

TOWN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting – with BPW Board
6:00 p.m. – Thursday, December 12, 2013

Present: Chair, Phil Washko, Vice Chairperson, Bernie Roderick, Dick Douglass, Siobhan Henebury, Linda Meredith, & Pattie Pacella (arrived at 6:20 p.m.). Absent: Andy Jones

BPW Board Members Present: Chairperson, Steve Riley, Robert Hobson, Kathy Sturveant, Mike Ristuccia, and Brian Wotton. Vinny Furtado was also present.

As well as audience member, John Rodrigues.

Mr. Hobson started by saying the BPW Board is in charge of 50 employees, 4 different unions & they get results. He mentioned the DOR Recommendation of the \$400,000, that created the water/sewer increase.

Phil explained that the DOR came in at a request from our Select board for a Management plan.

Mr. Hobson said that the Selectman can't handle what they have in front of them, never mind to add more to their plate.

Bernie explained the Town Administrator position and asked the BPW members how they envision working with a Town Administrator.

Steve Riley wondered how a Town Administrator would interact with other Boards. He said that everyday there is a need for Water & Sewer. He believes BPW should be an elected Board, not appointed. (with the concept, if you don't do a good job you're voted out). Mr. Riley said that a new water & sewer pollution plan would need to be planned out for the next 2-3 years.

The Board stated that (Steve) probably is in touch with Vinnie Furtado 1-2x's a day if not daily.

?: What do you think the difference of an advisory board to what is now with the elected board?

--if appointed, may be a weak link

--elected, the "towns people" are voting..if they don't like the job the elected official is doing they don't vote them in again.

Brief, very brief discussion on schools – function of Superintendent vs. School Committee

Vinnie Furtado – says he interacts with Board Members (Steve Riley, because he's Chair specifically) perhaps on a day to day bases re: areas around the bylaw; non operational issues

Mr. Furtado has ability to assist with hiring/terminating; but the BPW has the final word.

Mr. Furtado says he uses board as a resource, he says he works well with anyone however he feels, in his experience, that the BPW (entity) would be on the back burner with a Town Administrator.

"Why fix what's not broken?"

Dick – not convinced that change might not be better.

Mike Ristuccia -- says he devotes 3-4 hours a week to BPW; he represents the citizens of Fhvn. Doesn't think a Town Administrator could replace the board of 5 (one person can't replace 5 people)

BPW Board also interacts, if big projects, with other Towns or with the budget process

Pattie asked how often BPW works with Jeffrey Ousch (exec secretary).

--not much; however Vinnie Furtado does work with him on a daily basis..keeps him in the loop!

Brian Wotton said he didn't understand why would it make sense to take out an unpaid Board & put more responsibility on a paid person. (TA)

Phil talked about the possibility of an Advisory Board for BPW.

Discussion on BPW Board vs. Vinnie Furtado. Who frequents phone calls from residents.

Majority of phone calls is roadway. No one thinks of water & sewer unless there's a problem

?: Do you support Term Limits?

Steve – No. Job performance should weigh in

Hoppy – Sure.

Brian – Yes.

Hoppy suggest maybe a person from each precinct (good argument for appointed as well)

Phil explained structure of a Business vs. The Town.. how both coincide.

Mike Ristuccia explained how he felt.. wasn't for an Advisory Board..afraid that not best for town residents, etc.

Some felt the BPW Board is always under scrutiny & maybe other Boards should be as well.

? Understanding what BPW Board actually does/responsibilities:

- Public voice
- Responsible for anything that has to do with the \$\$ part of things
- Based on Bylaw
- Personnel – Hiring
- Develop & Present Budget (involved in budget process)
- Set Policy (not much with administration)

?: Do you feel a PT Select Board of 3 can handle efficiently?

No. But how do you add a TA in middle of it

Phil asked if there was any metric rating in how many people actually go before the BPW Board.

No metric..but 5-10 people in Fall in Spring (when water & sewer bills come out). Most recently 25-30 because of increase

Vinnie Furtado says he gets approximately 10 requests from the public between BPW meetings that he has to handle. He referred to the BPW board as the "think tank"

Vinnie is a "Jeff" to BPW as "Select board" is to Jeff... hmmm...

John Roderigues wanted to make it clear that just because you change town government doesn't mean you have to change union contract.

Dick asked about logical TA candidate (not specific to a person).. the Board answered Vinnie.

Bernie made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. and was seconded by Linda Meredith. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella