

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2016 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**MEMBER'S PRESENT:** Board Members Tim Copeland, David Canada and Bruno Federico and Town Administrator Paul Deschaine.

At 7:32 pm Mr. Copeland opened the general meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Town Treasurer Deb Bronson reported that the current balance was \$7,008,024.74.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Mr. Federico moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> as amended by Mr. Canada. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Police Chief John Scippa indicated that he had one item that he would like to discuss, but would hold off until the next meeting due to the lengthy agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Copeland explained that the Warrant Articles would be presented that evening for a public hearing with a vote on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Town Meeting at Stratham Memorial School.

At 7:41 PM Mr. Copeland moved to open the public hearing. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The articles to be discussed and voted on at Town Meeting are:

Article 4, pertaining to a \$6,000,000 water system construction bond:

Mr. Federico moved that the Board of Selectman support Article 4 as presented. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 5, pertaining to the general budget for the Town for 2016:

Mr. Deschaine noted that there was an increase in the amount of \$10,000 bringing the total to \$6,167,501.

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 5 as amended. Mr. Copeland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 6, pertaining to the Capital Improvement Program budget:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 6 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 7, pertaining to funding the Heritage Preservation Fund:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 7 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 8, pertaining to changing the use of fund previously approved for use by the 300th Anniversary Committee:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 8 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 9, pertaining to funding the Town Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Fund:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 9 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 10, pertaining to expenditures from the EMS Special Reserve Fund:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 10 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 11, pertaining to funding the Accrued Benefits Liability Fund:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 11 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 12, pertaining to leasing Town property to Verizon Wireless for a term greater than 5 years:

Mr. Canada moved to support Article 12 as presented. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Article 13 – To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting - None

At 8:46 PM Mr. Copeland moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**MEETINGS:** The Chair then reviewed the meetings scheduled for the coming week and reviewed the meetings held this past week.

**PARK RESERVATIONS:**

Donna Marie Reed requested use of the Scamman Pavilion on April 10<sup>th</sup> for a birthday party. The request was approved.

Jolyn Wilson requested use of the Top of the Hill on March 27<sup>th</sup> for an Easter Sunrise Worship Service and requested that the fee be waived.

Mr. Canada moved to approve the request and waive the fee. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Deschaine discussed that at the Special BOS Meeting held February 4 the Board had put into place a new personnel practice on providing longevity pay. He continued that they had written up the new policy which would be Addendum D to the employee manual. Mr. Copeland read and explained Addendum D.

Mr. Copeland moved to approve and ratify Addendum D to the employee manual. Mr. Canada seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Deschaine asked if the Board would like to hold the town meeting in the gym or the cafeteria at SMS. The Board decided to hold the meeting in the cafeteria.

Beth Dupell stated that she was very frustrated by the lack of available information from the town. She continued that other towns had much more available and asked why the town meetings were not televised. Mr. Copeland explained that televising the meetings was a large expense and that it would take a group of volunteers to do so.

Jeremy Riecks stated that he had signed up for subscriptions to receive notices from different town boards, but had barely received any. He continued that he agree with Beth that information was very limited and hard to find.

John Sapienza asked if there was going to be any discussion that evening on the citizens' petition warrant article. Mr. Deschaine responded that the Planning Board had held a public hearing on the matter in January and it was not a Board of Selectman issue.

At 9:15 P.M. Mr. Canada moved to adjourn. Mr. Federico seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Rodier  
Recording Secretary