

# Deerfield Board of Selectmen

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*July 22, 2015*

A regular meeting of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen was held on July 22, 2015, at Town Offices, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, Mass.

Present: Carolyn Shores Ness (Chair), David Wolfram. Absent: Mark Gilmore

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

## Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes from July 15, 2015 were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To approve the minutes as presented.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

## Board of Health Comments

Ms. Ness mentioned that mosquitos with West Nile Virus have been identified in the area, and that individuals should take appropriate precautions.

A rabid woodchuck was also found, and bit a resident. Residents encouraged to call Animal Control in any case of concern or need.

Ms. Ness further reminded individuals of the scoping session to be held on July 29, 2015, 6:30 PM, at Greenfield Middle School.

## Board of Selectmen Concerns

A resignation from Kenneth McGowan from the WWTP was reviewed.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To Accept the resignation of Kenneth McGowan from the WWTP.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Town Administrator was asked to post for a replacement.

## Discussion / Decision Items

### Gewanter – Release of 61(a) “Right of First Refusal”

The board reconsidered a request from Theodore Gewanter, requesting the board to waive right of first refusal, and further waive the 120 waiting period.

To was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To release the Gewanter property Chapter 61(a) lein, waive right of first refusal, and further waive the 120-day waiting period.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

### South County EMS / South Deerfield Department Lease Extension

The board considered an extension to the South County EMS / South Deerfield Fire Department lease.

Weston and Sampson – Landfill “Gas well” monitoring

### Melnik Well Monitoring

DEP has requested that the town perform testing on a water-well at the Melnik property.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

To approve and sign the two contracts with Weston and Sampson Engineering for gas-well monitoring at the Deerfield Landfill on Lee Road, and water-well testing at the Melnik well on Mill Village Road.

### FRCOG Cooperative Health Services Agreement

The board considered the renewal of the agreement.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

To approve and sign the Cooperative Health Services Agreement

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

### MSBA Authorization

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram that

*The Deerfield Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the Deerfield Elementary School Building Committee to expend certain funds, identified as “Roof Study - 001-350-5800-2013-0”, and “Deerfield Elementary School Roof - 001-350-5810-2011-0”, and appropriated by Deerfield Town Meeting, for the purpose of funding the Feasibility Study / Schematic Design portion of the roof replacement project at Deerfield Elementary School. Said use of such funds shall not exceed the balance in the accounts.*

*Further, the Deerfield Board of Selectmen acknowledge that this project will materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the Town of Deerfield has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA").*

*Further, the Board of Selectmen acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the Town to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed repair project, any project costs the Town of Deerfield incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

### **Mass DOT Non-Discrimination Assurance**

The board considered a request from Mass DOT to accept certain assurances related to compliance with non-discrimination laws and statutes.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To approve the Non-Discrimination Assurance agreement from Mass DOT, and to authorize the Chair to sign.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

### **Surplus Vehicle Bids**

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To award the bid for surplus cruiser to Bay Ridge Motors, having submitted the highest responsive and responsible bidder at \$475.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To award the bid for surplus dump truck to Shanda Rascoe, having submitted the highest responsive and responsible bidder at \$2,777.77.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator reviewed the two upcoming opportunities for public participation in relation to the proposed TGP / Kinder Morgan NED Pipeline project, including the opportunity for public commentary in person, through e-mail, and by mail.

The Board requested that the meeting notices be included in the Town Calendar on the website.

There was some discussion related to the form, opportunity, and limits to the commentary provided by the town to the Mass EFSB and FERC.

Town Administrator further emphasized the need to be brief and concise with any in-person commentary, but the benefit of submitting a full report by the deadline in August.

### Streetscape

Ms. Warren has been pursuing 'streetscape' with Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner, at the FRCOG, and laid out a potential plan for moving forward with a plan; Ms Ness reminded the board about the grant closure deadlines in late Summer.

### Upcoming Meetings

*August 29, 2015, 6:30 PM (at Greenfield Middle School).*

*August 12, 2015, 6:30 PM.*

The Chair declared the board at recess at 5:33 PM.

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The chair called the board back to open session at 5:56 PM, and declared a quorum.

*Present: David Wolfram, Carolyn Shores Ness.*

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To reconsider the vote to award the surplus cruiser bid.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To reject all bids for the surplus cruiser.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The chair declared the board at recess at 5:59 PM.

