

Board of Selectmen
Meeting – March 14, 2012

Present: Selectmen – Mark Gilmore, Elizabeth Clarke, Carolyn Shores Ness
Town Administrator – Bernie Kubiak

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Board members having not had an opportunity to review minutes of the previous meeting elected to hold them for review at the next meeting.

Public Comments: none

Selectmen's Comments: Ms. Ness said she had spent a very productive day with Mr. Patterson, the new Highway Director, looking at some of the Town's roads. Ms. Clarke reported that the Garage Committee has been meeting regularly. At the next meeting, Tuesday March 20th, the Committee will be looking at designs. Persons who are interested are welcome to come. Mr. Kubiak said that beginning next week there will be postings of minutes and drawings on the Town's website.

Board of Health Comments: Ms. Ness reported that the next EDS drill will be October 21, 2012. Volunteer training night is October 18th.

Discussion/Decision items:

Dean Property - Mr. Gilmore asked if anything had occurred since the last meeting that the Board should be aware of, possibly an agreement between abutters. Someone in the audience said no agreement had been reached and the Board should move forward. **Ms. Clarke made a motion that the Board declare the property, shown as parcel 147 on Eastern Avenue, not to be needed by the Town and therefore authorize advertizing of it for sale by auction.** Ms. Ness seconded the motion after clarification that by auction Ms. Clarke meant auction in the larger sense – **using the bidding process**, as opposed to a listed price. The motion was then opened for discussion. Ms. Ness said there at least three parties interested in the property. Ms. Clarke said the justification for selling the property is to generate "free cash." Mr. Kubiak said it will be sold by sealed bid and advertized in *The Recorder*, as required by statute. **The Board then unanimously voted to sell the property.**

Someone in the audience asked why the property had to go to bid, when according to the paper the price was already set. The explanation given was that the only price mentioned was the assessed value, which is not the sale price. Another question was asked about determining the actual boundaries of the lot. Mr. Kubiak had a copy of the property description, which included meets and bounds. There should be pins in place, however, if necessary, a survey could be done. Someone commented that one abutter's building extends onto the property to be sold.

Police Department – Present: Chief Wozniakewicz

The Chief was present to talk about appointing an interim police chief. He said that when he is on vacation or out of town for a short time, an officer is appointed Officer-in-Charge. However, to fill the time needed to select a new chief he recommends the Board appoint an interim chief, because that appointment can last as long as needed. Mr. Kubiak recommended that the Board bring in an expert on hiring a police chief. Mr.

Gilmore would like to keep the hiring process in the local area, rather than be seeking to bring in someone from outside the area. Mr. Kubiak said in his conversations with the Mass. Chiefs of Police Association he has learned that the type of persons who would be interested in the chief's position would likely be persons at middle management level (Sgts. and Lts.) and would come from central MA area. Retired Chiefs from CT might be interested too because they can collect their CT pension and still work full-time in MA. His thought is to seek assistance in shaping questions, obtaining sample applications, and information about how to question the applicants.

Revised fee schedule - Mr. Kubiak suggested that this item be struck from tonight's agenda, but the Board members present elected to at least hold a brief discussion. There was some discussion about the basis of fees. Ms. Clarke thought charging a permit fee based on the value for some very expensive projects (because of the cost of materials being used), rather than the time/cost needed to do the inspections, didn't seem right. She thought that the time needed to perform the inspections might be a better basis for the fee. Mr. Gilmore thought that some permitting fees might actually cost more than the components being installed. He would like to go through the proposed fees and pick out ones that seemed out of line for further review. This will be discussed further at another meeting.

Shared EMS Services - Mr. Kubiak reported on a plan that several Towns including Sunderland and Whately have been discussing as a better way of providing emergency medical services. Mr. Gilmore asked that Hatfield and Conway be invited. They will be notified and are welcome to join the discussions. Mr. Kubiak said he has contacted Butch Garrity to learn more about response time for dispatching through Shelburne Control. He said the service would likely operate with a lead town, such as Deerfield. Mr. Kubiak said added overhead expenses wouldn't be known until they were defined. He said Mr. Baxter, a consultant who operates an EMS service in New Haven, CT says the least expensive service is the current model because it relies on on-call EMT's. The question is whether or not it's sustainable. Ms. Ness commented that if the intercept service could be eliminated, because it's expensive, the system would be more viable. Mr. Gilmore mentioned services such as the Highland Service, which Ashfield, Goshen, and Chesterfield participate in, is successful.

Regional Dog Kennel – In continuation of the discussion from last meeting, a list of towns that have signed on was available. Ms. Ness's request to learn whether Greenfield and Montague were on the list (they were) was satisfied. They are. **Mr. Gilmore made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clarke, that the Town move forward with the regional dog kennel proposal by signing on.** Ms. Ness said she was irritated that the issues had not been sorted out correctly. Note was made that the arrangement is that the Sheriff's department would provide the space for the kennel. **The vote on the motion was 2 in favor and 1 abstention.**

CDAG Grant Application – Mr. Kubiak asked the Board for input and interest in participating in a Community Development grant. He presented a list of possible projects for consideration. During discussion Mr. Gilmore said he thought there needed to be support for the younger and elders. Mentioned were things like a community center, a municipal complex, and energy retrofits and repairs for housing, especially for the elder population. **A motion was made by Ms. Ness, seconded by Ms. Clarke, and voted, to participate in the grant application.** Mr. Kubiak said there would be hearings to obtain public input as part of the process.

Deerfield Academy – One day liquor license for Deerfield Academy was approved by the Board. To Ms. Clarke's question about the delay in this appearing before the Board, Mr. Kubiak explained that Ms. Warren had been out sick and the request had not made it "from one desk to the other."

FY '13 budget – Mr. Kubiak presented a spreadsheet of accounts and budgets, noting those that the Finance Committee had approved. Mr. Gilmore said he would like the Board to begin by reviewing all of the items the Finance Committee had acted on. If there are questions they should be forwarded to the Finance Committee. When it came to the legal account, Mr. Kubiak said he had an issue with the policy of underfunding some accounts in favor of building up the Reserve Account, as it forced him to continually go back to the Finance Committee for additional funds. He would prefer to see the legal account realistically funded from the beginning. A hold was put on the \$5,000 requested by the Planning Board to begin updating the Master Plan. Mr. Kubiak said funds for this could come from another source. Clarification of what is included in town office maintenance was provided by Mr. Kubiak. There was discussion about revolving funds and a request was made that additional information showing sources of revenues be included in future reports. A question was raised about the life insurance line item.

The balance of this meeting was unrecorded. Mr. Kubiak will provide information from his notes.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps