

## TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 10, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and there was no recording because we were meeting at the BPW Department.

**Present:** Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Bawdy, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Siobhan Henebury (arrived at 6:03 p.m.), Linda Meredith, Pattie Pacella and G. Steve Riley.

**Absent:**

### AGENDA:

**Review/approve minutes:** April 10, 2014

Linda Meredith made a motion to approve the April 10, 2014 minutes as presented and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

### Opening Public Comment:

Robert "Hoppy" Hobson was present and shared a few concerns. He asked if the Town Administrator would be required to be a resident of Fairhaven and wondered if maybe he doesn't live in Town he should have to live within so many miles.

Phil Washko said that the Committee had discussed and didn't think we would be getting the best qualified person if we put a living residency requirement on the job description.

Mr. Hobson then said he felt the Committee was 'attacking' BPW and had some concerns.

Bernie Roderick advised him that if passed at Town Meeting, it would go to a Town wide vote.

Mr. Hobson said the BPW met on Tuesday evening and discussed the upcoming BPW article and that Mr. Furtado shared with them he was not happy with the change, and that he would then be answering to 9 people (5 of the bpw, 3 of the selectman and 1 the town administrator) if this went through Mr. Hobson was adamant that the Committee 'targeted' BPW and wasn't sure why we didn't wait until ALL the changes were considered, before putting a few up to the Town Meeting members. He also said that the TA would be responsible for an additional 50 people (BPW).

Phil Washko said it took months of research and time to decide what we did and we how we haven't gotten to everything yet, but the Town Administrator was a huge hurdle that had to get through and BPW was directly tied to that decision.

Dick Douglass said that really the TA would only be taking on one employee, Mr. Furtado (not the 50 that was referenced by Mr. Hobson). He said that Mr. Furtado would still be in charge of his department.

Steve Riley said that this was heavily debated at the BPW meeting the other night and that everyone does respect the job of the TGSC Committee, they are unsure about Mr. Furtado having to report to the TA and the BOS.

Discussion ensued.

Mark Badway said that a good TA does not want to micro manage and they want to let department heads lead their department.

Pattie Pacella said that she understood what Mr. Riley was saying and it is our 'intention' to have things one way, and she hopes when it is time for the Selectman (whoever they are at the time of hiring a good TA) will understand what the intentions are.

Rich Griffiths asked Mr. Riley if this passes at Town Meeting and through the voters, if he plans on staying on the BPW Board.

Mr. Riley said that he has been in for 8 years, and had already decided he wasn't going to stay on, regardless if this goes through or not and that was one of the reasons he challenged himself to run for Selectman.

### **Final Public Hearing feedback:**

Disappointing. Poor. Waste of time.  
There was one person present at the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing.

Phil Washko advised that everyone should have received the documents from the Town Government Study Committee in the mail.

### **Review Capital Planning:**

Phil reviewed it and asked if the Committee wanted to comment on it.

Dick Douglass said it was totally redundant of what the TA is going to do. He didn't think it was necessary for another Committee in Town.

Phil Washko recommended we accept this as recommended by the BOS and at this time no action was needed. All agreed.

Rich Griffiths asked if he could make an amendment on the Town meeting floor to change "the selectman" to "the Town Administrator".

Linda Meredith said that traditionally, Committees are appointed by the Board of Selectman not a Town Administrator.

### **Review Questions & Answers:**

These are questions that people have come up with that may come up at Town Meeting, we need to assure we have some satisfied answers.

1. Strong TA vs. weak TA?
2. Where does it fit in the code? (answer: Tom Crotty!)
3. Why are we picking on BPW?
4. Why not the BOH?
5. Why integrate BPW to the TA and not everyone else? Why not wait until we have all departments ready?
6. TA Supervising 50 more people within the BPW? (Answer: Dick..)
7. Are their differences between DPW & BPW?
8. Why would the elected advisory Board (BPW) make recommendations? (Dick, 'think source for budget & projects within the first few years would be a benefit to Town Administrator)
9. Did you just cut & paste from other Town Administrator job descriptions?

Plus these additional four questions that came up at last meeting:

1. Centralizing too much authority to one person? **(Bernie)**
2. How do we get rid of the person if he doesn't work out? (length of contract)
3. Why fix it if it's not broken? **(Pattie)**
4. Pre-requisite to live in the Town? **(Phil)**

Phil Washko explained he had been asked from Bob Espindola and Jeff Osuch to do a video for Ch. 18 about TGSC, and he was doing that Friday, 4/25.

Siobhan Henebury left at 7 p.m.

Siobhan Henebury agreed to work the slides at Town Meeting and Phil Washko is going to read the summary, as slides are going on in the back.

The Committee went through the slides for the presentation to go through any corrections.

Discussion of the Town Meeting Articles, Town Administrator is article 15; IT is article 25; and BPW is article 31.

Bernie Roderick made a motion to take Article 31, BPW out of order and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Bernie Roderick requested a change on the job description as listed in one of the review summary's for Town Administrator in regards to the buildings that the School Committee regulates in Town. He made the following motion,

Bernie Roderick made a motion to amend under Town Administrator job description, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet, page 2 to include, 'with the exception of those under the School Department' and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Badway recommended keeping notes on any questions that may come from BOS or Finance Committee.

Mr. Badway believes that we should stay positive in our answers and convey that hiring, qualifications of a TA should be adhered to when BOS selects the person.

Precinct meetings are 4/30 at 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting is May 1, 2014 at 6 p.m..

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Linda Meredith. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella  
Recording Secretary