

June 1, 2015

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
JUNE 1, 2015**

Present: Mary Blanchard, Chairman  
Priscilla Gimas  
Mary Dowling  
Craig Moran  
Michael Suprenant  
Leon Gaumond, Jr., Town Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Appointments to the Town Common Study Committee**

L. Gaumond informed the Board that he had advertised for candidates to serve on this committee, and there were two residents who applied: Vernon Jackson and Anthony Celuzza, both of whom are well informed of Town business.

**MOTION: To appoint Vernon Jackson and Anthony Celuzza to the Town Common Study Committee, by M. Suprenant.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Final Review of Budget Items**

L. Gaumond said that there were four line items that the Board had different numbers on. He had anticipated that the Board would be prepared to offer substitute motions or modifications to the operating budget that was approved by the Finance Committee.

**Line Item #16: Town Accountant Salary**

M. Blanchard noted that the Board of Selectmen had recommended \$61,250 on this line item, while the Finance Committee had recommended \$65,000.

C. Moran said that Barbara Barry, Finance Director, was adamant about giving the Town Accountant \$65,000, although a raise of that much would be a big jump that nobody else has had a chance to get. M. Blanchard said that it would be a \$6,000 raise, and the Town Accountant also get a merit incentive.

**MOTION: To offer a substitute motion to keep the Town Accountant's salary at \$61,250 for Line Item #16, by P. Gimas.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Moran**

**Vote: Three in favor; two opposed.**

**Line Item #79: Police Department Capital Outlay**

M. Blanchard noted that the Board of Selectmen had recommended \$49,271 for two police cruisers. She said that the Finance Committee had approved three police cruisers.

**MOTION: To offer a substitute motion for \$49,271 for the operating budget for one police cruiser, and that another cruiser be funded from the capital budget, by M. Suprenant.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Moran**

**Vote: Three in favor; two opposed.**

**Line Item #102: Tantasqua Transportation Assessment**

L. Gaumond said that if anyone asks, the Board could say that it voted before having the exact number.

M. Dowling said that Senator Gobi had voted for more state money for regional transportation. L. Gaumond said that the state budget has not been passed yet.

**Line Item #141: Veterans' Benefits**

M. Blanchard said that the Board of Selectmen had voted for \$65,000, while the Finance Committee had recommended \$60,000.

**MOTION: To put it at \$65,000, by P. Gimas.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**Final Review of Articles**

L. Gaumond said that the only other items to take a position on were the petitioned articles: 28, 29 and 30. He requested that the Board take a position on those articles.

**Article #28: Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting – Charter Change – Date of Town Meeting**

L. Gaumond said that this article was to vote to amend Town Charter Section 3-3 to delete the words “the first Monday in June” and change to “the last Monday in April” or take any action in relation thereto.

M. Blanchard said that the Board had discussed it, but never voted on it. M Suprenant said that the Board had voted to place it on the warrant. He noted that the Charter Review Committee will be starting a review of the entire Charter. He said that if the date of the Annual Town Meeting is an issue, the public would be able to come in and explain why they think it is premature..

**MOTION: To take no action on Article #28, by P. Gimas.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Suprenant**

**Vote: Two in favor; three opposed.**

**MOTION: To support the petition as written for Article #28, by M. Dowling**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Moran**

**Vote: Three in favor; two opposed.**

**Article #29: Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting – Acceptance of MGL Chapter 41, Section 19K**

L. Gaumond said that this article gives a stipend of no more than \$1,000 per year for the Town Clerk for completing the necessary courses of study and training to be awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association as a Certified Municipal Clerk. He noted that the Town clerk is an elected position.

M. Suprenant noted that the Town Clerk position has become increasingly complex over the years, and there is a lot of professional development that is required. He was in favor of a stipend to encourage professional development.

**MOTION: Not to support Article #29, by P. Gimas.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Blanchard**

**Vote: Three in favor; two opposed.**

**Article #30: Petition for Article for Annual Town Meeting – General Bylaw Amendment – Town Meeting**

L. Gaumond said that this article was to vote to amend the General Bylaws, Chapter One as follows: To add Section 1.07 (i) “Any bylaw or charter change can be voted only at the Annual Town Meeting.”

June 1, 2015

L. Gaumond said that this would not allow any changes to the Charter or Town Bylaws at any Special Town Meeting or fall elections. P. Gimás said that it would tie the hands of the Town for one year regarding such changes.

**MOTION: To take no action on Article #30, by P. Gimás.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: M. Dowling**

**Vote: All in favor.**

**MOTION: To adjourn, by P. Gimás.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: C. Moran**

**Vote: All in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

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BOS Clerk

Date