

Members present: Kevin M. McCormick Michael J. Kittredge, Jr.
Christopher A. Rucho Siobhan M. Bohnson
John W. Hadley

This special goal setting meeting of the Board is being held at Salter College. The meeting opened at 9:10 a.m.

Town Administrator Updates

Mr. Gaumond reports that quite a few things are working in our favor as far as the budget goes. State revenues are up 5% and it is an election year. Those two factors usually bode well. Bob DiLeo will be opening the MMA conference this weekend and he has always been very friendly to local government as formerly was a Selectman.

He is concerned about our health insurance numbers. We have changed a lot of the language in our contracts that tied us to a specific plan. He met with EBS Foran and right now the trend is 7-8%. He has engaged the Insurance Advisory Committee to keep looking at making changes in the plans. All things being equal we will do relatively well. We have been able to put money away and both our Capital Investment Fund and Stabilization Fund are in good shape. Moving forward things that could impact the community include the wage study. We kicked off the study this week with meetings with all the employees. Around this time we talk about what we are going to offer our employees. He anticipates the wage and classification study to say we are doing okay. The study may say that some of the positions may need to be adjusted. Around this time we discuss what we want to offer non-union employees. He would like to hold off until the study is close to being done. He expects everything will be wrapped up by the time we have to go to town meeting.

Regarding the Performance Contracting Project, he is working on developing the RFQ and he had a long conversation with Kopelman and Paige. One of the pieces people seem to be serious about is to have an energy consultant. He will be asking the Board to give him more time to get this together. He may need to put on the October town meeting instead of May.

With regard to Regional Dispatching Project, he anticipates the consultant will be coming back to the Board before town meeting. He estimates implementation by January or May of 2015.

The 40B Project in Oakdale will be a big liability to the town going forward especially for the water and sewer departments. The contract with FAA is coming to an end in June. We could either go out to bid or look at our bylaw on the Office of Financial Management. It requires us to have both a Finance Director and Town Accountant position. Mr. Gaumond recommends changing it so we do not have two positions. We could include \$5,000 for consulting services for bigger issues and have a town accountant position. Mike Daley might sign a contract renewal for six months or one year. The Board was reminded to sign the warrants over the weekend.

Goal Setting

Goals received to date are as follows.

1. Work with the Housing Authority on developing senior housing. Mr. Rucho asked if the Housing Authority had come to the Board and asked for help with certain things. It was noted that they still have not sent the Board their list of things they need assistance with as was promised when the Board met with the Housing Authority last fall.
2. Bury utilities on Route 12
3. Establish sidewalks on Route 12. Mr. Rucho thinks that all the Route 12 suggestions should be something the Board should look at, but it should not be a goal.

4. Build a new police station
5. Market the town to families and businesses. Mr. Kittredge is concerned with marketing our school system as he had a study done and we are going down and are lower than Clinton. With regard to 5 and 6 Mr. Rucho feels we have done quite a bit as we put together a video, a brochure project and offer roundtables. He also mentioned that the Building Inspector indicated that he never received the list of violations the Planning Board sent to the Selectmen at license renewal time.
6. Improve business relations in the town
7. Revisit the charge for FISP. Mr. McCormick feels that FISP should be looking for a new building project. He feels that they have completed the town hall project and now they need to move on. Going forward, they should go through the process of finding the building and then turn the building over to whoever is going to occupy the building. When there are no building projects for them to work on, they can take a break from their meetings. Mr. Rucho does not think it needs to be a goal.
8. Continue to work with the Housing Authority
9. Explore financial management options
10. Repair existing sidewalks
11. Finalize the Worcester Street road repair. Mr. Gaumond explained that the funds for the project area included in the Transportation Bond Bill. Ms. Bohnson requested DPW Director Sylvia contact Paul Henault, abutter to the project, to provide an update. Mr. Gaumond noted that Mr. Sylvia has been working with LEI on the fix. He added that one of the agenda items for next week is to assign goals for individual department heads and this would be a good goal to assign to the DPW Director. Mr. Rucho would like to see his department head reports.
12. Attract new businesses in town
13. Finalize the exhaust system at the DPW
14. Focus on problem intersections like Woodland & Prospect Street. Mr. Hadley stated that he previously asked former DPW Director Barruzi to look into flashing stop signs. Mr. Gaumond noted that Mr. Barruzi did respond back that those devices were very expensive, \$2,500 or \$3,500 each. Mr. Hadley sees them everywhere and he would like to look into them again.
15. Streets with bike lanes. Mr. Gaumond advised that the Transportation Committee has been meeting to discuss problem intersections and is working on this issue. His expectation is that the Police Chief and DPW Director will be working on that.
16. Give town email addresses to town board members
17. Attract FIOS. Mr. Gaumond advised that this will not happen. We have had conversations with the government representation and it is not in his business plan right now. Mr. Rucho suggested we update the residents on what we do on these suggestions.
18. Town needs more bike and hiking trails
19. Establish a community garden
20. Explore regionalizing the senior center.

Mr. Rucho suggested looking at our entire cable access functions. One of our previous goals was to try to work with the cable group as they only have a few members. Ms. Bohnson suggested contacting the person at the high school as he has some good ideas.

Mr. Rucho suggested that we go out to bid for town counsel services. He doesn't think it should be designated a goal of the Board and it was agreed to include it on the next agenda.

The board took a break and voted on their top 5 goals. As a result the following list was developed.

1. Build a new police station
2. Explore options for senior center
3. Improve business relations to attract new businesses and support existing businesses
4. Continue to work with the Housing Authority with part of the goal to focus on an increase in senior housing. As a starter, Mr. Gaumond suggested having a Selectman liaison who would work with them.
5. Explore financial management options

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 19, 2014

Nancy E. Lucier, Municipal Assistant

Kevin M. McCormick, Chairman

Christopher A. Rucho, Vice Chairman

John W. Hadley, Clerk

Michael J. Kittredge, Jr., Selectman

Siobhan M. Bohnson, Selectman