

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of January 20, 2015
Town Hall – Selectmen's Meeting Room #1, Second Floor 7:00pm

Present: Chairman Richard Ward , Vice-Chairman Ronald Clarke, Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski (TA) & Elaine Weston.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The Chair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and Rev Merritt led the audience in community prayer.

Fire Chief Weston presented pinning of newly elected officers and the Selectmen presented a Certificate of Achievement to Carl Santos for serving 43 years on the Fire Department.

Fire Chief Weston gave a brief update of the status of the New Fire Station Building. The design is 60% complete and hope to have the design 90% complete by the end of the month.

Hewins thanked Chief Weston, Bill Harriman and the Fire Station Building Committee for all of their hard work and dedication to the project.

Clarke stated he is willing to support additional money if it is needed to get the job done.

Dunham thanked them for doing everything they can to keep the project on budget.

Town Administrator Update:

FY '16 10 year Capital Plan & Recommendations:

Capital Stabilization Fund has been established at the last Town Meeting and as a goal to have 10% of the Town's budget allocated to that account for preventative maintenance and regular upgrades. This year it is projected to have \$2.42 million in the account.

The TA made his recommendations to the Board as cited in the spreadsheet distributed.

The spreadsheet reviewed (dated 1/20/15) will be posted on the Town of Carver website on the Main Page so it will be easily accessible to the public.

The Capital Outlay Committee will be reviewing these and meeting with each Department Head.

Marrone questioned why Savory Meadows land was not developed as a ball field as originally promoted during public discussions by proponents to the purchase. Hewins stated that a feasibility study was voted on at town meeting to research 4 different properties.

TA stated that the CPA are the only ones who have the authority to make recommendations on the spending of their funds.

Hewins recused herself and left the table.

Health Care Update & OPEB Impact: The Longfellow Associates did a study on Healthcare and coverage and it was determined that it was in Carver's long-term interest to move to the Mayflower Health Care Group from Gateway Health Care. Gateway is moving the Retiree coverage effective March 1 from MedEx 3 to MedEx 2 which will lower monthly premiums and increase some of the prescription co-pays. The cost savings to the town is under \$200,000 a year. Gateway will set up a fund to cover the difference in those co-pays that do increase so that the impact will not be on the retirees. This will change our OPEB liability from \$52 million to \$36 million.

The anticipated cost increase could be up to less than half which was anticipated. It was anticipated at an increase of 5% and it is now actually approximately 2.5% so the cost savings is not as drastic. The savings anticipated over 3 years from the MedEx change is over \$600,000.

There is a Mayflower Board meeting later this week, since the new information and analysis has arrived, the TA is hopeful that the Town is understanding that we will stay with Gateway until next year. Motion by Marrone to permit TA to rescind the 2016 healthcare change date and moving it to 2017, second by Dunham. Ward recused himself. Vote 3-0-0.

Hewins returned to the table.

FY '16 10-year Budget Forecast: TA reviewed the proposed forecast and reviewed new growth which fluctuates with the economy, North Carver Water District, which is still running at a deficit, Residential growth, which has trended down and stabilized recently. Carver becomes more dependent on State Aid which is projected to be level-not including the additional \$25 increase per student. The savings from the healthcare is recommended to go into the OPEB Trust Fund. Old Colony Regional Voc. Tech. is increasing due to two additional students which will increase the percentage Carver allocates. TA has taken out non-education based costs from the budget, and does not want this to be confused with policy and running departments, which are currently not changing. The numbers are being pulled out simply to compare the costs of running the specific departments such as Technologies and Facilities. The structure of Carver does not allow for significant new revenue coming into the Town. Without Chapter 70 reform, Carver is trying to stay afloat.

Contract Extension for Town Accountant: The Town Accountant's contract states that it is to be part of the Supervisory Union. No such union exists and the TA would like to revise the contract to reflect new wording, as well as extend the contract to be five years from the date executed and salary and grade would change from B, step 9 to A, step 6. Motion by Hewins to allow TA to execute new contract, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Update on Water Commission: A new well went out to bid, many bids came in and the budget is in line. Kevin Tracey spoke briefly on the Water Commission and stated that Decas has been invaluable.

