a warrant article to put those balances back in the General Fund? KS read an article that the Committee would like added to the warrant. He also gave some examples to the Board of monies leftover from several years ago, some from 2011, that he feels could be used for other items and equipment for the Town.

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
April 9, 2014

JF states she would be comfortable with a 3-year wait to use the money as Mr. Hanson has suggested.

FinCom Chairman and SI booth were comfortable with 2 years. Majority of FinCom members voted and were comfortable with 3 years.

BH read a request from the Assessors for an article to be added to the warrant concerning real estate tax exemptions. This exemption amount would provide some tax relief by doubling from 50% to 100% for those who qualify such as blind, disabled and elderly people.

Discussion of additional articles for warrant for May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting. Agreement reached on adding 5 additional articles:

FinCom Article limiting retention of money in warrant articles to 3 years

Assessors Article increasing certain tax exemptions to 100%

BOS Article for Land Easement

BOS Article to incur debt to pay for water system

BOS Article for funding Capital Plan

3) Motion to open Annual Town Meeting Warrant and add 5 additional articles discussed tonight to the warrant and close warrant. Articles listed above.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Request to approve and sign on May 3, 2014 Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Masters (5) is postponed until next week. Will hold BOS meeting on 4/16/14.

Discussion regarding structure of the Board and titles members of the Board have.

MM discussed that a quick check of surrounding towns shows that they do not have Selectmen acting as procurement officer. SI brought up the Fire Truck incident again. JF states there is nothing they can do about that Fire Truck and she wished that it would stop being brought up at their meetings so the Board could move forward with the present issues and projects that need to be done for the Town and stop focusing on something that happened years ago. Ashby has had this title on the Board since before MM's day on the Board and before the Town had a Town Administrator. JF stated that when she was the Procurement Officer on the Board the Town Administrator always did the procurement. How the private sector does procurement is very different than how the government sector has to do it with rules and procedures to follow. When you have the Board changing possibly every year it does not make sense to have the Board do this when it may be someone who knows nothing about procurement. JF states that she spoke with Bob and he was doing procurement even before there was such a thing as being certified and he is qualified. She explained that the Board is constantly changing. SI asked what the plan would be if Mr. Hanson became ill and didn't show up for work for months. MM stated that the Selectmen are still his boss and would have to do his job.

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
April 9, 2014

- 4) Motion to restructure the BOS to include a Chairman, a Clerk, a Member and the Procurement Officer for the Town will be the Town Administrator.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom                      Vote: MM/JF - Aye  
SI - Nay

- 5) Motion to approve and sign on Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services with Ashburnham.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

- 6) Motion to approve minutes of March 26, 2014 as corrected. Correction of name "Jim" should include his last name of Lippincott.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

- 7) Motion to approve minutes of March 29, 2014 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

- 8) Warrant #W39P approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$43,494.19 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan  
MM Abstains from  
Line with Jean Lindquist

- 9) Warrant #W40B approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$42,022.23 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan  
MM/Abstain from  
Line with David Durling

- 10) Motion to accept the resignation of Kathy Juliano from the 250<sup>th</sup> Start-up Celebration Committee, effective immediately.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

- 11) Motion to accept the resignation of Gerald (Don) Phelan as Solid Waste Facility Attendant, effective March 22, 2014. JF thanked him for his service to the Town.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
April 9, 2014

12) Motion to appoint Daniel Ewald as Solid Waste Facility Attendant, Employee-at-Will.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman:

Assistant to the Board of Selectmen's Report:

Report and Announcements read by SI

Information is available on Town of Ashby website.

MM announced the Ashby Land Trust is seeking National Accreditation. He read a communication and it will be posted at Town Hall.

Earth Day Hike at Blood Hill on Luke Road will be held on April 27, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Comments (if any):

13) Motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: \_\_\_\_\_