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***The Deerfield board of Selectmen reconvened at 6:10 PM.***

***The Sunderland Board of Selectmen called a meeting to order at 6:10 PM.***

***The Whatley Board of Selectmen called a meeting to order at 6:10 PM.***

*Present:*

*DEERFIELD: Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness; David Wolfram;*

*SUNDERLAND: David Pierce, Tom Fydenkevicz;*

*WHATELY: Paul Newlin, Fred Orloski, Jonathan Edwards;*

*Also present: Mark Pruhenski (Whatley Town Administrator)*

*John Paciorek, Jr. (Deerfield PD)*

*James A. Sevine Jr. (Whatley PD)*

*Jeffrey Gilbert (Sunderland PD)*

*Kayce Warren (Deerfield Town Administrator)*

*Ted Harvey (FRCOG)*

*Bill Connors, (Novak Consulting)*

Ms. Ness asked Mr. Harvey to summarize the scope of work, which was to provide a consultant services to consider shared policing resources.

Mr. Harvey chose Novak consulting to provide Phase 1 consulting, and introduced Bill Connors from Novak Consulting.

Mr. Connors described his background in law enforcement, and his initial ideas about the process to come.

Ms. Ness invited the participants to discuss their individual or town goals in the process.

Mr. Wolfram described his interest in the process, and spoke about the potential for sharing resources, including maintenance, training, and etc.

Mr. Pierce concurred.

Mr. Fydenkevicz suggested that exploration of differences and similarities between the three towns, and the three departments. He also suggested that the three chiefs could meet collectively with the consultant.

Mr. Newlin suggested that the process could target areas of inefficiency; also, regardless of the eventual outcome, to find areas where cost savings, and better operations could be realized.

Mr. Pruhenski also expressed interest in cost savings or shared resources.

Mr. Orloski expressed interest in determining whether or not this process would actually improve service, or simply add another layer of government.

Mr. Edwards suggested that communication was a priority, as a means to determine how the three towns could best work together; he hoped that everything would be on the table – “no silly questions, no silly answers” – that the process would be all

about sharing thoughts and ideas. Whatever comes out, six months or a year down the road, it would be the best possible outcome for all parties.

Chief Sevigne expressed his interest in the sense of the select boards – “what are the boards looking for from us [the police departments]?”

Chief Paciorek stated that his interests were in saving the towns money, enhancing services, scope of services, and fairly assessing costs. “I am hopefully optimistic.”

Chief Gilbert asked if any other states have shared policing services. “I’m coming into this very open minded.” Further, if community policing can be improved, “I’m all for it.”

Mr. Gilmore commended the participants - by sitting at the table, each town has made a step forward. He expressed an interest in an improved product – not in terms of money, but in terms of service to the citizens of the towns.

Ms. Ness stated her concern with proliferation of drug use / abuse; she reiterated her interest in recent efforts to provide a resource officer for the schools.

Ms. Ness turned the floor back over to Bill Connors for his thoughts.

Mr. Connors appreciated the positive attitude and positive approach to the process. Generally, participants in these types of processes approach it with some skepticism, but ultimately the process is beneficial for all involved.

Mr. Connors, procedurally, tries to approach the process like a ‘sponge’ – absorbing information. He is looking to gather information on current practices – CBAs, staffing levels funding, budgets, analysis of common and unique department functions, and to collate that data, and see if any conclusions can be drawn.

Chief Gilbert expressed his interest in training for local police officers; finding ways to access training resources would be a benefit.

Mr. Newlin stated that, as a Selectboard member, how would be towns be able to better assess police department activities. “In order to make policy, we have to have not only good data, but to better understand what the data means.” We need to know the police is operating at the safest and most efficient level, and we need to know how to assess the operations to determine this. If regionalization is to happen, we need to do it when informed by data.

Mr. Fydenkevicz concurred, and added that he has heard from residents: “We don’t need more local police – the State Police are backing them up.” However, in cases of broad emergency, the local departments are the first and last line of defense.

In the past, individual studies have been done with regionalization, and privatization, with various results, depending on the department or function. We need to look at this process

Mr. Orloski suggested that State Police representatives might be consulted as the towns worked through the process.

Bill Connors: On that point, based on his experience, he expects to confer with state police, when the time is right, and when he has more information about the process.

Mr. Connors continued: part of the process should include what community members expect, or what they are looking for from their police departments. Determining what level of coverage is desired, and what level can be afforded, is part of this process.

Mr. Wolfram expressed his interest in seeing the process through, and determining how resources can be shared. He cited potential examples of 'sharing' of resources that could be approached. The towns must continue to be sustainable, and combining services might be a stepping-stone forward.

