

BOARD of SELECTMEN

March 9, 2016

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen held a public meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 6:30 PM, at the Town Offices, 8 Conway Street, South Deerfield.

PRESENT: Carolyn Shores Ness, Mark Gilmore

ABSENT: David Wolfram

ALSO PRESENT: Douglas Finn

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM, and a quorum was declared.

Hearings / Appearances Before the Board

Officer Adam Sokoloski from the Deerfield Police Department spoke to the Board about a planned “Shredding” and prescription drugs event planned to be held on April 15, at the Deerfield Transfer Station.

Public Comment

Mr. John Paresky, Chair of the Capital Improvement and Planning Committee spoke about the draft copy of the Town Meeting Warrant, and the absence of the CIPC ‘schedule’ of recommendations.

Mr. Finn explained that, due to errors in the schedule as previously printed, and the potential for other changes, the schedule was removed from the second draft of the warrant.

Selectmen’s Comments / Announcements

Updates – SCEMS, SCSC, Tilton Library

Mr. Gilmore spoke about the Outreach Coordinator position at the South County Senior Center, and encouraged individuals interested in filling the position to inquire within.

Mr. Gilmore spoke about the progress of the Tilton Library Needs Committee, and the progress of the designs for the expansion of the library.

Mr. Gilmore also spoke about conversations at a recent Historical Commission meeting related to relocation of the Civil War Memorial figure to the Town Offices in South Deerfield. The Commission was also interested in researching and developing recommendations to return the South Deerfield Common to a ‘more grand’, and historically accurate state.

There was discussion about the formation of an ad-hoc committee to recommend changes and/or potential work to be done.

Mr. Finn spoke about the efforts to create a South Deerfield ‘work-bee’, involving several town departments, and community members.

Mr. Gilmore stated the importance of having the Town Common looking as good as possible to prepare the common for Memorial Day.

Board of Health Comments / Announcements / Appearances

Ms. Ness reminded residents to check for ticks, and to use bug-spray to protect against mosquitos.

Ms. Ness also reminded residents of upcoming Recreation Department programs and events.

Mr. Gilmore spoke about two recent fires, in Orange, and Marlborough, MA, and the importance of practicing fire safety, checking smoke detectors, changing batteries, etc.

Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes of February 5, February 10, February 11, February 24, and February 26, 2016. No votes would be taken.

Discussion / Decision Items

DES School Roof –

PFA Agreement – First Reading

The board reviewed the proposed Project Funding Agreement. There were questions related to insurance, and the availability of the 100% completed “Construction Documents”.

Mr. Gilmore requested that the document be reviewed and certified by legal counsel prior to signing.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To approve the PFA, and to authorize Carolyn Shores Ness to sign the document on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, upon written confirmation of review and approval of the contract by Town’s Counsel and Patti Cavanaugh, Chief Procurement Officer.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

100% CD review, and timeline going forward.

Mr. Finn asked if the Board of Selectmen wished to have an opportunity to approve the 100% construction documents.

The board reached consensus, stating that no formal action will be taken, as long as the documents were met with approval by the Building Commissioner.

Second Reading and Vote – “Complete Streets” Policy

The Board reviewed the draft “Complete Streets” Policy. There was some discussion as to whether identifying certain areas in town as needing improvement, or as “unsafe” would introduce liability.

It was suggested that this policy receive review and advice from the Chief of Police and the Director of Public Works Operations.

The policy will be reviewed a third time at the next regular meeting.

“Healthy Watersheds” Support Letter

The Board reviewed a request to support a proposal by the FRCOG to develop a “Toolkit for a Healthy and Resilient Deerfield River Watershed”. A draft support letter was presented, and the effort was explained by Ms. Ness.

It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Ness

To sign a letter of support for the “Resilient River Watershed” effort by the FRCOG.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

Letter of Support for the General Pierce Bridge

Ms. Ness recommended that the Board issue a letter to the Mass DOT, and other applicable parties, in support of immediately commencement of repairs on the General Pierce Bridge between Montague and Deerfield. Mr. Gilmore agreed, and a letter will be drafted.

2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

There was review of the draft Warrant for Special and Annual Town Meetings. There was some discussion related to the articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant, as compared to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The process by which an article may be added to a warrant was discussed.

Review Warrant Articles

There was some discussion related to funding levels of the Reserve Fund.

The public information session related to the upcoming Town meetings was discussed. Strategies related to explaining various articles, and the challenges that certain articles might face was also discussed.

Mr. Finn was requested to schedule a board of selectmen's meeting to be held between the Town Meeting information night and the Town Meeting night, to consider feedback received at the information session.

Making changes to the date for Town Meeting was discussed.

Mr. Finn stated that an article to adopt a 'road bylaw' had not yet been added to the Annual Town Meeting warrant, but would add it for review in a future draft of the STM Warrant. A public hearing on the proposed bylaw will be scheduled for March 23, 2016.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To add an article to adopt a so-called "Roads" bylaw to the warrant for Town Meeting.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

There was further discussion related to various articles, including articles related to Lake Street Development Partners Solar Project, and a citizen's petition to form a Municipal Government Study Committee.

Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant

It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Ness

To Close the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The Special Town Meeting articles were discussed.

Upcoming Meetings

March 18, 2016 – 3:30 PM

A joint meeting with the Finance Committee was recommended for April 18, 2016. Mr. Finn will consult with the Chair of the Finance Committee to determine if the 18th is available for a joint meeting.

March 23, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Mr. Gilmore suggested that this meeting might be an alternate, or a continuation of joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

April 6, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Regular meeting of the Board.

April 12, 2016

The Public Information Session.

April 13, 2016

Tentative meeting date, if needed.

April 20, 2016

Regular meeting date. (Warrant)

April 25, 27 (tentative) and 30 (tentative), 2016

Annual Town Meeting

ITA Report:

Mr. Finn reported on a number of topics, included:

- Repairs to a culvert on Mill Village Road
- An update to the budget
- An update on the Frontier Regional School budget

There was significant discussion related to the impact of charter schools and school choice on the school budgets. There was further discussion related to school funding, and efforts to equalize school funding between charter schools and public schools.

School Resource Officer

Mr. Finn also requested direction on whether to keep the School Resource Officer.

The board general agreed that the position should stay in the budget; however, the board felt that, broadly, the schools should still be requested to make some contribution in some way to the position.

There was further discussion related to the topic, with no further decisions made.

Executive Session

The board of selectmen may enter into executive session, as allowed by MGL Chap. 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.

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Ness, Seconded by Gilmore

To enter into executive session as allowed by MGL Chap. 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: Ness, Aye. Gilmore: Aye.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:58 PM, and returned from Executive Session at 10:03 PM.

It was MOVED by Ness, SECONDED by Gilmore

To Adjourn.

VOTED: 2, 0, 0.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas C. Finn