

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of December 16, 2014
Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 7:00pm

Present: Chairman Richard Ward, Vice-Chairman Ronald Clarke, Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski (TA) and Michele Doll

The Chair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and reviewed agenda items.
Dunham read community prayer

Clark Griffith – donation of Julian Grove to Town

Griffith shared a few facts regarding the history of Julian Grove on Wareham Street. On September 28, 1915 a Trust was created for land formerly known as Triangle Park. In 1921 the land was renamed in memory of Julian Southworth. In the 1950's the property was devastated by a hurricane, red pines were planted to try to rebuild. Parcels have been sold, currently there is slightly over 2 acres remaining. Griffith also introduced and presented documents he believes would be of interest to the Carver Room.

Motion to accept transfer of land and funds as identified, by Hewins. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Administrator Update

Capital Budget – All department requests for the next 10 (ten) years have been received, estimated at \$22,000,000.00 (this does not include new elementary school or police). Schedules have been reviewed based on capital stabilization plan and bond payoff for library and town hall. Milanoski met with Jack Angley, Chairman of Capital Outlay. School items have been prioritized with Superintendent Sorrell and Principal Knee. Replace gymnasium floor at \$400,000; Track and Football Field drainage issues need to be addressed. Dunham – Field repairs would be dependent on location of new elementary school? Milanoski – expecting decision on location to be made by February or March, but should not have impact on track.

FY16 Forecast – Milanoski is working with Town Accountant, forecast is 95% complete

Funding for Master Plan – CPA to contribute 50% and Capital Outlay to contribute 50%; review availability of possible grants for funding.

Capital Stabilization – debt and leases have been consolidated into one budget item; 2 new inputs – 2.5% levy limit and personal property tax of \$400,000 for NStar improvements (one time monies)

Fire Station – Chief Weston and Former Chief Halunen have made revisions to keep within budget; reduction in square footage.

Municipal Well – Green Sand System will be installed for \$250,000. South Shore Housing and Carver Housing each to pay share of \$100,000, and the Town will pay remaining \$50,000. Town will need to enter an intermunicipal agreement with Carver Housing only. South Shore Housing will enter agreement with Carver Housing. Moving forward with engineer to go out to bid. DEP requires a test run on Green Sand.

Hewins motioned to authorize Chair to execute intermunicipal Agreement with Carver Housing, as approved by Town Counsel. Marrone 2nd. Unanimous.

Drug and Alcohol Policy – Milanoski requested approval on minor document change. Policy to be incorporated for all elected and appointed Town officials/employees.

Motion to approve amended Policy by Marrone. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous.

DPW Positions – Superintendent performed interviews, joined by EMS Director Tom Walsh, and conditional offers have been made to (2) candidates subject to drug and alcohol testing. Anticipated start date of January 5th. Both candidates are Call Firefighters, as are many existing DPW workers. Board unanimously supports moving forward with hires.

Town Election – Intent is to have Town Meeting before Elections. Tentatively looking at April 13th and 14th. Prepare for discussion and vote next meeting. School project will not be voted on until Special Town Meeting in September or October.

Town is changing payroll system from ADP to Harpers. Both systems will run parallel through January, with a full change over in February. Estimated savings of \$5000.00 a year with reduced clerical data entry and operational improvements. Marrone – not familiar with Harper's? Milanoski – they are the prevalent in Municipal work and will work seamlessly with new Softright Accounting System. Finance meetings to discuss audit issues have brought forth a need for better documentation and setting of priorities. Final audit will be available in January, expect to perform additional departmental audits in October or November. Information on classification hearing provided by Assessor was distributed. Clean Well Expansion bids have been received from nine companies, Town may be able to complete with available funds. Mass Municipal Trade Show is a valuable networking opportunity and happening is January, Milanoski encouraged the Selectmen to attend.

Milanoski would like to recognize several staff members who are currently going above and beyond their job responsibilities and expectations. Unable to offer a financial bonus, he requested the authority to offer (one time) additional vacation time to Debrah Deneen in the newly consolidated PEP department, Town Accountant - Meg LaMay and Assistant to the Town Administrator - Elaine Weston. Marrone – has witnessed exceptional work and encourages the recognition of those going about and beyond. Ward – fully supports.

Selectmen Comment Period

Marrone – commends Peter Allegrini and South Shore Road Race 3rd Annual Road Race @ Flax Pond for contributions to the Food Pantry. Also acknowledged Nancy Ryan of the COA and resident and Girl Scout Leader Stephanie Clougherty for the Adopt a Nursing Home and Sing-a-Long programs which took place.

Clarke – briefly discussed the Chapter 70 Formula and hearing that are happening around the State of Massachusetts. The formula is broken! School funding has gone down; education should not be based on wealth. Contracts have been signed for Community Cable merge with Halifax. CCAT must vacate the CMHS by February 1st. An Open House will take place when they are up and running in new location on Main Street. He is impressed with presented Budget Forecast.

Ward – shared letter received by Mike Nash regarding the local Farmers Market.

Hewins – offered sympathies to the family of resident and volunteer Jan Tracey, who recently passed away. Also noted that the new playground equipment, approved at Town Meeting, has been ordered.

Dunham – wished all a Happy Holiday. Reminded of the constant needs of the Food Pantry.

Community Prayer – 6 (six) month trial period has ended.

Motion to make Community Prayer a permanent part of Open Meetings by Clarke. Dunham 2nd. Approved 3-0-2

School Committee Update – MSBA sat in on the designer selection panel with Milanoski, Sorel and Ward. Four companies presented. Although the School Building Committee asked representatives to try to unify their vote, they were not allowed to do so. However selected designer, HMFH Architect was a unanimous top choice. Negotiations need to be made, awaiting information on financial structure. Building Committee meeting delayed until January 5th, would like to invite HMFH to make presentation.

Approval of meeting minutes for December 2, 2014

Motion to approve by Hewins. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous

Public Comments

Steve Pratt, Weston Street, supports decision to select HMFH for school. Pratt visited Cambridge, Newburyport and Fairhaven sights. Also, apologized for his reaction at tax rate hearing and acknowledges he should've given Assessor opportunity to complete presentation.

Ronald Dzengeleski, 2-3 South Meadow Village, is eager to contribute more to the Town. Impressed with open meetings he's observed. Has submitted application and requests consideration for Finance Committee.

Next meeting January 20th

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session....