Edwards: One of the reasons we're at this table is we already have succeeded at regionalization. That success enables us to better determine what does and does not make sense. However, this is a fact-finding mission. Our residents need to understand where we are. The SCEMS model is such a great model to consider – there were so many unknowns, and even if the only result is a better informed citizenry, then the process will have succeeded. Regarding cost-cutting options: that may not be the best practical goal. Communication of options - from A to Z - will allow the towns to have more information at their disposal, and a cost-benefit analysis will result in information that the towns can use to make informed decisions.

Paciorek: What works in Deerfield so far: Statistics. Police logs. Town Report entries. Weekly police logs posted on websites. Information to the voters. "We need to 'sell' our current operations to the residents."

Newlin: Educational costs have created fiscal restrictions for other town departments and functions. The issue with statistics is that there's no way to measure deterrence. How many crimes were prevented by the fact that the police force was in place, had a certain level of training, certain resources of equipment, and were on patrol? There's no way to know.

Pierce: Everyone is in the business of providing 'community service'. There are both positive and negative potential interpretations of police, particularly in the press. Unless people need the service – in the case of a fire, a medical emergency, or a crime - they are unaware of the service at all. It is as much the job of the town's to sell the value of the police service as it is to oversee and manage the departments.

Ness: Bottom line – we are worried about sustainability – budgets are a year-round process. The chiefs are focused on working on improvement of services while staying in budget.

Ms. Ness recognized Matt Russo (SCEMS Board of Oversight). Mr. Russo spoke about the cooperative efforts provided by the local police on emergency calls for ambulance or fire. "They do what has to be done." On the flip-side of that: are the police departments properly staffed? Are the levels of equipment and resources appropriate? What is the long-term cost of residents of any given cost-savings measure? Final view: Anything that can be provided to assist the chiefs to properly staff their departments or do their jobs will be appreciated.

Follow up: Information will be collected and analyzed by Mr. Connors, with progress reports conveyed through Ted Harvey.

*Question: Is this the last time we will be meeting? Is there any follow-up?*

*Answer: We only have \$3,000.*

Edwards: Without follow-up, this will have been a waste of the first \$3,000. We can't just let this go if we don't have any follow-up even on the first phase of information.

Connors: To clarify: There will be information gathering, analysis and a final report to the group. It is the expectation that he will provide a '10,000 foot view', and that will happen at a second follow-up meeting. The follow-up meeting is expected to be in September. "As we used to say in New York: you're getting a pretty good deal."

Ness: I want to be sure that there is consensus on the follow-up end.

Harvey: It is expected that there will be funding from the state for the next logical steps of the study.

Gilmore: I also hope that there can be some action that we can take, even based on the results of Phase 1.

Pierce: Will there be something along the line of a 'gant' chart so the towns can follow the progress of the project?

Harvey: Yes, that's possible.

Fydenkevicz: Other regional communities have talked about shared chiefs or shared departments; looking at their processes and the results of their studies would be illuminating. Sometimes we don't sell our police departments; sometimes residents don't recognize the successes of their local police departments; by virtue of observing that 'our town is quiet, and peaceful, therefore we don't need a police department' may be proof that the police department is successful.

Ms. Ness thanked all participants for their cooperation.

Announcements:

Ms. Ness stated that there are no 'free vaccine' clinic monies available this year; However, the "EDS" may still happen, depending on availability of state funds or local donations.

Ms. Ness further stated that the town has succeeded with phase 1 of a HUD grant, and the town has been invited back for Phase II of the process. The grant application would be somewhat involved, and would likely involve participation by multiple towns in the county. More information would be coming forward in time. Ms. Ness described some of the projects coming down the line.

Edwards: Anything that can be done to incorporate the Whately industrial park to the South Deerfield WWTP would be beneficial to both towns.

Gilmore: This is more than just the economic benefits...

Edwards: We have to move beyond the parochialism that has been the scourge on our towns for decades.

Wolfram: The fact that there is no sewer is stagnating our economic development.

Edwards expressed Whately's interest in combining sewer resources.

Pierce expressed Sunderland's interest in the potential for combining sewer resources.

Paciorek: Local towns have petitioned the state to create a consolidated computer system that would serve the region. Because of this, there would be about 40% of the contract costs. Further: Kurt Wood said that the state would pay for up to 50% of maintenance costs on the system. "We're going with IMC, out of California."

Chief Paciorek described what the system might look like, and how it might operate.

There was discussion about the financial and operational advantages to the system.

Ness: We'll agree to setup a second meeting in September, when the process is complete. "Thank you all for being here."

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

*To adjourn.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

**Ms. Ness declared the Deerfield Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:29 PM.**

**Mr. Fydenkevicz declared the Sunderland Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:29 PM.**

**Mr. Edwards declared the Whately Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:29 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas C. Finn.

A true copy.  
Attest,

Barbara J. Hancock  
Town Clerk