



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Stu Sklar in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Lucy Wallace, Ron Ricci, Leo Blair and Ken Swanton were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Minutes

On a Wallace/Swanton motion, the board voted to approve the 3/17 minutes, as presented.
(Blair – Nay)

On a Wallace/Swanton motion, the board voted to approve the minutes of 3/24, as presented.
(Blair – abstain)

Public Communication

Robert Curran, 100 Slough Road, spoke on behalf of the Firefighters Association. He expressed their full support of purchasing the tower truck, after the scheduled due diligence inspections are complete and the vehicle is deemed safe and in ready-condition for use by the Harvard Fire Department. They believe the truck is an essential addition to their fleet of emergency vehicles for a number of reasons. He presented the board with a letter signed by the association.

2015 Project List – Department of Public Works

DPW Director Rich Nota explained his list of project included some that have been funded, wish list items and projects he is assisting other departments with. The full list is below:

- Replace Pond Rd Water Main (Pump House to Warren Ave)
- Ayer Road Drainage Investigation and System Rehab
- Crack Filling and Stone Sealing Programs
(See List of Roadways)
- Paint Above Ground Fuel Storage Tank
- Annual Paving Program
(See List of Roadways)
- Disposal of Surplus Fill And Build Yard Waste Compost Facility
- SCADA System Upgrades
- Roadside Tree Clearing
- Replace Fuel Dispensing System
- Water System Mapping and Database
- Bromfield Front Entrance Design and Reconstruction
- Bromfield Front Parking Lot Design and Permitting

Nota said Ayer Road repairs from Route 2 to the Ayer town line are the first steps toward reconstruction of the road. He explained Ayer Road is difficult to repair because it is so highly traveled thus why the road is in such deplorable condition. They discussed ideas to slow down and reduce the amount of traffic. Ron Ricci noted in the CDM traffic report roundabouts were suggested to calm the traffic. He also wondered if a less costly approach may be to pressure the

state to finish the repairs on the Jackson Road Bridge. The Board agreed it would be appropriate to write Senator Eldridge and Representative Benson regarding repair of the Jackson Road bridge.

Water Study Committee update

Committee member Kyle Hedrick acknowledged the committee was given a great challenge to chronicle the current state of the water supply and determine needs for the future. He admitted they were unable to conduct site selections. They focused mainly on current assets and how best to maintain and protect them. Hedrick said water studies are quite costly thus why they were unable to really delve into the issues. He said the effort to determine other useful sites would require an exhaustive and expensive search of the entire town. He believes this type of further investigation is necessary to establish a legacy report which can be used as a guide moving forward. Ron Ricci volunteered to revise the committee's existing charge to include preparation of a report with options including pros and cons to each. Ricci and Hedrick were in agreement that additional volunteers will be necessary. Ricci will draft a revised charge for consideration by the board's first meeting in May.

Town Administrator Report

Bragan gave the board an update on preparing the old library building for the town hall offices and other details about the move.

Utilities & work to be done

Jasonics, Verizon and Moore Enterprises are scheduled to install the phones, security and fire systems this week. He will be utilizing the DPW staff to install a floor in the basement and they will also be deconstructing and moving the Finance Department cubicles.

Town Auction

He is finalizing a list of auction items. The Historical Society is taking a few items including the two long deacon benches. On a Blair/Swanton motion, the board voted unanimously to loan the deacon benches to the Historical Society.

Closure of Town Hall offices

Bragan reminded the board and the public the town hall offices will be closed the entire week of April 7th. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, April 22nd.

Construction site

A fence will be installed from the front steps of the building to the middle of the driveway. Parking spaces for the church will be loss and this will require traffic flow in the area to change. The parking area behind the building will be closed off to thru traffic in an effort to accommodate the staging area and construction trailers.

Temporary Traffic Pattern

Bragan asked the board to approve a temporary traffic plan requiring vehicles to travel one way up Elm Street and exit onto Ayer Road by way of the parking area located at the front of the building. The plan was approved by the Fire and Police Chief's. On a Swanton/Blair motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the plan.

A pre-construction meeting will be held later in the week.

Super Town Meeting

Bragan confirmed the best possible date for all three towns is Monday, June 8th.

Special auction permit

Bragan named Rick Maiore and Peter Warren as auctioneers for the town auction.

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to issue an auction permit with Rick Maiore and Peter Warren as auctioneers for Saturday, April 18th.

Meeting schedule change

The board members decided to hold their second meeting in April on the 28th.

Regional Dispatch Legislation

Bragan asked the board to take the required vote under section 18Q of the enabling legislation. He explained our inter-municipal agreement will now incorporate this legislation. On a Wallace/Ricci motion, voted unanimously to amend section 18Q to read towns of Lunenburg, Lancaster, Harvard and the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone.

Bare Hill Rowing – Summer Agreement

Stu Sklar invited BHR President Pam Erdos to join the discussion. Ron Ricci explained all interested parties worked together to finalize an agreement suitable for the Selectmen to authorize the Town Administrator to sign. He confirmed the agreement has been signed by Bare Hill Rowing, Park & Recreation Chair Wyona Lynch-McWhite, Pond Committee Chair Bruce Leicher and Town Counsel Mark Lanza. Ricci explained the process which began back in February involved outreach to the community and assistance from the Harbormaster to address noise and safety concerns. Erdos expressed her gratitude to all those involved with making this civic collaboration a success. Additionally, she thanked Ricci for taking the initiative to bring all the parties together to facilitate the creation of a mutually beneficial 2015 summer agreement. Ricci envisions eventually having an agreement that can be handled annually with other renewals. On a Blair/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the summer season license agreement between the Town of Harvard and the Bare Hill Rowing Association Inc. on behalf of the Town of Harvard.

2% Fee to Dept. of Housing and Community Development

On a Swanton/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to direct the Town Administrator to pay the 2% fee to the Dept. of Housing and Community Development and put an environmental statement in our Hildreth House file.

Event Requests

Bicycles Battling Cancer

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the June 7th American Cancer Society Bicycles Battling Cancer ride through Harvard.

Jessie 5K

On a Wallace/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the Jessie 5K for June 13th.

Selectmen reports

Lucy Wallace suggested the Selectmen send a letter to the DEC supporting a recent letter sent by Municipal Affordable Housing Trust member David Hopper. In Hopper's letter, he pointed out several compliance issues with the proposed development and offered a solution. The board members agreed. Wallace volunteered to draft the letter.

Ron Ricci attended the Capital Planning and Investment Committee meeting when it was discovered the new fire engine will not have the same capabilities as the old engine. He said CPIC members were surprised and further discussion ensued on the capabilities of the new engine. He recognized the Fire Chief is working hard to keep costs down. Ricci said before we move forward with the purchase of the new engine he would like to better understand what the cost is to replace the truck we have with one that has the same functionality. Bragan said he would follow up with Chief Sicard.

**** On a Wallace motion, the Board voted unanimously by a roll call vote: (Wallace – Aye, Ricci –Aye, Sklar – Aye, Blair – Aye, Swanton - Aye) to enter into executive session at 8:45pm, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21.3 of the Massachusetts General Laws, at a meeting for which 48-hours' notice has been given, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Following the executive session, the Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn. ****

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Documents referenced:

Letter from Firefighters Association – dated 4.2.2015

DPW – project list dated 2015

Water Study Committee report – dated 3.30.2015

BHR Summer Agreement –dated 3.27.2015