

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes – December 3, 2014

Attendance: Selectmen- Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram, Mark Gilmore
Town Administrator – Kayce Warren

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Wolfram, seconded by Ms. Ness, and voted to approve the minutes of 10/22/14.

Public Comment: none

Selectmen's Comments/ Announcements. Ms. Ness reported that the appraisal of the Western Mass Regional Library building has been received. It is understood that Whately is showing some interest in the building. Mr. Gilmore suggested that Deerfield continue to move forward with its thought process to be ready, should Whately decide not to act.

Board of Health Comments/ Announcements:

Hearings/ Appearances before the Board:

- Finance Committee and Capital Improvement Planning Committee – Committees called to order at 6:07 pm with quorums of both committees present.

The committees had planned to meet prior to joining the BOS, but due to confusion over meeting times found themselves meeting with the BOS first. Skip Olmstead, Finance Committee Chair presented his calculations intended to provide the committees with what he anticipates will be the available funds for the FY'16 budget. (approx. 14, 000,000) He expects the budget will have to be level funded.

This was important information as there is a STM warrant article for a capital item, i.e. a police cruiser which was postponed from the Annual Town Meeting. Chief Paciorek explained how the capital plan for cruiser purchase and replacement is intended to work. He expects funding for this year's vehicle to be on the STM warrant.

In response to requests from his committee members to have an opportunity to consider the request without feeling pressured, Tom Clark agreed to continue the CIP meeting until Friday evening for further discussion. Finance Committee also continued its meeting.

Hearing/ Appearances before the Board of Health:

Acting as the Board of Health, a hearing was called to order at 7:15 pm.

- Spirit Shoppe Hearing – Second Offence - Tobacco Sale to a minor

Present- Dick Calisewski, health agent, Denis Course, enforcement officer, Steve Schechterle, owner of Spirit Shoppe, and Mary Kershall, coordinator.

A motion was then made by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted, to open a suspension hearing on the violation by sale of tobacco products to underage persons.

Mr. Course explained in detail the procedure followed in conducting the compliance check conducted on October 27, 2014 at approximately 4:46 pm at the Spirit Shoppe. Persons present were given opportunities to speak. Mr. Schechterle related the changes he has put in place to prevent further violations. A motion was made to close the permit suspension hearing. The BOH discussed the penalty required: \$200.00 and a week's suspension. Mr. Gilmore wished there was some way to acknowledge the steps Mr. Schechterle has taken to prevent a re-occurrence, however the penalty will be implemented. Mr. Schechterle will be permitted to select the week for suspension.

- DEDIC presentation of Paleo-American Indian Artifacts- Present- Paul Olszewski and Ralph Healy, DEDIC members

Mr. Healy and Olszewski were present to turn custody of 11,500 year old artifacts unearthed from the industrial park over to the Board of Board of Selectmen. At the time of excavation the agreement was that anything found would be returned to the Town. Mr. Healy has prepared an inventory of the items, including photos and a DVD. The items were put in the vault until such time as a secure cabinet can be built to house them. Bud Driver spoke of concern about security of the artifacts while in the vault and the need for someone be designated to be the liaison between the Town and the scientists that will be coming to view the artifacts.

- Union #38 – Present – Superintendent of Schools, Martie Barrett and Patti Cavanaugh, Business manager

Ms. Barrett announced the opportunity of a MSBA grant to use toward a capital project to replace the roof on the Elementary school. The Green Repair Grant is intended to assist in the preservation of existing assets. A Statement of Interest (SOI) to be submitted in January 2015 could provide 1.4 million dollars toward the project expected to cost 2.6 million dollars. Possibly solar panels could be included in the project. Following discussion Ms. Barrett said a Statement of Interest will be prepared.

- Energy Resources Committee: Present – MA Swedlund, Kristin Bakker, Marie Garrett, Jay Stryker

A number of proposals to develop solar on the landfill have been received. The committee has reviewed and compared various proposals. The committee explained the concepts of Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) and Net Metering Agreement (NM). The Town currently has a PPA with HCOG. The primary recommendation from the committee is that an expert be hired to manage the solar project.

Additional information shared: The landfill has three potential lots which could handle 2 – 4 megawatts. The Town uses 7.75 kW. Benefit to the town will come from savings on the

electricity bill and revenues derived from leasing the land (fee per acre leased) and payment in lieu of taxes (charge per megawatt). The committee has four models in hand to be compared. Kristen and MA discussed what these proposals explaining the many plusses and minuses to be considered. The recommendation is that the Town have an owner-agent, for which funding is available through DOER, to guide the Town through the process which includes writing an RFP. Beth Green blat is a person who should be considered for this role.

Discussion/Decision Items:

- Legislation for royalties on gas for export- Attorney Cristobel is still working on this.
- Local Technical Assistance Request- DEDIC requests assistance from FRCOG is application of a grant to revise the master plan to increase larger scale opportunities for the industrial park. There is an opportunity for the Senior Center space. Several other projects were suggested.
- Annual Liquor License Renewals – The Board elected to wait until next meeting to approve the list, in order to have an opportunity to check with the Police Department regarding any concerns.
- Appointment to Conservation Commission – A motion was made by Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Wolfram, and unanimously voted to appoint Steve Barrett to the Conservation Commission.
- Sewer rate – The Board signed the Sewer Commitment forms and the approved abatements.

Town Administrator's Report

- Special Town Meeting on December 8, 2014.

The Board wanted to thank the Highway Department for working through Thanksgiving; the Police Department for handling concerns; and all the other who were called out during the storm.

Meetings – The Tax Classification meeting will be held on December 10th; BOS will meet again on December 17th.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted, to adjourn with the authorization to sign payroll and vendor warrants upon completion, and at the convenience of board members.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps