
JOINT MEETING - BOARD OF SELECTMEN, ADVISORY BOARD, AND CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.

UPSTAIRS AT TOWN HALL

PRESENT: **Board of Selectmen** – Duncan Phyfe, Chair, Kyle Johnson, Clerk, and Leo Janssens II, Member. **Advisory Board** – Bill Johnson, Ron Putnam, Bruce Whitney, Gail Dumont and Jaime Piedrafite. **Capital Planning Committee** – Bill Johnson, Joe Kalagher, Duncan Phyfe and Jamie Piedrafite. Also in attendance - Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, Ron Reed, Moderator, Michelle Johnson, Town Clerk and Sylvia Turcotte, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Duncan Phyfe. Mr. Phyfe asked Doug Briggs to begin the discussion.

Doug Briggs stated that he had previously sent the capital information to everyone.

He started with **Article 1** of the **Special Town Meeting**. He noted that the \$30,000 would complete the engineering on Route 101 for the TIP. He added that Kyle Johnson is on the MOC and having him there at the meetings is the key to get this moving. Ron Reed asked if this should be two separate articles and Mr. Briggs stated that Town Counsel approved this format. Duncan Phyfe noted that they should break out the two items in the article to make it less confusing. Mr. Briggs then proceeded to note that \$5,000 of this article would go towards the engineering for the Route 12 water drainage and retaining wall near the Meissner's property, 100 Main Street and stated that once the engineering is complete then they would apply for a Complete Streets grant to do the work. Kyle Johnson asked if the jersey barriers at the Meissner's property could be moved for a wedding in August that they were planning.

Votes to recommend **Article 1** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend and was seconded by Ron Putnam. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning Committee – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that **Article 2** was to transfer funds from the 250th Celebration to cover the cost of drainage repairs at the Stevens Memorial Library. He noted that the balance currently was \$21,700 and that the Committee wanted to keep some of these funds to hold a final event for the time capsule at Community Day on June 25th. Bill Johnson stated that it will cost them \$1,600 for a new time capsule and around \$1,000 to repair the old one. He noted that he recommends that we give them \$2,700 which should be enough for what they want to do and that would leave \$19,000 for the Library repair.

Votes to recommend **Article 2** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Jaime Piedrafite motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.**

- **Capital Planning Committee – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Doug Briggs noted that **Article 3** would cover the cost for Phase I through the permitting on Watatic Dam (\$85,200). He stated that the estimate to fix this dam is \$500,000. He noted that it was inspected last fall and it was noted that the gate valves don't work and the spillway isn't right. He added that getting the permitting done now would put us in line to get a grant to repair the dam.

Votes to recommend **Article 3** were as follows:

- **BOS – Leo Janssens motioned to recommend and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend and was seconded by Jaime Piedrafite. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning Committee – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that **Article 4** is for the remaining engineering cost (\$9,000) for the Route 12 water drainage and retaining wall.

Votes to recommend **Article 4** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend and was seconded by Ron Putnam. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning Committee – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Doug Briggs then went to the **Annual Town Meeting** warrant. He stated that Articles 1 through 8 are the Consent Agenda which is made up of articles that are on every year.

Votes to recommend **Article 1 – 8** (the Consent Agenda) were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Gail Dumont motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.**

He stated that **Article 9** was the FY17 budget and that there was a 1.9% increase from last year which was due to the school and the fact that we gave them \$170,000 of our new growth. He stated that he had a great group of people working for the Town who work to keep their budgets under control.

Votes to recommend **Article 9** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend and was seconded by Ron Putnam. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs noted that **Article 10** was the School Override. Duncan Phyfe stated that Dave Christiansen doesn't want an override. There were no votes taken on this article.

He stated that **Article 11** was the FY17 Water Enterprise Budget. He stated that there was an increase of \$38,000 due to the new debt service. He also noted that the Joint Water Authority had met that day and voted to adopt a \$30,000 capital plan which would be \$15,000 for the Town of

Ashburnham. He added that it won't impact the Town's Capital Plan but will impact the rate payers. He did note that the water rates are lower right now than 6 years ago and with the new increase the rates will still be lower. Kyle Johnson asked that the rates be available at Town Meeting. He also stated that the Water/Sewer rates would not increase with the new DPW facility.

Votes to recommend **Article 11** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Jamie Piedrafite motioned to recommend and was seconded by Ron Putnam. Motion carried.**

He stated that **Article 12** was the Sewer FY17 Budget and that they reduced the budget but will have to increase the rates.

Votes to recommend **Article 12** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Jamie Piedrafite motioned to recommend and was seconded by Gail Dumont. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that **Article 13** was the Capital items. He stated that he was very impressed by Chief Rekos and all the work he put in to get the best possible deal on the lease to purchase for the new Fire Pumper Tanker. Chief Rekos stated that this new tanker would hold 3,000 gallons of water and has 4-wheel drive among other options and the cost is \$550,000. He also noted that once ordered it would take about 220 days to receive it. He stated that 3 vehicles would be traded in, Engine 3 which is falling apart and is 10 years old; the tanker which is not being used; and engine 1. He stated that Engine 2 is in good condition and it will be 8 years until it needs to be recertified. Doug Briggs noted that 80% of calls are EMS and only 20% is fire so the two trucks would be sufficient along with the new ambulance which just came in today.

It was noted by Ron Reed that item 2 should read that it was a replacement vehicle for the DPW and that item 5 is a replacement cruiser. There was a discussion on roads. Doug Briggs explained that the plan for roads is 1) Route 101 through TIP; 2) MassWorks Grant application (\$1m) to pave Harris, Cross, Ferin roads and Lakeshore Drive, which would be over and above the Chapter 90 funds and the \$125k in this article; and with Chapter 90 funds pave Chapel, Cashman, Pleasant streets. He added that the free cash amount should be good in the fall and this would allow them to do more roads.

There followed a short discussion on the replacement cruiser, the F350 for the DPW and the new ambulance.

Votes to recommend **Article 13** were as follows:

- **BOS – Leo Janssens motioned to recommend and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Ron Putnam motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning – Duncan Phyfe motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bill Johnson. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that **Article 14** was the proposed DPW facility. Bill Johnson stated that they should have a presentation at Town Meeting. Kyle Johnson noted that he was working on a flyer that he would use for the presentation which would be no more than 10-15 minutes, and the engineering

people would be in attendance as well. He added that the numbers to build this facility are in line with other similar facilities built. Ron Reed noted that we should check to see if the words “debt exclusion” should be in this motion. Doug Briggs stated that he would check with Town Counsel.

Votes to recommend **Article 14** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Ron Putnam motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that **Article 15** was the AMLP land purchase. There was a short discussion on this purchase.

Votes to recommend **Article 15** were as follows:

- **BOS – Leo Janssens motioned to recommend and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Gail Dumont motioned to recommend and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Motion carried.**
- **Capital Planning – Bill Johnson motioned to recommend and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

Doug Briggs noted that the last article, **Article 16**, was a Citizens Petition. He stated that the petition was given to the Town Clerk who certified registered voters’ signatures. He explained the circumstances regarding this petition.

Votes to recommend **Article 16** were as follows:

- **BOS – Kyle Johnson motioned not to support and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**
- **Advisory Board – Bill Johnson motioned not to support and was seconded by Gail Dumont. Motion carried.**

At this time, Bill Johnson asked the Advisory Board members to approve the minutes of March 21, 2016 which was a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen. Ron Putnam abstained as he was not present for this meeting. **Jaime Piedrafite motioned to approve and was seconded by Gail Dumont. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant