

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

APRIL 8, 2015

A meeting of the board of Selectmen was held on April 8, 2015.

Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM

PRESENT: Carolyn Shores Ness, Mark Gilmore, David Wolfram.

Also present: Kayce Warren (Town Administrator)

MERRIGAN WAY PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was opened at 5:38 PM

“To receive comments on a proposed acceptance of Merrigan Way as a Public Way”

Mr. Gilmore asked about the origin of the name. Kevin Scarborough replied, stating that the road was named in honor of Tom Merrigan, a former resident of Deerfield, and the previous owner of the land over which the road is placed.

There being no further public comments, the Chair closed the public hearing at 5:40 PM.
It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Wolfram

To recommend to Town Meeting acceptance of Merrigan Way as a public way.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The chair invited comment from Mary Stokarski, who provided a historical overview of sick / personal time and vacation leave allocation.

VACATION / SICK TIME PUBLIC HEARING

At 5:45 PM, the chair declared open a public hearing

“To receive comments on the proposed changes to Town of Deerfield Bylaws, Chap 35, Sec 25 – Vacation Leave and Chapter 35 Sec 26 – Sick Leave.”

Wolfram requested that the public hearing be continued until the Town Clerk was available for comment.

Ms. Warren presented a request from Deerfield Arts Bank for a one-day malt and wine license for an art gallery opening, to be held on April 16, 2015.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the request.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Ms. Warren presented advance notice that there will be a number of requests for transfers from the reserve fund, from the Town Accountant as well as the Finance Committee. The requests will likely be forthcoming on April 22.

Ms. Warren advised the board that a tour of Deerfield Elementary School, focusing on the roof repairs that need to be made. Ms. Ness requested the Building Commissioner to attend on the board's behalf.

The board stood at recess at 5:52 PM.

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The board resumed at 6:03 PM.

The Board continued the Public Hearing related to Vacation time and sick leave.

Ms. Ness described the proposal, and added that the accrual period would likely be amended to be quarterly, instead of bi-weekly.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To close the public hearing, and recommend the changes as amended to Town Meeting.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0

The public hearing was closed at 6:04 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING – CLASSIFICATION COMPENSATION HEARING

The chair opened the public hearing at 6:05 PM.

The board entertained comments from Mary Stokarski (Personnel Committee), expressing concern about the removal of the Class Comp schedule.

Mr. Gilmore reassured her that the Classification / Compensation plan would not be removed entirely, just removed from Town Meeting.

Stokarski: "The personnel committee wishes to complete a review of job descriptions and salary schedules as soon as possible."

Scarborough: "Clarification, please: will things stay as they are for this year?"

Ness: "We're not suspending anything."

Scarborough: "Are the employees eligible for step raise on July 1 going to get them?"

Ness: "Yes, that is our understanding."

There being no further comment, it was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Gilmore,

To close the public hearing.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Ms. Ness declared a recess at 6:12 PM.

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The meeting was called back to order at 6:30 PM. Ms. Ness made a couple of brief announcements.

Attorney Peter James was introduced as the moderator for the presentation, which began at 6:31 PM.

After introductions, and an introduction to the format, the Board of Selectmen presented their FY' 2016 budget, and summarized by the attached handout "A Public Awareness Presentation on the Deerfield FY2016 Town Budget", dated April 8, 2015. Following the presentation, there were questions from participants and the public, which were answered by the Board, and by public officials and Town and District Staff, including questions related to the declining enrollment in Deerfield Schools, and the result of that decline on future budgets.
(12 FTE layoffs from DES – how will this affect Unemployment?)

After a number of questions and answers, Ms. Ness thanked the public for their participation, and encouraged continued feedback leading up to Town Meeting.

There being no more business, it was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Wolfram

To Adjourn.

PASSED: 3, 0, 0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Finn