

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX – TRAINING ROOM**

☺ **6:00 p.m. Small gathering was held for Ed Vitone** ☺

- I. (6:30 p.m.) SALUTE THE FLAG
- II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- Mr. Vitone moved to do the School Department prior to the Advisory Board since Ralph Hicks and group had a ways to travel. Duncan seconded, approved.
- IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS
 - A. Linda Ramsdell, Town Clerk – explained to the Board and general public the Pros and Cons of combined elections and the changes in the process at the polls.
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion – Advisory Board vote of Monday, April 8, 2013

Ed Vitone stated that since their last meeting the Advisory Board had met twice regarding the Fire Department budget. The first time there was a three in favor three opposed and one abstention on choosing Option 5. The second time the vote changed to five in favor of Option 5 and two opposed. He briefly spoke about how several years ago when Mr. Webber was moderator he had to stop the meeting and request the two boards get together prior to coming back to town meeting and he wanted to avert that again.

Mr. Vitone asked Duncan Phyfe if he had, as a result of his further research, come up with any questions or plans. Mr. Phyfe said that he believes we needed to put together a plan to show the taxpayers what ALS is with the costs and implementation plan. Leo Janssens responded to Mr. Vitone that we have discussed it enough and it now needs to be brought to the people.

Mr. Vitone then talked about a newspaper article in the Telegram and Gazette about the town of Dudley that is going to 24 hour shifts. They have about 1000 calls per year and were left off the original comparison due to their size. This actually made sense because with 1000 calls you have calls on the late night to warrant the coverage.

It was then decided that due to the commitment of the Board to meet on Saturday to discuss the school budget it would be better to hold off any further discussion. Mr. Vitone then deemed any comments from the public were out of order and he moved on the agenda.
 - B. Discussion- School Department Budget

Guests included School District representatives Ralph Hicks Superintendent, Dave Christianson Chair of AWRDS Committee, and Sherry Kersey Business Manager. Ed Vitone led the discussion by asking Chairman Christianson to begin. Mr. Christianson stated that the District would like to see a level services budget and would request the Board reconsider their vote. The Committee is planning to hire two

new teachers at the elementary level which they will absorb in the budget and 1½ janitors for Briggs.

Ralph Hicks stated the following facts as he sees them:

- There will be a \$750,000 deficit if not funded at level services
- Governor's budget tied to tax hike, House budget school funding decreased by \$130K
- There could be 15 – 20 teachers cut starting with less senior.
- Districts that have built new schools typically see position added not subtracted.
- BOS are Town fathers, and understands Town has many needs one of which is the schools.
- Respects the fact that the Town has made a great effort to build Briggs school and we need money for a new teacher.
- We would be sliding back and possibly students fleeing from school district.

Ed Vitone asked to go through the math because he didn't believe it added up, and asked Doug Briggs if he had questions.

Mr. Briggs questioned the comment about losing 17 teachers; if we are level funding then the picture on the last day of the year should look like the picture on the first day of the year. There are 5 senior teachers retiring for a combined total of \$395,000. If we replace those teachers at a Master I it will cost \$225,000 for a savings of \$170,000. How could we possibly cut 17 teachers? Supt. Hicks responded that he likes to plan on a mid \$50,000 replacement because they can't always find first year replacements. Doug stated; that it was a management decision on how they prioritize the spending. He also went through how the Foundation budget is established and that due to a decrease in transportation costs of over \$200,000 and the Town's support to put more into Net School Spending that there was actually an increase. Mr. Christianson took exception and that there would be no incentive for the District to watch costs if they were not going to be able to keep the money.

Ed Vitone then canvassed the Board to see if there was any interest in a further review. Leo Janssens II said to keep as is, Duncan Phyfe thought they should look at it. The Board decided to hold a meeting on Saturday April 20th in the Town Hall lower level conference room at 9am (the public safety not available).

Mrs. Cunningham spoke in favor of the school budget sighting class size as the biggest issue, and would leave Town if not voted in.

Bill Johnson –Advisory Board Chair, stated that there are people already leaving because they are running out of money and can't afford to live here. People must realize that there is no pot of gold and the school budget represents at least 55% of total budget.

Ed Vitone summarized and stated the District would get to Town Administrator Doug Briggs by Wednesday morning the lowest number that the school district would need from both towns for level service and that there is no guarantee other than the Board would review and discuss on Saturday.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of two Special One-Day Beer/Wine Liquor Licenses Approved Duncan moved Leo seconded – for the Historical Society

- a. June 30th – Art Exhibit 3-8pm
- b. September 15th Fundraiser School Boy look alike contest 3-7pm

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve both Special One-Day Beer/Wine Liquor Licenses and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Agricultural Commission appointment

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the appointment of Keith Kopley of Kalon Farm to the Agricultural Commission and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (2) Council on Aging Board, (1) Capital Planning Committee, (2) Agricultural Commission (1) Board of Assessors (member pending) and (4) Cable Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

I have an interested volunteer to be on the Board of Assessors. I will bring forward the recommendation at the next meeting.

BUDGET FY14

Warrant has been sent to Town Counsel for review. Will be working on backup information for Town Meeting.

DPW

Received the new Chapter 90 projections and we are scheduled to receive \$520K. Steve is working to finalize a paving schedule off the new projected number. We are looking to combine with the additional monies of \$125,000 from the Capital Plan.

Steve and I will be working with a forester to review the DPW land to understand how to proceed with clearing land so we can move some of the sand piles that are currently in center of town.

The Snow and Ice account is about \$85,000 in the negative. Met with MEMA representatives and we should be receiving some aid in the next few weeks. Not sure how much at this point.

WATER TANK PROJECT

Five Oaks is developing the schedule for the final work orders.

1. Variable speed motor on the pump at Water Plant
2. Solar agitator for Gardner Hill tank
3. Security camera system for both tanks

Once these projects are complete there will be a balance of about \$17,000. I will be looking for any items we might use it for.

MRPC

I attended MRPC meeting about the TIP schedule for RT 101 south from Main Street to Gardner town line. GCG has filed the proper paperwork with the State. Steve Nims has been in contact with Weston and Sampson to push the project along. This is currently a \$4.5M project.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 1, 2013 – Regular Meeting

Motion made by Duncan Phyfe to approve and seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

B. April 8, 2013 – Special Meeting

Motion made by Duncan Phyfe to approve and seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. APRIL/MAY MEETINGS and EVENTS

Tues.,	April 30	TOWN ELECTION AND SPECIAL STATE PRIMARY Polls open at 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym
--------	----------	---	-----------------------------------

Sat.,	May 4	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 10:00 a.m.	Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium
-------	-------	-----------------------------------	---

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leo Janssens read the announcements.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board voted to go into executive session and to return to open session only for the purpose of adjourning. Role call vote taken and unanimous approved.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 p. m. Leo Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Briggs
Town Administrator