**Board of Selectmen**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 24, 2017**

**Rutland Public Library**

**5:15 p.m.**

**Present:** Michael Pantos, Wayne Walker, Sheila Dibb

Others: Margaret Nartowicz, Town Administrator and Abby Benoit, Administrative Secretary

Mr. Pantos opened the meeting at 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Dibb moved to enter Executive Session for **Reason #3:** 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. (Dispatch, Mass COP Local 435). Mr. Walker 2nd. Roll Call vote. Mr. Walker aye, Ms. Dibb aye, Mr. Pantos aye.

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 P.M.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:45 P.M.

Ms. Dibb moved to approve minutes from April 10, 2017 as presented. Mr. Walker 2nd. Vote unanimous.

Ms. Dibb moved to approve minutes from March 27, 2017 as presented. Mr. Walker 2nd. Vote unanimous.

Ms. Dibb moved to sign treasury warrant #22 and payrolls. Mr. Walker 2nd. Vote unanimous.

**Public Comment**

Dick Williams, Overlook Road, discussed his concerns with beavers and the cost associated with the cleanup.

**Reports of Town Departments**

**DPW, Gary Kellaher**

Mr. Kellaher confirmed that there is a site visit scheduled for Moulton Mill Pond Dam, the visit is for the tip project.

The department is on schedule for street sweeping.

Mr. Kellaher discussed the budget for fiscal year 2018. All departments have been given a number that budgets should be reduced by, last year he submitted a level funded budget, additional reductions are needed. There is an $85,000 department shortfall for next year. One employee will be retiring, but will continue to work part-time at reduced hours. There will be additional cuts to mailbox and post replacement, seeding of curbs, and a part-time custodian. There is no other place to take it from, Mr. Kellaher proposed that he retire and become a 960 employee. This would limit his hours to 18.25 hours per week. Ms. Nartowicz stated that this would not be healthy for the town to have a part time Superintendent, the department needs strong leadership. The Board agreed.

There will be a budget forum on May 1st at 6:30 P.M. in the library. There was discussion about the importance of the meeting, the public needs to be aware of the financial position of the town.

There was discussion about the article item for additional fields. Mr. Pantos stated that Town has to abide by the 2.5% but the school district does not. Municipal schools are required to abide by the 2 ½ percent increase. Healthcare and retirement has been a huge burden on the district.

Ms. Nartowicz went through the current budget, the new revenues do not support the school districts requests.

Mr. Kellaher stated that the DPW employees are the best he has ever worked with, the town cannot afford to let any of them go. The schools need to meet half way.

Mr. Kellaher confirmed that the water level has not changed, but there is no longer a drought.

**Memorandum of Agreement**

Ms. Dibb moved to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between Officer Grover and the Town of Rutland, for an employment commitment of three years after attending the MA State Police Academy. Mr. Walker 2nd. Vote unanimous.

**Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy**

Ms. Nartowicz discussed the proposed Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy. The policy is for employees who have a means to get insurance through another source. The town would present a buyout option as a two year program. The employee would need to be enrolled in the Health Insurance with the town for the preceding 24 months. It is not required that the Unions be contacted.

**Special Town Meeting Motions**

The Special Town Meeting motions were reviewed.

There was discussion about Article 6, it is recommended that free cash be used for one-time expenses. The Town Treasurer recommended that the funds be used to pay off the debt.

There was additional discussion about Article 11.

**Annual Town Meeting.**

The Annual Town Meeting motions were reviewed.

The Board discussed Article 7, 4 different options were presented.

1. Mr. Moderator: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,073,368.00 to defray the expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District Operations Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.
2. Present (1), then present amendment:

Mr. Moderation: I move to amend the motion by reducing the amount to be raised and appropriated by the sum of $388,038.00, so that the sum total $2,685,330.00 shall be raised and appropriated to defray the expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District Operations Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

1. Mr. Moderator: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,685,330.00 contingent upon the passage of a Proposition Two and One-half (2 ½) ballot/referendum question, for the sum total $3,073,368.00 to defray the expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District Operations Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.
2. Mr. Moderator: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $3,073,368.00 contingent upon passage of a Proposition Two and One-half (2 1/1) ballot/referendum question to defray the expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District Operations Assessment for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

The impact on the tax levy if the full amount were to be funded is $.48 per $1,000.00. Paxton already has override questions on the town meeting ballot. There was discussion about failing the budget.

Ms. Dibb moved to set motions for Article 7 for the Annual Town Meeting with motions 1 and 2 as presented. Mr. Walker 2nd. Vote unanimous.

There was discussion about Article 2 and Article 8 being tied to Article 7. The Board recommended taking Article 2 out of place and presenting it after Article 7.

The moderator will be notified about Article 2 placement.

Article 8, there was further discussion about adding an amendment to include language based on a Proposition 2 ½ percent override.

There are a number of by-laws on the warrant this year, the bylaw subcommittee has not reviewed all of them, and they will be finalized prior to the Annual and Special Town Meetings.

The Board discussed Article 28, a citizen’s petition for public way acceptance. The Planning Board requires several documents prior to bringing the road acceptance to town meeting. They have not received the documents and Mr. Kellaher has not inspected the road as he does not have the as builds. The planning board can make a recommendation the night of the meeting.

The Board discussed the Library’s 150th Anniversary, there was additional discussion about maintenance of the building.

Mr. Walker moved to adjourn. Ms. Dibb 2nd. Vote unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abby Benoit

Administrative Secretary

Board of Selectmen

*Approved\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*