

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of October 8, 2013
Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Michael O'Donnell Selectmen Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Richard Ward, Vice-Chairman Jack Franey, Interim Town Administrator James Purcell and Elaine Weston

O'Donnell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the announcements.

Approval of Fire Department S.A.F.E. Grant fund and money

Motion by Franey to approve S.A.F.E. grant fund and money, second by Ward. Chief Craig Weston explained that the grant is for supplies for the school tours that come through. Vote 5-0.

Chief Weston stated there will be a request for a grant acceptance on the next agenda and asked the Board for their support. He also publicly thanked the donors that made it possible to fund their Polaris ATV. There are hoping for \$7,000 more in donations.

Chapter 61A First Right of Refusal: 213 Meadow Street

Jack Hunter chairs the 61A sub-committee, and he recommends that the Town not exercise its right to purchase the land as it would be cost prohibitive. Motion by Ward to decline purchase of property, second by Marrone. Vote 4-0-0 (Hewins Recused herself)

Plymouth County Commissioners Update:

Dan Pallotta, Chairman of the Plymouth County Commissioners present to give update. They have been working hard trying to change the funding formula. They are trying to become the regional agency the County once was. The County has been taken apart by the legislature and for deeds excise taxes paid, 89.625 goes to the State, the balance stays in Plymouth County. He is looking for the support of the Board on three bills that are before the legislature.

Tom O'Brien, Plymouth County Treasurer present. He would like to inform the public more of what they do. He explained the Registry of Deeds is one of the nicest in New England, and they offer many programs such as the three local courthouses and they have a fire control airplane. They have filed six pieces of legislation and one in particular they are looking for support on which is to address to the deeds excise tax, which doesn't stay in Plymouth County. The funding mechanism used be 50% to the County, and 50% to the Commonwealth, which has shifted over time to the percentage Dan stated previously. He is asking the Selectmen to support tonight Bill # 2516 which is the Deeds Excise Funding Change. There is an energy initiative (brochure handed out), salt water dredge which they have received a \$250,000 grant and they have a training service for the Assessors offered for free at the Registry of Deeds. Plymouth County Retirement has out-performed the state the last 5 out of 6 years. There is a significant funding challenges because the federal government changed the mortality ages.

Tom also requested that the Board vote on two other points of legislation: Bill# 1829 for the Stabilization Fund and #3377 for the Pension Obligation Fund.

O'Donnell asked them to send the information detailing the bills to our office and it will be on the next agenda for a vote.

Request for Common Victualler License: Carver Subway, Samir Patel

Samir Patel came before the Board to request opening a franchise. He is hoping to open by November 1. Motion to approve by Franey, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

Change of Special Town Meeting Date: Due to the need to give Accounting time to process free cash and close out year end, the Board would like to postpone the date of Special Town Meeting. Motion by Franey to postpone Special Town Meeting to Tuesday, November 12, second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

Motion for Warrant Article deadline extension to October 15, 4:00 by Franey, second by Ward, Vote 5-0.

Discussions relative to funding police personnel and capital projects and possible Special Town Election : Franey was looking to have a Special Election. Town Clerk Doyle explained the timeline necessary from when the question is submitted and that money would need to be appropriated. In addition, they need to factor in the cost of holding a Special Town Election. She suggested working backwards from the date the tax rate is set and the Clerk's office would need 35 days notice from the date the question is submitted.

She also stated if a Special Town Meeting is held and it fails, the Special Town Election still needs to be held.

Franey questioned if the Board would like to move forward with adding police offers as a permanent override. Hewins stated she didn't believe the Police Chief was asking for this.

Marrone asked how much it costs to hold a Special Town Election. Town Clerk Doyle stated it costs between \$5,000 - \$6,000.

Ward stated he is concerned that Duphily didn't want to move forward this quickly and that he wanted to see a timeline used to integrate the positions.

Hewins stated there are several departments that are down employees and does not see the Special Town Election as productive.

Marrone feels the decision should be left up to the voters and feels that the Town has not done anything.

Ward stated that he would like to sit down with the School Business Manager, the Town Accountant and the Chair of the Finance Committee to discuss the issue before moving forward and rushing the issue.

