

Deerfield Board of Selectmen

Minutes of February 10, 2016

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen conducted a public meeting, posted for February 10, 2016, at 6:30 PM, at the Town Offices, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, MA.

Present: Mark Gilmore, Carolyn Shores Ness

Not Present: David Wolfram

Also Present: Douglas Finn, Interim Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Public Hearing: Regarding Complaint of Dangerous Dog Residing at 5 Beaver Drive

Present: Nancy Sunflower, Valerie Telega, Calin Giurgiu

The public hearing was declared open at 6:35 PM.

Board reviewed associated timeline with plaintiffs to verify its accuracy. Animal Control Officer Giurgiu explained that the dog got loose and 'went after' Nancy Sunflower, explained that the owner, Valerie Telega, admitted it and apologized, and explained that others in the area feared the dog getting loose. The Animal Control Officer admits the dog needs a new Rabies vaccine and that the dog was not aggressive with him.

Ms. Sunflower testified about three past occasions the dog has gotten loose, twice through the front screen door, twice resulting in it biting her dogs, she has spoken to the owner, and filed two past police reports. On the third occasion Nancy was walking a Chihuahua when the dog bit her pants and pulled them down while she protected the Chihuahua resulting in the second police report.

Ms. Telega testified that the incidents did happen, but no injuries were reported to her. The first two incidents occurred because her toddler left the front door unlatched which is no longer an issue and the third incident occurred when the dog got free while walking from the car to the front door. Ms. Telega stated there was no contact made between the dog and Nancy during the third incident. She testified that the dog makes her feel safe and it has never hurt anyone. Ms. Telega was advised to make every effort to keep the dog confined and controlled.

The public hearing was closed at 7:10 PM.

No further action was taken at this time.

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

That the Minutes from the January 13, 2016, January 25, 2016, and January 27, 2016 meetings should be accepted.

VOTED: 2,0,0.

The Minutes from the February 5, 2016 meeting still require approval.

Public Comment: Richard Calisewski's Update on the DES Roof

Mr. Calisewski updated the board on his review of the School Roof Project. He reported that despite continued efforts he has been unsuccessful in getting the information he needs from RDA and Pink & Company so his review is incomplete and he cannot offer a permit for the design at this point. Mr. Calisewski expressed specific concerns about compromising the structural integrity of the school by adding weight to the roof and the missing calculations regarding the weight. Public Safety is his ultimate concern.

After discussion, a plan was made for Town Administrator Mr. Finn to follow up, send the information to all involved parties including the state to avoid communication gaps and provide reliable documentation. The Board expressed concerns for the safety of the design, the reliability of the builders, and financial accountability. Mr. Finn will be contacting the OPM to request the information Mr. Calisewski needs to complete his evaluation. A meeting will be posted for Friday 2/12/2016 to meet face to face should they fail to provide such information.

Selectmen's Comments / Announcements

Tilton Library Meeting rescheduled from last Monday 2/8/2016 at the town hall to Thursday 2/11/2016 at 5pm at the Tilton Library.

Mark Gilmore has two meetings Thursday 2/11/2016 at 7pm to discuss SCEMS, one with the Whately Building committee and one with the South Deerfield Fire district.

Mr. Finn reports progress working with Marlene to finalize the South County Senior Center budget and she received positive information about a CIC grant which is helping to fund outreach efforts for next year. A board of over sight meeting for the SCSC will happen on 2/23/2016.

Board of Health Comments:

Carolyn Shores Ness advised residents to keep washing their hands to prevent illnesses.

Mr. Finn advised that Rep. Stephen Kulik will be speaking about renewable energy at the Sunderland Public Library on Saturday 2/27/2016 at 2pm. He will be addressing the Kinder Morgan Pipeline as well as other projects like the omnibus bill and solar energy credits. Board discussed supporting the extension of SREC II Program.

Discussion/Decision Items

Local Support for Pipeline Intervention

Carolyn Shores Ness discussed a special town meeting before the Annual Town Meeting to move funds to assist Montague in paying to counter the moratorium.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To set the Annual Town Meeting for April 25, 2016, to open the warrant and keep it open through March 9, 2016.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To sign the warrant for state elections.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To approve the list of annual appointments of poll workers as submitted.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To approve the Home Rule Petition- Extension of Police Service as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To deficit spend Winter Road Maintenance account.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To renew the business permit for 'After Works'.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Discussion of the FY2017 Budget

Mr. Finn discussed the FY2017 budget. The selectmen have received a draft of the upcoming budget. Updates will be added to the Contracting Services and Legal Services sections.

Mr. Finn advised that the Legal Services budget needed to be increased from its \$20,000 last year.

Mr. Finn discussed the Class Comp. Study which compares municipal salaries within Deerfield to similar positions in the area. The Finance Committee would like this to be part of a regular review.

Mr. Finn discussed the disposition of the Energy Loan, whether it should be bonded for or paid out right and the associated expenses. Board discussed the cost benefits of using a loan has offered in the past.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Finn discussed the Complete Streets Policy and its efforts to facilitate accessibility of all types of transportation across the city and requested the Board review the information. Selectwoman Carolyn Shores Ness suggested going forward with this through the Board of Health to make more grants available. Mr. Finn stated that the policy has to be accepted before they can move forward.

Telecommunications Lease Proposals and Decision

Proposals from Eversource and US Wireless Associates were accepted and reviewed for lease of town owned property on Pocumtuck Ridge. Ever Source was preferable because of their more complete financial information and their 45 similar towers. Mr. Finn recommended awarding the contract to Ever Source as the most responsible and advantageous option for the town.

It was MOVED by NESS, SECONDED by GILMORE

To award the telecommunications lease to Eversource as the most responsible and advantageous option for the town.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Division of Stillwater Road Property into Two Parcels

Mr. Finn requested and received permission to contract with Randy Izer to create an ANR for town owned property on Stillwater road for the purpose of splitting the lot to create two sellable lots without losing capability at the landfill transfer station.

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings of the Board of Selectmen:

- February 24, 2016
- March 9, 2016
- March 18, 2016
- March 23, 2016

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To Adjourn with the signing of the budget and payroll warrants.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Submitted,

Douglas C. Finn