

March 8, 2004

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2004**

Present: Arnold Wilson, Chairman
Charles Blanchard
David Schmida
Hal White
Doris Sosik
James Malloy, Town Administrator

Budget

Town Accountant Department Head Salary

J. Malloy noted that the Town Accountant's salary is lower than it should be to remain competitive, and suggested adding \$2500 per year, plus adjustment to bring the salary up to a competitive level.

MOTION: To add \$2500 to the Town Accountant Dept. Head Salary, by A. Wilson.

2nd: D. Sosik

D. Schmida suggested that the salary be increased by \$2500/year for three years, not inclusive of any other increases. A. Wilson withdrew his motion; D. Sosik withdrew her second.

MOTION: To adjust the Town Accountant's salary by \$2500/year for three years, plus whatever adjustment the Board approves across the board, by D. Schmida.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Two in favor; A. Wilson, H. White and C. Blanchard opposed.

The motion was defeated.

MOTION: To add \$2500 to the Town Accountant's salary, with a review of all positions, by A. Wilson.

2nd: D. Sosik

Vote: Three in favor; H. White and C. Blanchard opposed.

The motion carried.

Assistant Town Clerk's Salary

A. Wilson asked for a breakdown of the number of hours that Nancy Campbell works in each position. Lorraine Murawski, Town Clerk, provided the Board with the following information: as Assistant Town Clerk, 738 hours @ \$13.16/hour = \$9,713; Planning Board Clerk, 728 hours @ \$13.16/hour = \$9,581; ZBA Clerk, 312 hours @ \$13.16/hour = \$4,106. L. Murawski noted that N. Campbell works just 42 hours/year short of a full-time position, averaging out to eight hours/week. Benefits such as vacation time and holiday pay are dependent upon a 35-hour work week. A. Wilson suggested adding 42 hours/year to the Planning Board part of the position. It was the consensus of the Board to take it under advisement.

Burgess School Budget

A. Wilson noted that the Board still has no knowledge of what the legislature will have for the Chapter 70 budget. J. Malloy said that he had attended the Mass. Municipal Fiscal Policy Committee meeting, and noted that the MMA believes that with revenues coming in to the state higher than what had been originally estimated, it is likely that what is in House 1 might be what we eventually receive. It looks better than the 10% cut that was originally budgeted. Mr. Malloy said that the DOE's preliminary numbers are available. C. Blanchard suggested that the Board hold action until they have the Tantasqua budget. J. Malloy suggested that the Board make its recommendation at Town Meeting.

Police Department – Salaries/Wages

J. Malloy said that the Police budget could be reduced by \$5,000 in the Salaries/Wages account. The replacement for Frank Leo is in the budget.

MOTION: That the Police Dept. Salary line item be recommended at \$1,054,477, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Water & Sewer Dept.

Greg Morse, DPW Director, appeared before the Board to discuss details of the Water Department and Sewer Department budget. He expressed the need to hire a mechanic for the Water & Sewer Departments, with each department paying 50%, to service the pump stations. C. Blanchard did not think it was necessary to hire a mechanic to perform routine maintenance on a pump system; he said that the work could be performed by a regular laborer. G. Morse pointed out that the mechanic would free his other employees for other labor. J. Malloy added that hiring a

mechanic would save time by eliminating the need to send grinder pumps out to be fixed. The Board requested more information about the mechanic position, such as a list of responsibilities and a breakdown of hours of work on grinder pumps.

J. Malloy said that he had combined the Miscellaneous Equipment item and the Capital Replacement item, for a total of \$98,200. It was the consensus of the Board to accept that; and to put the balance of it on hold.

Regarding the sewer budget, A.Wilson said that it would be more economical to dewater the sludge, then ship it in cake form off to an incinerator. He asked what the cost would be to obtain a press for the Town. C. Blanchard considered the sludge to be difficult to dewater, and was in favor of liquid sludge. The Board requested more information about sewer user fees.

Annual Town Meeting

A.Wilson said that there was a petition to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for a change in the Zoning Bylaws. The Planning Board needs to review it.

MOTION: To place Article #35 on the warrant, by C. Blanchard.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

J. Malloy read Deb Eliason's response regarding sewer connections (copy on file), advising the Board not to take action. C. Blanchard said that according to the Sewer Connection Bylaw, the Board of Selectmen has the authority to decide the criteria to use in granting permits. He said that the Board's policy has been to maximize open space and minimize congestion in developments. J. Malloy said that he would ask Deb Eliason to review the minutes and the bylaw again, and he will explain the policy to her. He said that she does not think there is a basis for revoking a permit.

Penny Dumas said that the Community Preservation Committee voted to ask the Board of Selectmen to put an article on the warrant that the Town appropriate up to \$250,000 from CPA funds to purchase 59 acre parcel at 55 Champeaux Road. Another motion was for two requirements: that the Purchase & Sale Agreement contain a contingency to clean the site and that the Town obtain an easement to access the land.

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MOTION: To place the article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, by D. Sosik.

2nd: H. White

Vote: All in favor.

P. Dumas said that the CPC had received an evaluation from the Open Space Committee. She said that the CPC will make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION: To close the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, by H. White.

2nd: D. Schmida

Vote: All in favor.

Old Business

C. Blanchard said that J. Malloy had received an email from Kathleen Reynolds regarding designer selection procedures. J. Malloy noted that they are not actually doing a design, but a feasibility study. C. Blanchard said that the Board should adopt a policy regarding designer selection.

MOTION: To enter into executive session under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, not to reconvene in open session by D. Schmida.

2nd: H. White

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date