Marrone feels this is an important issue and would like to get the ball rolling.

Franey stated he will withdraw his statement of wanting to have a Special Election.

Agenda Policy to include any Board of Selectmen member to able to add items to the meeting Agendas. Ward would like to propose that if a Board of Selectmen member suggests an item to be put on the agenda, that it be put on and then if at the meeting someone deems it inappropriate that the Board take a vote to delete the item off the agenda.

He would also like to add a sentence to the policy.

O'Donnell asked Franey if he had previously taken items off the agenda and he stated he had and explained that he felt the item was previously voted on and felt he would like to keep it as a business meeting.

Hewins also stated that she had also previously requested that an item be put on an agenda and it was also denied.

Marrone feels an item should not be deleted, but thinks that the Chairman should be in charge of items that go on the agenda.

Purcell feels the same thing can be accomplished by communicating through the Town Administrator.

O'Donnell feels he would like to table this issue and get an answer if discussing the issue is in violation of the Open Meeting Law.

Ward pointed out if you have a situation with any Chairman in the future, you will have a hard time getting topics on the agenda.

Marrone feels the Chairman should have discretion as to what should and should not go on the agenda, although she feels every Selectmen should be heard.

Purcell stated that he has had the experience in Sherborn of an agenda being read at the beginning of the meetings and any changes are made to the agenda at that time.

O'Donnell asked Purcell to research if a communication with the Chairman on agenda items runs afoul with the Open Meeting Law and to get more information on how Sherborn operates.

Approval of minutes of September 10 & 24, 2013

Motion by Ward to approve both sets of minutes, second by Franey. Vote 5-0.

Discussions relative to funding police personnel and capital projects and possible Special Town Election (cont'd)

Steve Pratt and Dan Ryan of the TBSC (Town Building Study Committee) gave an update that they have met with the Collins Center regarding their building needs and have met with their financial contact. Steve stated that they have an article submitted for the Special Town

Meeting. He also discussed meeting with the financial advisors in town to discuss debt service of any bonding. Purcell stated that the request should go through the Town Administrator. Franey asked if they could come before the Board at the next meeting.

Citizens Participation Steve Pratt stated that the air show at the Plymouth Airport last weekend caused a lot of traffic on South Meadow Road.

Town Administrator Notes

State Department of Agriculture is accepting the nomination of the two Animal Control Officers and they are awaiting the completion of the Barn Books as of December 31. However, there are currently no books available from the State.

Collins Center Building Study is under way and representatives have been in town.

The Health Insurance Audit is also underway. The Longfellow Group is credible and will be awaiting the outcome.

Roof & HVAC bids are under advisement, but organizationally you need to be sure the new Town Administrator has Massachusetts Procurement experience and is willing to teach the organization.

Proposals have been received for a solar production at the former landfill. Jack Hunter is looking for volunteers from members of the Board to read the proposals and help with his decision.

Hewins and O'Donnell offered to help with the process.

Selectmen Notes

Marrone: Starting office hours Nov. 1 at Cornerstones at Noon

Ward: Oct. 12 & 13, CCGA is having it's 10th annual Harvest Celebration, being held at AD Makepeace at Tihonet Village Road in Wareham

Hewins: Thanked everyone who came to Arts on the Bog this past weekend which is an annual event, in which it rains every year, hosted by Jack & Dot Angley. Farmer's Market runs through the last Sunday in October.

Hewins recused herself and left the meeting.

Franey: The Town Administrator Screening Committee met on September 17th and he was elected Chairman. The next meeting will be tomorrow at 7pm. They have received 24 sets of resumes from the Collins Center.

O'Donnell: He reminded everyone it is a Holiday weekend coming up, King Richard's Fair, Cranberry Festival and Edaville, and cautioned everyone to be careful driving and of children. God Bless the citizens of Carver, Servicemen and Woman serving around the world.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm into Executive session in preparation for contract negotiations with proposed supervisory union, not to return to open session by Ward

Second by Marrone Roll Call vote: Affirmative: Franey, O'Donnell, Ward, Marrone.