

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – February 22, 2016**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Amberson, Chairman
Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman
William Pantazis, Clerk
Dawn Rand
Jason Perreault

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2016 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the February 8, 2016 regular meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion. Vote 4-0-1 (Selectman Pantazis abstained as he was not present at the meeting).

REPORTS

Jason Perreault

- No report.

William Pantazis

- No report.

Dawn Rand

-No report.

Leslie Rutan, Vice Chairman

- Announced that the Regional School Committee Naming Subcommittee's public comment period ended on February 20, 2016.
- Requested an economic development update.

Jeff Amberson, Chairman

- No report.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT FY2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. Coderre presented the Board with the draft legislative priorities letter for its review. The goal of preparing this letter is to provide the Town's State Legislative Delegation with clear direction regarding the Town's priorities. Mr. Coderre stated that the letter includes the Town's position on key legislative issues that, if changed, could save the Town money and allow for greater efficiency in the management of Town affairs.

Mr. Coderre reviewed the top three legislative priorities:

1. Approval of a multi-year \$300 million Chapter 90 roadway repair funding program.
2. Increased funding of the State's special education reimbursement program known as the "Circuit Breaker Program".
3. Reform that ensures the sustainability of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

In addition to the top three priorities, a number of secondary priorities were included in the letter, including a re-draft of the Public Records Bill.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to authorize the Chair and the Town Administrator to finalize and sign the Legislative Priorities letter for discussion with our State Legislative Delegation at the March 14th Board Meeting; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

UPDATE ON PRELIMINARY FY2017 BUDGET

Mr. Coderre made a presentation to the Board on the preliminary FY2017 Budget. He reviewed the goals and objectives of the Financial Trend Monitoring System, the budget assumptions, key budget increases and outstanding budgetary items for the FY2017 Budget.

Mr. Coderre informed the Board that the Town has received the final Assabet Valley assessment and the preliminary ARHS assessment, which is expected to be formally voted on at an upcoming meeting of the Regional School Committee.

The proposed budgets for the key departments are estimated to increase as follows:

- Northborough K-8 Schools increases by \$834,158 to \$22,785,697 (3.8%)
- General Government (Town) increases \$739,340 to \$20,195,646 (3.8%)
- Assabet Valley Vocational HS assessment decreases by \$178,962 or 20.61% to \$689,469 as enrollment declines by 12 students.
 - Debt service associated with the recently completed renovation project will increase from \$15,006 to \$192,135
 - Net effect of the combined Operating Assessment and new debt service is an overall decrease of \$1,833.
- Based upon the revenue sharing model, if the Algonquin Regional High School (ARHS) budget increases at the same 3.8% rate as the Town and K-8 Schools
 - The ARHS Operating Assessment would increase \$656,800, or 6.97% to \$10,078,475 due to increased Northborough enrollment and changes to the State's minimum contribution formula
 - The debt for ARHS increases by \$4,713, or 0.72% to \$661,206
 - Final ARHS budget and Assessments have yet to be voted by the School Committee, which is scheduled for February 24th.

Mr. Coderre indicated that one major budgetary factor that remains outstanding is the Health Insurance Budget as the Town is in negotiations with all the bargaining units for plan design changes to mitigate an anticipated 7-8% premium increase.

Members of the Board offered their appreciation to Mr. Coderre.

REVIEW OF SUMMARY TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Coderre presented to the Board a draft summary of the warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting. Following his review of the draft warrant articles, Mr. Coderre added that the Community Preservation Committee will be invited to attend a future Board meeting to discuss each of their warrant articles in more detail. The Board will vote to close the warrant at its March 14th meeting.

NAMING SUBCOMMITTEE

At the request of Chairman Amberson, Mr. Coderre reviewed Chapter 2-37 of the Town Code as it pertains to the establishment of a Naming Committee for the purpose of soliciting public input in the naming of municipal public spaces; not including school property or streets. The Committee is composed of two members of the Board of Selectmen appointed by the Chair and three citizen members who are appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the Interview Committee. The citizen committee openings will be advertised and interviews will then be conducted by the Interview Committee.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the establishment of a Naming Committee pursuant to Town Code Chapter 2-37 and publicize the opening for three citizen committee member seats to be appointed by the Board; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

8:05 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 (collective bargaining) due to the Chair's determination that a discussion regarding this matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

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|-----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Perreault | “aye” | Rutan | “aye” |
| Rand | “aye” | Amberson | “aye” |
| Pantazis | “aye” | | |

Chairman Amberson announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Perreault seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Foster
Assistant Town Administrator

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 22, 2016 Meeting Agenda.
2. February 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes.
3. Information packet – Preliminary FY2017 Budget.
4. Information packet – Draft FY2017 Legislative Priorities.
5. Information packet – Summary Town Meeting Warrant.
6. Information packet – Chapter 2-37 Town Code – Naming Committee