



Office of the
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
272 Main Street
Townsend, Massachusetts 01469

Nicholas Thalheimer, *Chairman*
Andrew Sheehan,
Town Administrator

Sue Lisio, *Vice-Chairman*

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SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
SELECTMEN'S MEETING CHAMBERS
(MOVED TO THE GREAT HALL)

I PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and roll call showed Chairman Nicholas Thalheimer (NT), Vice-Chairman Sue Lisio (SL), and Clerk Robert Plamondon (RP) in attendance.
- 1.2 NT gave notice that the meeting is being tape recorded.
- 1.3 Chairman's Additions or Deletions: The Chairman added 3.5 Water Department request to include a flier regarding the establishment of an independent water district in the bills.
- 1.4 Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2012; RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.
April 4, 2012; RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.
April 17, 2012; RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.
August 14, 2012; RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.
September 11, 2012. RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.

II APPOINTMENTS /HEARINGS

None

III MEETING BUSINESS

- 3.1 Approve the following Chapter 90 project funding requests for the Highway Department.
 - Replace existing curb and asphalt sidewalk with approximately 250 linear feet of granite curb and concrete sidewalk along Rte. 119 starting at Bow Street and heading west for 250 ft.
 - Repave section of North End Road where it meets with Brookline Road (Rte.13).
RP moved to approve replacement of the existing curb and asphalt sidewalk along Rte. 119 and Bow Street for an estimated cost of \$20,000. SL seconded. Unanimous.
RP moved to approve repaving the section of North End Road where it meets with Brookline Road (Rte. 13) for an estimated cost of \$5800. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.2 1-Day Liquor license for John Fors, V.F.W. Post #6538, 491 Main Street, West Townsend, MA for a 50th Birthday Party, October 20, 2012, 6:00PM-10:00PM.
RP moved to accept. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.3 Mandatory referral from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding renewal of a special permit for Patricia M. Smith at 199 Wallace Hill Road for an accessory apartment.
RP moved to respond with no comment. SL seconded. Unanimous.
- 3.5 Water Department request for authorization to put an informational flier regarding the establishment of an independent water district in the bills.

Paul Rafuse was advised by Water Dept. special counsel to ask the BOS to authorize the material to be included with the water bills. Mr. Sheehan spoke with town counsel. They were concerned that the information was political in nature. Mr. Sheehan recommended a conditional approval, subject to a response from Kopelman & Paige. RP moved to approve the inclusion of the flier in the water bills subject to review and approval by town counsel. SL seconded. Unanimous.

3.4 Discussion of FY2013 budget amendment and Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Sheehan summarized how the town came to be in this position. At the Board's direction, he has been working on a plan to close the gap in the budget. There was a meeting with the department heads a couple of weeks ago where they were requested to come up with suggested cuts and present their proposals to him. Mr. Sheehan pointed out various handouts including a spreadsheet with the precise cuts proposed for each department. He went over the details of the spreadsheet. The total deficit is \$446,078. Additional revenues amounting to \$172,329 have been identified. That leaves us with a remaining deficit of \$293,749. Consistent with comments from the Board members at prior meetings, he came up with \$296,190 in recommended cuts. He is not proposing the use of any stabilization or free cash. He then reviewed the effect the reductions would have on each building. The cuts to current positions amount to \$62, 434. Cuts to vacancies, overtime, per diem etc. come to \$193,156. Other possible cost savers for the future were discussed. Part of the proposal includes the closure of Town Hall and the Senior Center one day a week as well as limiting the Library to a four day schedule. Mr. Sheehan pointed out that people should not plan on the reductions being restored next year.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding various ideas and options to address the deficit. Many of those present suggested another override. The possibility of another override was discussed and the ramifications to the town if it failed were addressed. SL made a motion to set a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, October 30, 2012 and close the warrant on October 2, 2012 at 5 pm. NT seconded. Discussion: RP outlined that it is his position to respect the people who voted "no" by not supporting this motion. SL stated that her intention is to give those who voted "no" for the school override the opportunity to say "yes" to the town. NT pointed out that a motion had been made and seconded. Passed 2-1 (RP no). SL moved to hold a Special Election on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 to fund municipal services. NT seconded. Motion made and seconded. Passed 2-1 (RP no).

SL moved to direct the Town Administrator to create a town meeting warrant article. NT seconded. Passed 2-1 (RP no).

IV APPOINTMENTS OF PERSONNEL/OFFICIALS

None

V WORK SESSION

5.1 Board of Selectmen Updates/Reports

None

5.2 Town Administrator Updates/Reports

None

5.3 Review/Sign Payroll Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.

5.4 Review/Sign Bills Payable Warrant. RP moved to sign warrants out of session. SL seconded. Unanimous.

NT moved to adjourn at 9:10 pm. RP seconded. Unanimous.