

DEERFIELD BOARD of SELECTMEN

January 13, 2016, at 6:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen was held on January 13, 2016.

PRESENT: Carolyn Shores Ness, Mark Gilmore, David Wolfram (Arrived at 7:00 PM)

Mr. Wolfram was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Gilmore was appointed Chair Pro Temp. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM, and a quorum was declared.

Minutes of previous meetings for review and approval

The minutes of December 30, 2015 were reviewed.

Public Comment

Mr. Vern Harrington spoke to the board about the auctioneer services process. Mr. Finn spoke about the process, and the past attempts to bid auctioneer services. Mr. Finn was directed to pursue the auctioneer services bid as quickly as possible.

Selectmen's Comments / Announcements

Mr. Gilmore came from the Tilton Library, and an information session re/ the options for library expansion and will be holding a public forum in February.

Board of Health Comments / Announcements / Appearances

Ms. Ness reminded viewers that this is cold season – keep washing your hands.

Hearings/Appearances before the Board

Marnin Lebovits - Lake Street Development Partners LLC - Net Metering Contract

Mr. Marnin Lebovits, from Lake Street Development Partners, spoke about the progress of the Solar Project off of River Road.

Mr. Lebovitz also spoke about a proposal for the Town to purchase Net Metering Credits. Net metering credits were explained, and the potential savings for the Town explored.

Mr. Gilmore would like to have the contract reviewed by the Deerfield Energy Resources Committee. Mr. Finn will contact Mr. David Gilbert Keith, request a meeting to review the agreement, and present a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on the 27th of January.

Mr. Scarborough: 12 years from now, the town may wish to get out of this agreement. Is that possible?

Mr. Leovitz: Yes, in keeping with the terms of the contract.

Mr. Lebovitz also spoke briefly about the PILOT agreement. The board will consider the PILOT agreement, and endeavor to conclude deliberations by January 27.

The board thanked Mr. Lebovits for his time.

6:35 PM – Francis Miller - Civil War Memorial Restoration Project Update

Present: Tim Neumann (PVMA, Katherine McKay (Historic Deerfield), John Nove (Deerfield Historical Commission), Francis Miller – Civil War Memorial.

Mr. Miller from ConservArt LLC made a presentation on the repairs made to date on the Civil War Monument, including a discussion of the materials, the build of the monument, the artisanship of the figure, the efforts made to stabilize the figure and the pedestal, and the process by which the figure was removed from the pedestal, and delivered to PVMA.

(Mr. Wolfram arrived at about 7:20 PM.)

Wolfram: At one point in time would that statue be able to be displayed?

Miller: Depends on the conditions. A stone consolidant injected into the stone is recommended.

Cleaning of exposed epoxy is also recommended. If it were in a case, it could stand very well on its own.

Mr. Nove asked about the total cost for Mr. Miller's work. \$36,000 was the total estimate, and he feels that there is still work to be done. The money never included consolidation treatment, so that would have to be done before it is further moved. It would be better to have a work-site, and then have the figure moved.

Mr. Neumann also suggested there was some talk about hosting a reception, allowing residents to see the figure up close.

Discussion/Decision Items

PVMA – Annual Craft Fair Schedule

Mr. Neumann spoke about the Annual Craft Fair schedule (to be held Sept 17 and 18, with setup from Sept 13-16). Mr. Neumann requested approval.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the event, and to waive the Transient Vendor Fee for the event.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Lions Club – Request Permission for Annual Car Show

The Deerfield Lions Club requested permission to hold their annual car show, with conditions as requested, including a transient vendor permit with fee waived.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the event, and to waive the transient vendor permit fee for the event.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Annual Permit Renewals

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the applications for permit renewals for the following:

1. HOME BUSINESS RENEWALS
 - a. Richard Floyd, Pioneer Frameworks/Buy the Book
 - b. Christopher Noreika, Digital Memories
 - c. Bela Breslau, Shintaido Farm
 - d. Peter R. James, Attorney Peter R James & Katherine M. James Consulting
2. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S LICENSE
 - a. Harold Wrisley, Wrisley Funeral Home
 - b. Lawrence Wrisley, Wrisley Funeral Home
3. CLASS I AGENT'S OR SELLER'S LICENSE
 - a. Michael Bedard, Pioneer Valley Sales & Service, Inc.
4. CLASS II USED CAR DEALER'S LICENSE

- a. Gary Kolakoski, Deerfield Motors & Equipment
- b. Greg Gardner, GMG Enterprises
- c. Joseph Kostiuk, Jr., d/b/a Country Roads

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Lake Street Development Partners LLC - Net Metering Contract

Mr. Marnin Lebovits presented a draft version of a Net Metering Credit Purchase Agreement to the Board for consideration. Some discussion was had in relations to the specifics of the contract.

