

MINUTES OF THE SELECTMEN MEETING FINAL
March 4, 2009
Medway Senior Center 7:00pm

Present: Chairman Glenn Trindade, Selectmen Andrew Espinosa, Richard Dunne and John Foresto, Town Administrator, Suzanne Kennedy and Board Secretary, Wendy Harrington was present.

Guests: Carol Pratt, Interim Town Accountant and Melanie Phillips, Treasurer Collector

Absent:

7:05p.m. – Chairman Trindade called the Selectmen’s meeting to order in the Medway Senior Center

The WhiteWater Water Department Study was discussed and Administrator Kennedy explained some of the issues that have arisen including a panel at the Populatic Well that overheats and it is believed that if/when the panel overheats the well shuts down. More detail on this issue and other questions need to be asked of the Water Department.

The Selectmen were in agreement that they don’t want to be held responsible, along with the Town Administrator for the years of mismanagement.

The Selectmen would like an executive, non political summary written that explains what’s wrong which includes a list of items needing to be addressed in order of priority. Selectman Crowley asked that the first page be an executive overview.

Selectman Crowley believes there is a safety concern with the chemical mixing and believes there is liability involved and wants to take action immediately, once the executive summary is presented.

Administrator Kennedy will look at all the variables and will report back with a recommendation in two weeks and is aware that liability is of great importance in this situation.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Chairman Trindade read an email received from Wendy Rowe and the Library Trustees. Discussion on this topic was postponed until later in the process.

Interim Town Accountant Carol Pratt reviewed FY09 Actual Budget and FY10 Requested Budget dated 3/4/09, page 2 summary as it stands today. This document has been modified due to salary increases approved at Special Town Meeting. This is a level service budget which used budgets submitted, salaries and utilities, etc.

FY10 Request Budget Modification dated 3/4/09 was also reviewed. There has been a change in revenues due to the Sewer Enterprise Fund. A discussion took place on moving the IT department budget from the School to the Town and how it would affect the per pupil ratios.

Interim Accountant Pratt explained an agreement would be needed between the Town and School given certain scenarios and it was decided to keep the 2/9/09 rendition and remove salary for the IT Director only.

Selectman Espinosa clarified this discussion is on a level service budget with increase to fund legal and step increases which assumes wage freeze on any/all employees and move shortage from Free Cash. The School assumes \$300K in step increases and will take out the rest of the increases to level service.

Selectman Espinosa read:

The Board of Selectmen puts forth a level service budget which provides increase funding for legal obligations (step increases or contractual). This budget assumes a wage freeze for both Town and School personnel and uses Free Cash to cover any shortage, assume no stimulus money is obtained.

There is an approximate deficit of \$300K which could be used from Free Cash to fill the budget gap.

If stimulus money comes through wage increases could be funded and snow and ice can come out of Free Cash.

Administrator Kennedy doesn't believe this is the best scenario. She feels that if there is no pay increases this year the Town will pay for it next year.

Chairman Trindade would like to have an agreement from each union to a wage freeze because without the wage freeze there will be layoffs and the Selectmen are trying to keep core services and the people we have.

Administrator Kennedy believes if money is being put into salary reserve then a wage freeze is a good idea. She has a meeting with unions on Monday to discuss a wage freeze and will get an opinion from Mark Terry, Labor Counsel on this matter.

Discussions took place regarding possible changes to the budget and/or to answer questions have Selectmen have brought up regarding certain line items:

- There was a discussion on a \$235,172 nonrecurring expense in the school budget, which was agreed upon by Dr. Grandmont, this should not be in this budget and has been removed from the School budget. Chairman Trindade was very opposed to removing this amount and explained if it was his choice to make, he would choose to support the school.

An informal vote was taken and was 4-1 to remove, Chairman Trindade was opposed to removing \$235,172 from the school budget.

- Moving \$14,700 from the Selectmen's Long Term Disability line item to HR and also pre employment physical line item.
- Leaving \$5000 in the salary line of Town Accountant to tag with Ms. Pratt's certification.

- Would like to run Vadar and Munis in parallel, but the Vadar contract ends 6/30/09. This will need to be addressed.
- Town Clerk revision as the Town Clerk missed her assistants step raise two years in a row. That line item has been adjusted.
- Police education line item of \$5000 has been moved to HR.
- Road repair expenses have reduced by \$1455
- Salary reserve \$110K was eliminated.
- Increase Snow and Ice by \$95,000 to help fund properly, find out rolling average from Dave D'Amico and adjust.
- Sewer-reducing by adding Enterprise
- Fire and Police-salary reductions from requested
- Fire-electric/heat reduction of \$2000
- Tri County-reduce by \$19K
- Building Insp-reduce by \$1200
- Board of Health-reduce \$2350 for travel, Administrator Kennedy wants to continue to look at the \$14,587 sanitation figure.
- Veteran's Service agent-reduce by \$154
- Council on Aging-look at Education and Dues
- Library-add 16 hours to the budget-Held for discussion 3/5/09
- Camp Sunshine-Chairman Trindade will clarify with Dr. Evans why this is under Health and Human Services and not the school.
- Ambulance Enterprise-leave alone
- Sewer-an old sewer debt that would go into the Enterprise Fund- Treasurer/Collector Phillips explained that old debt should go into Enterprise so you can see the debt at the end of the year and that goes to the tax levy. It is the best method of accounting.

At 9:52pm Chairman Trindade moved that the Board adjourn for the evening; Selectman Crowley seconded; no discussion; all ayes 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Harrington
Executive Assistant

*Approved 4/21/09