

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 6, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. & read the recording disclaimer.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury (arrived 6:04pm) and Pattie Pacella.

Absent: Linda Meredith and G. Steve Riley

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: February 27, 2014

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve the February 27, 2014 minutes as presented and was seconded by Dick Douglass. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening Public Comment:

No one present.

Bernie Roderick reviewed and passed out a 'Capital Planning' memo. He said that the Selectman were going to take it over to present an article to Town Meeting.

Dick Douglass said that he has been doing some research and there is 29 Departments in Fairhaven and 29 Committees. He can't understand why the need for another committee.

Review/discuss TA article/special legislation:

Phil Washko reviewed the meeting with Atty. Crotty this afternoon and reviewed the changes to the Article.

Bernie Roderick asked what the cost for the attorney was going to be.

Phil said approximately \$2-3,000.00.

For Bernie wondered if we should be asking Town Meeting to replenish our funds account.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve as presented the Article for Establishing the Position of Town Administrator as well as the Special legislation as reviewed by Attorney Tom Crotty and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to approve the Warrant Article as presented and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Phil Washko reported that Atty. Crotty hadn't reviewed completely the BPW Special legislation or the warrant, but it should be done by next week.

Review IT Strategy Article:

Phil Washko reviewed the IT Advisory Committee.

Bernie Roderick asked why we need a committee to take over the IT. He suggested recommending to Town Meeting to hire an IT consultant or a permanent IT person.

Dick Douglass agreed and said that the Town has an IT problem, and why shouldn't it be handled by the Town Administrator.

Phil Washko said the Town Government Study Committee was not qualified to recommend a 'hire' of a permanent IT person.

Siobhan Henebury said that the department heads would need to be involved in an IT Committee, to see that the strategy is maintained.

Phil Washko advised that we have spoke of this in the past and there is obviously an IT problem within the Town.

Dick Douglass said he didn't feel a committee was necessary, or should be recommended by our Board.

Pattie Pacella asked then how do we get it to Town Meeting that there is a need for an IT assessment.

Ms. Henebury said that the assessment still has to meet with managerial department heads within the organization.

Rich Griffiths felt that the goal is fine, however he agreed that the Committee Members (department heads) listed didn't need to designate a committee.

Phil Washko stated an assessment would need to be brought back to a collaborative group to maintain.

Pattie Pacella asked why not just recommend the IT assessment.

Discussion ensued on what should be recommended re the IT assessment & a Committee.

After much discussion, Phil Washko stated that we had not decided what exactly we are going to do with IT; but that we are all in agreement that an IT assessment is definitely needed within the Town.

Phil Washko tabled the discussion until our next meeting, whereas there were no decisions being made.

Set date/plan for April public forum:

April Forums for Town Meeting discussed. Two public forums will be held:

April 3 at 6:30pm at WIIA

April 17 at 6:30pm at Fairhaven Town Hall

Action Item #1: Pattie will email Beth David for Neigh News to include the dates of Public Forums.

Action Item #2: Bernie will check with Anne for the April 17th date.

Both forums will begin with the committee meeting at 6pm.

Other Questions:

None.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella