

Minutes

Board of Selectmen

February 10, 2015

Call To Order

Chair, Bette Gorski

Selectman, William Dunn

Selectman, Joe D'Amore

Finance Director, Denise Dembkoski

WARRANTS:

Payroll Warrant #15-33 \$ 136,581.55 Motion : D'Amore Second : Dunn
Measured Passed Abstain: Gorski

Deduct Warrant #15-31A \$ 25,476.50 Motion: D'Amore Second: Dunn
Unanimous

Bill Warrant #15-33I \$ 367,489.06 Motion: D'Amore Second : Gorski
Measured Passed Abstain: Dunn

APPOINTMENTS:

- Appointment of Christopher B. L'Italien as Reserve Dispatch/ Lock-up Keeper effective January 26th, 2015 through June 30, 2015
- Appointment of William J. Regan, Jr. As Reserve Dispatch/ Lock-up Keeper effective January 26th, 2015 through June 30, 2015

APPROVED Motion For: Dunn Second : D'Amore Unanimous

VOTES TAKEN/ DISCUSSION

- Lease renewal with the Groveland Gard Club for the Old North School , Broad Street. \$5.00 attached for \$1.00 per year (5) payment . Responsibility of maintenance and upkeep of building attributed to Garden Club. There was a pipe burst which caused damage to heating unit, hot water tank and other items.

APPROVED Motion For: Dunn Second: D'Amore Unanimous

- Appropriation of \$750,000 for purchase of new ladder truck in accordance with Board's acceptance of Option 2 of proposal by Capital Improvement Committee with modification of the line item made from \$850,000 to \$750,000. Discussion ensued with members of Fire Department, Chief Lay and board regarding safety features required by the fire department, availability of vehicles in the market place. Selectman Dunn reiterated his assertion that a used truck would be possible for \$300,000 and this was strongly rebutted by the Chief and members of the department with technical explanations to support their rebuttal. Selectman Dunn adjusted figure to \$550,000. Selectmen Gorski and D'Amore queried members of the department and the Chief on particular features of truck with central focus on safety item being a platform at the end of a ladder. A Quint, single axle, with pump and a maximum ladder length of 79 feet is a favored category especially if found as a DEMO. Motion constructed in two parts a) \$750,000 appropriation b) Priority for used or demo truck with platform followed by second priority of demo/ Quint
- APPROVED Motion For: D'Amore Second: Dunn Unanimous

- Request of Bruce Adams regarding ¾ lot behind the fire station/ police station complexes as a site for development of the Affordable Housing Committee proposal, conditionally approved by the Community Preservation Committee in January. Appropriation of \$300,000 to support the initial phase study and expenditure of \$70,000 appropriated last year- for the purpose of developing a full scale engineering study. The goal is to build a \$10,000,000 facility with up to 27 units of affordable housing for low income status individuals and families. Funding to be in part from a maximum amount of \$500,000 from the town, through CPA funds, net of state matching funds, mortgage, low income housing credits and other state/ agency funding sources. This project will bring the current 3.5% affordable housing ratio up to 5% approximately and the ultimate goal – in line with state mandate- is 10%
- APPROVED Motion For: D'Amore Second: Dunn Unanimous

VOTES TAKEN/ DISCUSSION

- One day liquor license for Lois Porter and Traveling Bartender for event at Veasey Park dated Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 6PM-11PM
- APPROVED Motion For: D'Amore Second: Dunn Unanimous
- Highway Commissioner's request to deficit spend the FY15 Snow & Ice line item by \$70,000.
- APPROVED Motion For: D'Amore Second: Gorski Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Jeff Mulqueen provided a statement of gratitude to Chair Bette Gorski for participating in the emergency meeting called on February 9th, which was convened by the request of the Superintendent to review conditions and responses to over- burdened , flat roofs of several school buildings in the district.

Mrs. Kathleen Kastrielis complimented the board for their discussion with the Fire Chief and several members of the Groveland Fire Department regarding the selection of the optimum ladder truck specifications while addressing the needs of the town and ensuring the safety of the fire fighters.

