

Minutes of the Select Board Meeting, April 12, 2016

Phil Lococo and Dennis Mimitz were present; Judy Feeley was absent. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Action on the minutes of March 22, 2016 was tabled until the next meeting.

FY'17 Budget

The proposed FY'17 Budget was presented by Finance Committee Chair Bob Persing. After deliberating proposed salary increases of 3% the Finance Committee voted to recommend 1.5% salary increases. The Finance Committee will research salaries in depth to determine a fair and equitable process for salary increases. Thus, two columns will appear on the budget at Annual Town Meeting, one representing 3% salary increases and one representing 1.5% increases. It should be noted that where increases were not originally proposed a 1.5% increase appears in the Finance Committee's recommendations. Also, a one time stipend is suggested for the Electrical Inspector instead of an "increase". This is due to the additional work load of solar projects.

WiredWest/MBI Update

Due to the lack of a quorum there was no discussion concerning WiredWest/MBI. Draft copies of a proposed letter to Governor Baker were distributed to Dennis and Paula.

Jackson Property

Options for the Jackson Property were discussed. Those in attendance would like to see the property back on the tax role. Several residents walked the property with members of the Conservation Commission and the Historical Society to determine the wetness and the possibility of constructing walking trails on the property. The town voted to authorize the Select Board to accept the property in exchange for demolition expenses and back taxes at a Special Town Meeting on December 11, 2001. The town also voted to retain ownership of the property on May 1, 2010. Phil made a motion to contact Lina Bernstein, the Historical Commission, and the Conservation Commission relative to their findings and to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to place decisions regarding the property in the hands of the Select Board. The motion, seconded by Dennis, was approved by the

two members present.

Energy Committee

Tim Walter approached the Board seeking their support of the Energy Committee's proposed Solar By-law. Phil stated it is not appropriate for the Board to support any proposal.

Tim distributed information on by-right single site 1.5 acre solar arrays.

Old Business

The Board received an application for a Plainfield tenth grade student planning to attend Smith Vocational in September.

Copies of M.G.L. Chapter 49 relative to Fence Viewers and fencing were distributed to the Board. Phil will meet with Casey Dwyer to view the North Union Street property in question.

Other Business

Proposed warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant were reviewed. There are three proposed MTRSD Regional Agreement changes: one for "language clean-up", one to admit Rowe to the district, and one regarding school closing procedures and votes. Two options proposing a By-Right Solar By-law with a third article detailing definitions, site plan review, etc. Other articles include an authorization to borrow up to \$216,000 for a fully equipped dump truck, an article authorizing the Highway Supt. to expend the \$30,558 received from Eversource, a request to transfer \$5,000 from the FY'16 Highway Salaries Account to the FY'16 General Highway Account, a request to add \$20,000 to the Generator Account, and the aforementioned article regarding the Jackson Property.

A Special Meeting of the Select Board will be posted for April 19, 2016 to sign the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and to meet with WiredWest/MBI representatives.

Phil moved to pay the \$100.57 HCOG quarterly assessment. The motion, seconded by Dennis, was approved.

An e-mail from Kopeman and Paige Attorney John Goldrosen was received in response to authorization to consult counsel.

If approved, FY'17 Chapter 90 funds will be 193,347.

Correspondence

Notice of Eversource Energy's annual informational meeting was received.

The Board received a packet of detailed information concerning the status of the WiredWest broadband project and progress on negotiations with MBI as well as issues yet to be resolved.

Eversource issued notification of planned aerial patrol of transmission lines on April 5, 2016 between 8: a.m. and 3:00 p.m. weather permitting.

Copies of MTRSD School Committee minutes of March 9th and 21st were received.

The Board received notice of the DEP Sustainable Materials Recovery Grant Program.

According to HCOG participation in the Hampshire Purchasing Cooperative saved Plainfield an estimated \$19,948.35 in FY'15.

Issuances from FERC and Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC were received.

The D.P.U. has issued a notice of their Filing, Public Hearing and Procedural Conference.

Miscellaneous mail was reviewed.

Warrants were signed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula J. King
Administrative Secretary