

# Board of Selectmen

---

*Minutes - November 4, 2015*

The DEERFIELD BOARD of SELECTMEN held a public meeting on November 4, 2015, at 6:30 PM 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, MA.

The meeting convened at about 6:31 PM.

## Public Comment

There was no comment from the public

## Selectmen's Comments / Announcements

Ms. Ness spoke about her recent meeting of the FRCOG meeting, and the Governor's Community Compact. She asked that the Community Compact be completed as quickly as possible. It's expected that the state will base funding on a town's participation in the Community Compact.

## **South County Senior Center Update**

Gilmore: The South County Senior Center director has been hired, and the Board of Oversight looks forward to work with her. The Board of Oversight welcomes input from the community.

## **South County EMS Update**

Gilmore: The SCEMS continues to look at options for housing. A proposal has been prepared by Whately, which the BOO will be reviewing soon.

There were comments by the public (Jeff Upton), related to the SCEMS, the potential for housing at the new Whately Office Building on Sandy Lane, and the related costs for operating the building being passed on to the SCEMS and its member towns.

Mr. Gilmore thanked Mr. Upton for his comments, and reassured the public that the SCEMS BOO are focused on both the short-term challenges of the SCEMS, but also the long-term viability and operability as a municipal service.

Mr. Gilmore reported that the 'three town' meeting to discuss SCEMS issues is still in negotiation, and that it would be posted as soon as a date is confirmed.

## **Tilton Library Update**

The Library is working on a needs analysis, and is reviewing locations, building costs, and designs. The library has to put out three different proposals – a new site, a rebuild, and a new build on site. Each proposal has to include public conference spaces.

Wolfram: Upcoming BoS meeting on November 9, 2015, will be at the Elementary School.

## **Board of Health Comments / Announcements / Appearances**

Ms. Ness reminded residents that flu shots would be available at Frontier Regional School, November 12, from 6 to 8 PM. Insurance cards are requested, but flu shots will be given regardless of ability to pay.

Ness: "Keep washing your hands!"

## **Hearings/Appearances before the Board**

The board invited Kevin Scarborough, Director of Public Works Operations, to speak to the board on a number of issues.

### **Town Common Lighting Upgrades**

Mr. Scarborough stated that the South Deerfield Town Common Electrical upgrades are proceeding 'quite nicely'. Lighting design is expected from Needham Electrical Supply Company (NESSCo) (Formerly Gettens Electric). Specific design details were discussed. Lighting on the common will be straight LED, or low-voltage LED, in an attempt to reduce the overall electric usage.

Trees on the common were discussed; Gilmore recommended that a committee be formed to recommend placement and type of trees on the Common.

There was further discussion related to LED lighting, and collaborative options in association with Eversource.

### **WWTP Upgrades**

Scarborough also discussed the potential upgrades to the Town's waste-water treatment plants. A 10-year plan for upgrades was presented that outlined necessary upgrades to the plants. Scarborough recommended a joint meeting with Capital Improvements Planning Committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen. Scarborough requested permission to expend \$10,000 from sewer reserves for a sewer rate study. Capital reserves are about \$5,000, but sewer reserves are at about \$400,000.

The Superintendent strongly urged that the Board consider the rate study, in order to begin setting aside funds for capital improvements to the plant.

*Gilmore: Why would we spend money to do a study, to determine that we need money?*

*Scarborough: The Town needs to do the rate study to properly assess its rate structure. We need to do this right. I'm not personally qualified to do this.*

*Gilmore: I don't know that anyone is.*

Ness, generally agreed.

*Gilmore: We're behind the eight-ball – we're going to have to bond, put the upgrades in place, and the rate will need to pay for that.*

Scarborough described some of the upgrades, and the potential for MassWorks grant money to help pay for some of these upgrades. "The Key Word is 'Grant', and not 'Loan' or 'bond'."

Gilmore expressed his interest in spending money to research grants, plant upgrades, or potential money-saving options for rehab or upgrade of the WWTP facility. "I'm really interested in proactive, and not reactive."

Scarborough expressed appreciation for the work that the current WWTP crew is doing, and related a recent issue that dramatically affected the ability of the ODWWTP to treat water.

The Board recommended that the incident be formally reported, allowing it to be tracked.

Scarborough discussed the estimates presented, and suggested that the numbers are somewhat generous, but that they are preliminary numbers from Weston and Sampson.

*Gilmore: I would much rather [Weston and Sampson] say that this is our best estimate, but there are potentials for more expense, if x, and y, and z happens.*

*Scarborough: These are just estimates – the first step in a long journey.*

Ness requested that the estimates be sent to CIPC for their consideration.

Scarborough reiterated his request to have all parties – BOS, CIPC and FinComm – receive all the same information, at the same time, from the same people. The board generally agreed.

Mr. Scarborough also updated the board on the status of the ODWWTP solar project. The "Witness" test was scheduled for November 12. Once the witness test was completed, and approved, the panels would be ready to start generating electricity.

Mr. Gilmore asked about the capacity of the inverters. There was some discussion related to the design and performance specifications. There was discussion related to long-term benefits of the solar plant.

## Discussion/Decision Items

### **One Day Liquor License – Deerfield Arts Bank**

A request for a one-day liquor license for Deerfield Arts Bank for November 19 was considered.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

*To approve the application as presented.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The Board recognized the continued benefit provided to the Town by the Deerfield Arts Bank.

## Appointments

The board reiterated their appointment of Ralph Healy to the Union 38 Negotiation subcommittee.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

*To appoint Linda Dumas to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a full member, with a term ending 6/30/2015.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

## **Deerfield Energy Resources Committee**

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

*To appoint Dr. Stephen Eipper to the Deerfield Energy Resource Committee, for a term to end 6/30/2015.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

## **Tilton Library Needs Assessment Committee**

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram,

*To appoint Mark Gilmore to the Tilton Library Needs Assessment Committee, for a term to continue until the committee's work is complete.*

VOTED: 2, 0, 1.

## **New Business**

A request for comments was considered from the ZBA in regard to a variance requesting relief on a set-back variance. The matter was referred to the Zoning Enforcement Officer for review and counsel.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

The Town Administrator's Report was reviewed, and is included herein by reference.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- a) November 9, 2015, 6:30 PM – Deerfield Elementary School
- b) November 18, 2015, 6:30 PM – Town Offices, South Deerfield

## **Adjournment**

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore,

*To authorize signing of payroll and vendor warrants, upon completion, and at the convenience of the Board members, and to Adjourn.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn