

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

February 3, 2015

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, February 3, 2015, at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Kevin Richardson, Vice-Chair; Domenico Sestito, Clerk; and John C. Brannan, Member. Also present were Philip E. Lemnios, Town Manager; James Lampke, Town Counsel; and Catherine Goldhammer, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Christopher Olivieri, Chairman; John D. Reilly, Jr., Member

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MINUTES

The minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting of the Board of Selectmen were approved.

Motion	Sestito	To approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 meeting of the Board of Selectmen
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Unanimous

APPOINTMENTS

7:30 p.m. Town Manager’s FY16 budget presentation

Lemnios presented to the Board an FY16 budget totaling \$41,721,103, an increase of 3.64% over FY15.

Revenue summary:

- Property taxes are increased by Proposition 2½ limits of \$734,885 including the debt exclusion for the high school. The total tax levy is \$26,726,078.
- Net state aid is level funded at an estimated \$5,417,573. The number is an estimate as the Governor has not yet submitted his state budget. State aid is very slowly rebounding and has increased about \$1 million since the \$3 million drop in 2004.
- Estimated receipts are \$3.4 million.
- Available funds (free cash) is \$1,260,000, an increase of \$350,000 over FY15.
- Meals and room tax, which started in mid-FY13, is estimated at \$300,000 in FY16.

Expenditure summary:

- The operating budget is \$24,442,170, a 2.89% increase.
- The school department budget is \$14,436,980, a 3% increase. The school department budget comprises 59% of the total budget.
- The public safety budget is \$6,020,023, which is 24.63% of the total budget.
- The FY16 budget has \$345,000 allocated for capital spending, which is allotted for seawall repairs, iPads for the schools, Police and Fire Department equipment, and Town Hall technology.

Discussion summary:

Advisory Board member George Boylan questioned whether the meals and rooms tax should be allocated for capital spending. Brannan said that he would like to see an iteration of the budget with that money taken out of the operating budget. Lemnios said that if \$300,000 was taken out of the operations budget, it would begin to affect departments in adverse ways. Boylan said that he would like to consider an ongoing budget for capital needs.

Sestito asked about potential revenues down the road from the HRA development. Lemnios said that it was too soon to speculate on the source or amount of potential revenues from that project.

Brannan said that it seemed that the town “budgeted up” to increase the amount of free cash in the following year. Advisory Board Member Richard Kenney suggested doing an analysis of the free cash and where it comes from. Lemnios said that he could probably get that data.

John Schmid of the Advisory Board asked if there is an anticipated fiscal impact of the law suits in which the town is now involved. Lemnios said that it was too soon to speculate, but that they had not been advised by counsel to set aside money for that.

Sestito suggested that more time was needed to have a special discussion on capital spending and said that he would recommend that the chair schedule a strategy meeting on that subject. Schmid suggested a joint meeting with the Advisory Board on the matter.

LICENSES AND RENEWALS

The board approved a license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be issued to Hull Knights of Columbus for February 22, 2015, from 2-7 p.m.

Motion	Sestito	To approve a license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be issued to Hull Knights of Columbus for February 22, 2015, from 2-7 p.m
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

Read aloud by Richardson: re: request for appointment to the Conservation Commission. William Leonard requested appointment to the Conservation Commission. Richardson recommended that the board schedule a meeting to interview Mr. Leonard.

Read aloud by Richardson: re: Logan Airport Committee Resignation. A notification was received from Town Clerk Janet Bennett that Andrew Evans had resigned from the Logan Airport Committee, effective immediately.

Read aloud by Richardson: re: Request to hold wedding ceremony on beach. A letter from Donna Cowan requested permission to hold a wedding on the beach between A and B Streets on August 9, 2015. The wedding would consist of approximately 110 people, with seating for 25 to be set up and taken down by a crew arranged for by the applicant. Off-beach parking had been secured and guests would be transported to the site. The selectmen voted unanimously to approve the request subject to coordinating with the police department regarding necessary traffic details.

Motion	Sestito	To approve the request for a wedding on the beach on August 9, 2015, subject to coordinating with the police department regarding necessary traffic details
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Unanimous

Read aloud by Richardson: re: Street corner dedication request. A letter from Veterans' Service Officer William T. Leamy endorsed the street corner dedication request made by Robert Striglio and family in honor of their deceased father Gabriel F. Striglio, at the corner of Prospect, Newport, and Coburn Streets.

Motion	Sestito	To approve a street corner dedication request made by Robert Striglio and family in honor of their deceased father Gabriel F. Striglio, at the corner of Prospect, Newport, and Coburn Streets.
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Unanimous

TOWN MANAGER

Lemnios gave an update on the conditions during and following the two recent snow storms. He noted that the Gunrock area was hit hard with wash-over during the blizzard. He said that if the breakwater was repaired it could diminish storm damage in that area. Other areas with flooding were near the sewer plant and in the marsh in the Village. He said that the plowing crews, including 10-12 hired contractors, are working long hours in difficult circumstances to remove the snow.

Richardson suggested that it might help if independent contractors were given magnetic identification decals for their vehicles when they are doing town plowing.

Brannan wondered if the town could follow the state’s parking ban formula. Lemnios said that there is a town system but it could be communicated more clearly and that is under review in the post-storm meetings held with the Emergency Management team.

Richardson and Sestito said that there was some miscommunication from the MBTA regarding whether the commuter boat was running after the second storm.

Richardson commended the police, fire, and public works departments for their efforts. Lemnios commended public works and Fire Chief Christopher Russo, and thanked the light department for keeping the town in power and for quickly addressing any isolated outages.

Richardson also thanked Congressman Stephen Lynch, who came to Hull and toured the damage in the Gunrock area.

Richardson read and summarized the Board of Selectmen minutes of January 26, 2015, which was an emergency conference call meeting due to the dangerous storm conditions for the purposes of storm planning and declaration of a state of emergency. The selectmen voted to ratify the declaration.

Motion	Sestito	To ratify the state of emergency declared on January 26, 2015.
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Unanimous

Lemnios suggested waiting until the board’s next meeting to cancel the state of emergency.

NEW BUSINESS

Sestito recommended having Public Health Director Joyce Sullivan come in and speak to the board regarding the increase in opiate use on the South Shore.

Lampke announced that he had received a ruling from the Attorney General’s office regarding an open meeting law complaint filed by Susan Ovans of the Hull Times. The ruling stated that the board went into executive session for the proper reason and did not dispute the listed reasons cited by the board. The ruling, however, also stated that the board should have stated the name of the specific union it was going to discuss and the name of the claimant on a claim against the town it was going to discuss, and for that reason found there was an unintentional violation of the open meeting law.

MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Richardson requested a motion to go into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual; to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and that I as Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body; to go into Executive Session to comply with or act under the authority of the Attorney-Client privilege; and to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client privilege; and to not reconvene in open session.

The following subjects were to be discussed in Executive Session:

- McDonald v. Saunders
- Open Meeting Law Complaint Decision from Attorney General's office

Motion	Sestito	To go into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual; to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and that I as Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body; to go into Executive Session to comply with or act under the authority of the Attorney-Client privilege; and to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client privilege; and to not reconvene in open session.
Second	Brannan	
Vote	Approved	Roll call vote: Aye, Richardson Aye, Sestito Aye, Brannan

The board moved into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., not reconvening into open session. The board will meet again on February 17, 2015.

Recorded by Catherine Goldhammer

Approved: May 12, 2015

Documents

The following documents were included in the Board of Selectmen's packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Board of Selectmen's office upon request:

- FY16 budget
- Notification of resignation of Andrew Evans from the Logan Airport Committee
- Letter from Veterans' Service Officer William T. Leamy
- Letter from Donna Cowan regarding permission for wedding ceremony on beach
- Letter from William Leonard requesting appointment to Conservation Commission
- Memo from James B. Lampke requesting addition of state of emergency vote to agenda
- License application for Knights of Columbus for sale of all alcoholic beverages to be issued for February 22, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.
- Board of Selectmen minutes of January 26, 2015 emergency meeting

- Decision from Attorney General's Office on Open Meeting Law Complaint
- Information statement from James B. Lampke on AG's Open Meeting Law Decision