DISCUSSION ONLY ITEMS

- Pentucket Regional School administration decision to hold an emergency management meeting and to close schools due to snow build-up was criticized by Selectman D'Amore for not being pro-active. Selectman Dunn concurred. Finance Director suggested that responsibility for payments and work to manage snow removal on school buildings with flat roof should be clearly established. Selectman Gorski concurred.
 - Selectman Gorski asked for additional time to review minutes from January 5th and January 12th minutes and Executive Session Minutes from January 5th and board members concurred and approval of minutes was tabled until February 23rd to allow board members to review and suggest edits/ modifications as needed.
 - Selectman D'Amore presented DRAFT versions of Board of Selectman Policies: Resident/ Public Comment Policy was tabled as discussion by members and Finance Director Dembkoski referred to problems with policy as written which could restrict public comment due to the 48 hour notice embedded in the draft. Selectman Gorski supported Finance Director's suggestion to allow existing policy to be experienced over the course of several meetings and then re-evaluate later for possible improvement and modifications. The board concurred
 - Selectman D'Amore read aloud DRAFT policies: Policy on Member of Board of Boards & Commissions by Selectman; and Policy On Attendance At Public Meetings By Board of Selectman Members. There was consensus by the board to accept these and Selectman Gorski reiterated the need for members to review these and then vote on them at February 23rd meeting. Selectman D'Amore invited board members to suggest edits/ modifications as needed by February 23rd
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FINANCE DIRECTOR'S TIME

- Review and highlights of all attached correspondence item

- Minutes from the Department, Board and Committee workshop on January 17, 2015 with regards to permitting
 - Minutes from February 3, 2014 meeting
 - Letter from Planning Board regarding scheduled hearing on 441 Main Street
 - Letter from resident Paul Rosa supporting the Project LEAP initiative at Pentucket High School (High School building/ renovation)
- Employee Code of Conduct and Visitor's Code of Conduct to be presented for discussion and possible vote on February 23rd
 - Presented : Prevention for Substance Abuse in Youth with Dr. Michael Guidi is scheduled for Friday , February 27 at 6:30 PM at Merrimac Public Library

SELECTMEN'S TIME

- Selectman Gorski provided details of emergency meeting convened by Dr. Mulqueen regarding snow removal issues at school held on February 9th. The meeting was informational and no votes taken. Selectman Gorski was supportive of a collaborative process suggested by the Superintendent and attended members (Chairs of each town's boards, Superintendent, Business Manager LaBrecque, School Committee Chair Chris Wile and other officials) . Selectman Gorski felt that the meeting was very positive and constructive. Board members expressed appreciation for update and concurred with Selectman Gorski to be supportive of the school administration.
- Selectman Dunn shared a document secured by ZBA Chair Tom Wakefield from the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, produced by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies, that provides general and constructive guidelines for permitting processes. This document and its sharing is part of collaborative effort initiated at the "All Boards Meeting" on January 17, 2015 at 9am and in preparation at a follow up meeting scheduled for February 28th. Selectman Dunn and Selectman Gorski reiterated the need for establishing clear permitting rules for our town and agreed that the document could be helpful
- Selectman D'Amore established the following
 - The Regional Advisory Finance Committee will meet on February 26th and an agenda item to discuss the recent snow removal and school closing conditions should be made. Selectman D'Amore is a member and he invited Selectman Gorski to attend as part of an overall outreach to the district town's leadership to attend as well so that a regional initiative to address the issues and make suggestions for pro-active management can be pursued.

- Compliments and details of performance were made regarding the town's media technician Chris Liquori who was present and broadcasted and recorded tonight's meeting
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Gorski asked for a vote to enter Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with the Finance Director

The Board voted 3-0 in favor on a motion by Selectman D'Amore to go in to Executive Session at 9:03 P.M., seconded by Selectman Dunn to conduct contract negotiations with the Finance Director.

The Board took a roll call vote to go into Executive Session.

See Executive Session Minutes for February 10, 2015 for further details on that meeting.

10:05 P.M.

Adjournment:

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman D'Amore to close executive session and return to open session, seconded by Selectman Dunn. The Board took a roll call vote to end Executive Session.

Meeting was adjourned

Prepared and Submitted by Selectman Joe D'Amore.

Minutes Unanimously Approved on March 9, 2015