Request of staff during campaign season by candidates: TA is asking if he can institute the same policies in effect for the Selectmen Policies to be the same for those that are running for office, as requests are submitted from the staff, it may lead to interference with the employees workload. All Selectmen are in agreement that all people (Selectmen or residents) should follow the same policies for public records requests.

Project Management Room: T.A. Informed the Board that the Selectmen's Small Meeting Room will be used for the workspace of the Project Manager's for the Fire Station and School Building. Small Public Meetings will still be held there such as the Governance Committee Meetings.

Board of Selectmen Comment Period:

Dunham: Reminded everyone that there is still a great need in the Carver Food Pantry.

Hewins: Attended the AD Makepeace meeting and they discussed new growth. AD Makepeace by right could build apartments, condos and homes which would make the tax dollars cash negative.

Clarke: Halifax & Carver are on now one Cable entity. The new Cable studio will be to the right of Cornerstones and will be moving out of the High School as of Feb. 1. A new Board of Directors is composed of Carver and Halifax citizens. He anticipates an open house to be held in the spring. Rich Goullart and his staff have been doing a great job in working with the obstacles and transition.

Marrone: Reminded everyone that the hunger & drug epidemic doesn't go away after the holidays. Mobilizing the Community will be held tomorrow night to try to help combat the drug problem in town. Susan Beaulieu has started a non-denominational faith based meeting for the addicted and non-addicted 6-7pm. Riseup3@comcast.net

Ward: Reminded everyone of the Mobilizing the Community meeting tomorrow night.

School Building Committee Update: The first meeting was held with the new designers. Each property was discussed. The next meeting will be held in Town Hall and the designers will get into more details of each site and there will also be a public safety/permit & inspections meeting which will also play a part in the location. Town Meeting allocated \$410,000 for the feasibility. The OPM & Designer have been hired. Capital Outlay & Finance Committee has each allocated \$75,000 out of their reserve funds. TA is requesting the Board to authorize the Chairman to revise the feasibility study budget to be no more than \$560,000. Motion by Clarke, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Town Meeting: Motion to schedule Annual Town Meeting on Monday, April 13 at 6:30pm by Clarke, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Warrant Article Deadline:

Bob Belbin questioned if the deadline could be extended for articles. Marrone stated she feels it would be fair to have the articles postponed a week. Dunham agrees that he likes the idea of a split deadline for money and non-money articles. Motion by Clarke that all money articles will be due by February 3rd and all non-money articles will be due by February 10th, second by Dunham, Vote 5-0.

Town Administrator Performance Review -Meeting will be held Thu 1/11/15 at 6:30.

Minutes/Licenses

Motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2014 by Clarke second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2014 by Dunham, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

One Day Special License: Carver Sportsmen's Club-Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Hewins. 5-0.

One Day Special License Bartending Service of New England, motion to approve by Dunham, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Public Comment Period: Bob Belbin: Has not heard anything on the gate on Wade St. Stated that the town took property away from the Sportsmen's Club. He also questioned revenues on the meals tax (TA stated there are no figures on that yet as it recently took effect). He also questioned why the town has not brought water to the Whitworth Property (TA stated there is no funding at this time). He would also like to see more information on meeting agendas to inform the public.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session by Hewins at 9:35pm (exemption #2, 3, 6) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions (Clerical, Dispatchers, PEC-Health Care, Police) and for non-union negotiations with all non-union personnel not under contract, and strategy for litigation (Officer Harriman), and strategy for purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate that may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the town if held in open session, and to reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjournment. Second by Dunham.

Roll Call: Affirmative- Dunham, Hewins, Marrone, Ward & Clarke.

Motion to adjourn at 10:30 pm. by Clarke , second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.