

Minutes

November 24, 2014

Meeting: 6:25PM

Selectmen Present:

Also Present:

Bette Gorski, Chair

Denise Dembkoski, Finance Director

William Dunn

Joseph D'Amore

NOTE: Technical Difficulties resulted in no airing of the meeting. A policy response was issued on November 26th from Finance Director to Cable/TV Board to have ready at all meetings recording equipment in the event of airing failure as was encountered at this meeting.

Contracted service company will provide assessment to technical issues and Cable / TV board members and employees will have opportunities for enhanced training to help ensure public access and meeting airings and recordings are conducted adequately.

VOTES TAKEN:

- Water and Sewer Commissioners; recommended candidate Richard Danforth for vacant seat
Dunn : Motion to appoint D'Amore: Second Vote : Unanimous

- Board of Assessors presentation per attachment
 - Tax rate recapitulation details presented by Assessor Debby Webster
 - Recommended Single Tax Rate of \$14.46
 - Dunn: Motion to accept recommendation and single tax rate D'Amore: Second
Vote: Unanimous

- Votes of the Board for approval of various Use Permits- Per attachment of Agenda
 - Gorski: Motion for D'Amore : Second Vote: Unanimous

- Approve Meeting Minutes November 3, 2014
 - Gorski: Motion for D'Amore: Second Vote: Unanimous

- Approve Holiday Schedule configuration
 - Town Hall and Library : Friday December 26th CLOSED Friday December 2nd CLOSED
Dispatchers and Highway Department to be paid accordingly on these day
Supervisors to use discretion as appropriate to grant either Floating Holiday or Day / Time
off for those who have worked on holidays and closed days as indicated above

- Board review of Attorney Jonathan Eichman's assessment of Angelini property issues; presented description and deed of acceptance - per attachment
D'Amore: Motion for Dunn: Second Unanimous

Agenda Items & Discussion

Fire Chief Robert Lay Presented

- Projected Training Budget Short Fall
- Fire Fighter I/II & Fire Office I classes to be sponsored by Groveland Fire Department & Chief Lay between January & June: This is a six month class , 230 hours of training . 14 Members of department of signed up . Total cost is estimated \$35,000 . Difference is the shortfall when compared to the academy training budget line item of \$5.200. Chief seeks funding . The issue will be decided on December 29th meeting when Chief will finalize commitments and projections on budget to clearly delineate shortfall.
- FY 2015 Budget Planning- Chiefs Salary
Chief Lay requested guidance on proceeding with request to increase hours to complete tasks and job description . Selectman D'Amore presented issues: Board of Fire Engineers were in place for many years, to perform duties and that created a situation for a part-time chief("weak chief " law) to work a minimal hourly week format. With vote at Town Meeting to simultaneously eliminate the Fire Board of Engineers and phase in a "Strong" Chief , it was short-sighted to impose a low hourly wage structure from the former system without a complete review and analysis as to what the job fulfillment capacity of the new role would be. Suggestion made by D'Amore: Convene a meeting on December 29th to provide a forum for Chief Lay to comprehensively present the rational for increasing hours of a part-time Chief.
- Capital Planning/ Ladder Truck Acquisition/ Facility Improvements/ Department Morale
Selectman Dunn challenged Chief Lay on a number of issues revolving primarily around the necessity and the affordability of a Ladder Truck. Chief Lay responded with particulars cited by Capital Improvement Committee who have indicated an interest to pursue this plan with further study . Selectman Gorski expressed concern about affordability and how to lead the townspeople to accept a large, expensive purchase. Chief Lay defended the challenges by citing the need to eliminate outdated , and , expensive-to-maintain- equipment and to fulfill the training expectations of fire-fighters including those slated for certification (new training planned as detailed above) to fulfill the fire department's mission to be relevant and effective for Groveland residents.
- Selectman by CONSENSUS (no vote) established a meeting on December 15th to convene Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee and Fire Chief to engage in a

collaborative effort to explore these issues and position elements that are acceptable for funding , including possibly placing items on warrant articles for Town Meeting- 2015

7:15 PUBLIC COMMENT

No presenters or petitioners

Discussion & Selectmen's Time:

➤ Reference to Correspondence

Selectman D'Amore congratulated Finance Director Dembkoski for letter sent to local legislators urging an appeal for reflection & impact on Governor Patrick's planned cuts to local aid

➤ Selectman Dunn & Gorski reiterated the need for "all board" meetings and to continue to reach out to boards/ commissions and sponsor discussions of importance to the town in transparent and collaborative formats whenever possible.

➤ Selectman Gorski congratulated Bagnall student Liam Sullivan for written proposal (submitted to the board) regarding Indoor/Outdoor Sports Club. Selectman Gorski asked Finance Director to hold letter until next meeting when she could acknowledge Liam publically.

➤ The Board discussed the upcoming Holiday schedule. After some discussion it was unanimously voted on a motion by Selectman D'Amore to close Town Hall and the Library both December 26th and January 2nd. Those departments unable to close could give their staff the day off or a floating holiday, at the discretion of the department head.

➤ The Finance Director presented the Board with a new Domestic Violence Leave Act Policy. On the advice of counsel, and to address the recent changes to MGL, this policy will address time out of work for victims of domestic violence.

Prepared and Submitted by Selectman Joe D'Amore.

Minutes Unanimously Approved on December 29, 2014 after a motion by Selectman D'Amore and a Second by Selectman Dunn