

BOS Minutes

February 26, 2016

A regular meeting of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen was held on February 26, 2016 at the Town Hall, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield, Massachusetts.

PRESENT: David Wolfram, Carolyn Shores Ness, Mark Gilmore

Also Present: Douglas Finn, Kathleen Dolan

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 PM, and a quorum was declared.

Hearings / Appearances before the Board

Mr. Finn introduced Kathleen Dolan, recently appointed as Administrative Clerk for the Town of Deerfield. Mr. Finn reviewed Ms. Dolan's experience and background, and the board welcomed her aboard.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Appointments - SCEMS

Mr. Zach Smith, Director of South County EMS, presented two requests for appointments to the Ambulance service. Ms. Ness expressed her interest in the benefits of full staffing, and encouraged Director Smith to seek out opportunities for the ambulance service to participate in projects and activities to further the health and well being of the community.

Mr. Smith spoke briefly about the qualifications of the two individuals presented for appointment, and confirmed that both are qualified and prepared to perform the duties of their respective positions.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To appoint Anthony Muszysnki as EMS Assistant Director.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To appoint Jonathan Van't Land as Per Diem Standard Paramedic

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

South County EMS Update

Director Smith briefly delivered an update on the FY2017 budget. Certain increases in the budget are being offset by retained earnings, allowing for a level-funded budget.

Ms. Ness requested that there be an information session on a regular meeting night, in order to provide information to the public about the business, and services of the South County EMS.

Mr. Gilmore stated that, while an information session would be helpful, it might be helpful to wait to see if there are any further issues.

Senior Center Update

Mr. Gilmore stated that the SCSC is looking for an outreach person; further, the Deerfield Highway Department is looking to do some entry-level cleanup of the building, including basement and 2nd floor work on the building.

Library Update

Mr. Gilmore stated that preliminary plans are available for the renovation and expansion of the Library.

Board of Health Comments

Ms. Ness recommended that people get a flu shot, if they have not yet done so. Effectiveness is up to 60% this year

Ms. Ness also described her recent efforts related to researching the Zika virus. She encouraged local residents to remove potential sources of 'standing water', in order to minimize the breeding of mosquitos and other carriers of disease.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were ready for review.

Discussion / Decision Items

Approval and Execution of Mass Cultural Council Grant Agreement

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore,

To approve signing of the annual Mass Cultural Council Grant Agreement.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

Mr. Gilmore expressed an interest in expanding the cultural outreach in town, and in seeking out opportunities for financial resources, such as matching funds. Mr. Finn will follow up with the chair of the LCC to seek out options.

Second Reading of NEPN Host Agreement

Mr. Finn reported on efforts to continue to negotiate the agreement.

Mr. Wolfram expressed his desire to have the minimum percentage to be set at 2.5%. An escalator after year one was also recommended. Mr. Finn will present those terms in negotiation.

Mr. Wolfram stated that these monies would affect the 'school resource officer', which is not currently funded.

Waiver of inspection fees for DES Roof Project

The Building Commissioner has requested that permitting and inspection fees for the DES project will be waived. However, the Building Commissioner requested that fees for second inspections will not be waived, and will be borne entirely by the contractor.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To waive all permitting and inspection fees, excepting fees for re-inspection of work, which shall not be waived, and will be borne entirely by the contractor or subcontractor without impact to the Town.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Ness and SECONDED by Gilmore

To Appoint Ms. Eileen Skribiski-Banack to the Recreation Commission

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

FY2017 Budget Discussion

Mr. Gilmore expressed concerns with the increases in the budget, particularly with the increases in school budgets. In particular, there was discussion related to the School Resource Officer, and the need for the schools to assist in covering the expenses related to the position.

Ms. Ness expressed her concerns about the increase at Frontier, and that double-digit percentage increases were unsustainable.

Mr. Gilmore described some of the history of the budget, and that the town should go back to the School Committee to request that the schools hold themselves to the same 2-½% increase as other town departments.

There was some discussion related to the state aid increases, minimum contribution increases, and other issues.

Ms. Ness requested that \$1,200 be restored to the infectious disease control in the Board of Health Expense budget.

Mr. Wolfram spoke about the need for the board to decide on the School resource Officer. Mr. Gilmore stated that he would prefer to wait until the School Committee determines the value of the position to the schools. If the value is estimated, and provided as a budgetary contribution, then the position will be funded. If no value is determined, or provided as a budgetary contribution, the Board of Selectmen would take that information under advisement and act accordingly.

There was discussion related to the funding of the school resource officer, and the past practice related to the use of the school resource officer.

The board generally expressed their interest and support of continuing the position, and the benefits of the position to the students and schools.

There was some discussion related to the senior center, maintenance of the building, and potential for the use of Community Preservation Act funds to improve the facility.

There was some discussion related to the South County EMS Budget, the availability of retained earnings, Mr. Gilmore stated that part of the budget will include payment of administrative indirect costs, and there was discussion related to the manner by which the payment of those costs would be made to the Town.

There was a presentation, and extensive discussion on various warrant articles, as drafted and proposed by Town Administrator. There was extensive discussion related to a proposal to appropriate money for mosquito survey and testing.

The Board was asked by the ITM about a recommendation for increases in salaries for Board of Selectmen, and Town Moderator. Mr. Gilmore deferred comment. Ms. Ness stated that a higher salary may attract newer (younger) members; Mr. Wolfram stated that the compensation does not equate to the amount of time necessary to perform the job. Mr. Gilmore recommended that the ITA perform a cursory survey to determine what other towns of similar size do in regard to

Town Administrator's Update

The interim Town Administrator briefly updated the board on the status of the following projects:

- Sugarloaf Cemetery Fence
- The Civil War Memorial Statue
- Local Option Gasoline tax
- Summer picnic and neighborhood 'social' idea, slated for July.

There being no further business, it was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Ness

To Adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas C. Finn
Interim Town Administrator