Wolfram: What effect will the brownfield development of the Landfill have on this project?

Response: There is an option to opt out, should the Town choose to do at a later date.

The impact of the contract on other potential initiatives, such as development of town-owned solar generation facilities, Power Purchase Agreements, and other possibilities. Mr. Lebovits stated that this agreement was separate from other possible town initiatives, and would likely cause little to no impact.

The Board referred the contract to the Energy Resources Committee for review and comment. The Board also directed Mr. Finn to forward the contract to Beth Greenblatt for review and comment.

Mr. Lebovits thanked the board for their time.

Walter Yazwinski - Request for Sewer Abatement

A request for an abatement of a sewer bill by Walter Yazwinski, 14 North Main Street, was considered.

It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED to Ness

To Grant the abatement of \$750 as requested.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Approve ITA as Authorized Signatory

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Wolfram

To Authorize the Interim Town Administrator as an authorized signatory.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Third Party Landfill Inspection Contract

Mr. Kevin Scarborough presented contracts for third-party inspections of the Landfill. Inspections are required, and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District provides the town with the service at an excellent price.

MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the contract, and authorize the chair to sign.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Mr. Scarborough spoke about a few concerns related to the Transfer Station, including concerns related to recycling capacity at the transfer station, and efforts to reducing recycling tipping fees.

Mr. Scarborough also spoke about a request for food-waste composting at the transfer station, and the costs – and concerns - related to it.

Mr. Scarborough also spoke to a request for a ‘freecycle’ store at the transfer station.

Mr. Scarborough also spoke about the recent reduction in weight limit on the North Main Street “Dry Bridge” originally called the Sprouts Bridge.

Mr. Scarborough spoke about the history of the effort to replace the bridge, from early 1997, to mid- to late-1999. Asked at that time: Could the bridge be replaced with an at-grade crossing?

Mr. Scarborough suggested that more information was needed. However, it's his impression that the project was scrapped over resident concerns. Finn suggested a public hearing to get feedback from residents might be a good first step.

There was some discussion about options, obstacles, and the potential solutions.

Draft Motions for STM on 1/25

Draft motions for the Special Town Meeting were presented to the board for consideration and review.

Interim Town Administrator's Report

Request for Temporary Staff Services

The ITM requested approval to seek out temporary staffing services to assist in the Town Administrator's office for the short term. The board approved by unanimous consent.

First Reading - Code of Conduct

A draft "Code of Conduct" was presented by the board. Ms. Ness suggested that a reminder of open meeting law could also be presented. The policy will be referred to the personnel committee, and department heads for consideration.

Letter to State Reps – Records Legislation

A draft letter to State representatives

MOVED By Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To authorize transmittal of a letter of concern about pending public records legislation, at the discretion of the Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1.

DA Contribution Letters

Letters acknowledging the gifts by Deerfield Academy were reviewed. The board thanked the Trustees of Deerfield Academy for their generous gifts.

DES FY17 Draft Budget

Mr. Finn asked about assessing fair and attributable insurance and retirement costs to the school budget.

Ness: People should be aware of the true costs of education, including benefits.

Wolfram: Now, there isn't a true representation of managing employees. Benefits costs vary from 20-50%, depending on the hours worked. This would be a true reflection of labor costs. "We don't have a choice anymore."

Gilmore stated concern with no handouts at the meeting. Any percentages in the accounts need to be explained.

Ness: Please pass on to the School Superintendent that the Board needs to consider and decide how OPEB is to be handled;

Re. Negotiation of the specifics Mr. Finn and Ms. Hancock will discuss specifics, and Mr. Finn will seek input from the School Superintendent and the School Business Manager. The Board will discuss the proposal with the School Committee at an appropriate time.

Question: Can the Town unilaterally mandate that the school budget for insurance and retirement costs? Can the town unilaterally 'assess' those costs to the school?

Concern: Is support of allocation of this going to be considered tacit approval of their budget increase?

There was some discussion about classroom size, and the 'attrition' of lower school choice numbers.

Finn discussed the proposed increase in insurance expenses expected for FY17, and stated that he would work to get final figures for the Board to review.

Upcoming meetings

- January 25, 2016 (Special Town Meeting)
- January 27, 2016

Executive Session

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To enter into Executive Session as allowed by M.G.L. c.30A §21(a)(3), 3. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, the chair so declaring; further enter into Executive Session as allowed by M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

VOTED: Gilmore: AYE, Ness: Aye; Wolfram: Aye.

The board entered into executive session at 9:25 PM.

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The Board resumed Open Session at 9:41 PM.

Adjourn

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 thereafter to adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas C. Finn