

Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting of March 30, 2015
Town Hall – Selectmen’s Meeting Room #1, Second Floor 7:30pm

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

Absent: Chairman Richard Ward

Ronald Clarke, serving as Chair in Ward’s absence, opened meeting.

Motion to go into Executive Session by Dunham to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions (Clerical, DPA, Dispatchers, PEC/IAC-Health Care, Police) and for non-union negotiations and with all non-union personnel not under contract, and strategy for litigation, that may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the town if held in open session and to reconvene in open session, second by Marrone.

Roll Call-Affirmative: Dunham, Clarke & Marrone.

Hewins recused herself and left the room.

Reconvene in open session at 7:30-Roll Call-Affirmative: Dunham, Clarke & Marrone.

Chairman Ward & Hewins present.

Pledge of Allegiance, Community Prayer & Review of agenda were done.

Public Comment Period: Dennis Rizzuto present to represent Unions and request that the Board meet with all Union representatives, as they are all present at this time. Dunham stated he is unsure of legal ramifications of meeting with all boards at once and that the meeting has not been posted. He also stated that they would not be meeting with the full board, only three members. TA stated that any union member present can comment at the end of the meeting and any Union can meet with the Selectmen at another time. Motion by Dunham to move the second public comment to be after the SRPEDD discussion In order to accommodate the large number of people that came to the meeting, Second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

SRPEDD – Energy Services: Ross Perry present. His role is primarily group purchasing and is proposing an energy aggregation program. This is implemented in that, Eversource would still be doing the delivery and support. Residents would have the opportunity to opt out with no penalties or termination clause. This would combine with other towns to get negotiating power as if we were the largest commercial user in the area. This requires a town meeting vote for the right to explore and negotiate. This should reduce residential bills by \$80-\$120 per year.

Clarke questioned the companies he is suggesting in contrast to the solicitors that try to get your business and then hike up the rates. Ross stated that SRPEDD does the contract with the supplier so that it is a ‘safe haven’ thru this program. If SRPEDD does not find a supplier that will comply, they will not offer the program. They will go to bid when the market is right.

Marrone questioned what the drawbacks are and what the renewal period is. Ross stated that if you come off of the contract and decide to come back in, you would come back in as a new customer. He stated that he doesn't see a problem because you can opt out at any time, you also see the rate at the time of the bid, there is no charge to the resident.

Hunter stated that they could be raising resident's hopes and they may not find a supplier with a lower rate.

Marrone questioned if the customer would get treated differently since you're not buying it from them. Ross stated that Eversource has no financial interest in the generation charge.

Clarke questioned if you are not using Eversource, you will not get the invitation for the group rate from SRPEDD. Only Eversource users will be getting the notification for this.

Questions can be referred to <http://srpedd-muniagg.com/>

Hewins stated that a yes vote at Town meeting would allow SRPEDD to search for a better rate for generation.

Town Meeting Warrant Zoning Articles Presentation: Jack Hunter reviewed the Zoning articles for Annual Town Meeting: Rezone a parcel of land at the Route 44 and Spring Street intersection to allow a commerce park to be developed. This will include a commercial facility (gasoline station and convenience store) of approx. 11,400 sq. ft. and an additional 60,000 sq. ft. for office/business park. All neighbors have been notified and most of the concerns were regarding increased traffic. Hunter had a traffic study done in which 80-90% of anticipated traffic will go directly onto Route 44 and it was also determined that property values would increase. Hunter feels that the public meetings with the abutters that were held have addressed their issues. Design guidelines will adhere to the Design Guidelines for the Spring Street Innovation District.

Ward & Hewins recused themselves and left the table.

Public Comment Period: Deborah Gesualdo spoke regarding the Gateway/Mayflower decision and asked the Board to look at the healthcare issue carefully, learn from the past and to look at all sides of the issue.

Dennis Rizzuto stated that he feels the Union is in the position to give another opinion to the Board in regards to healthcare.

Ward & Hewins returned to the table.

Discussion & Vote on Town Department Budgets: TA has not heard any issues and would the Board to vote on these at Thursday's meeting

Discussion & Vote on Draft Warrant: TA would like to review the articles tonight and to answer any questions with the intent of voting on it Thursday April 2.

Article

#1: Annual Town Report

#2 Unpaid Bills from previous years

#3 Supplemental Appropriations for FY15

#4 Allocation of funds for one time cost

#5 Solar Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreements

#6 Operating budgets for town and enterprise fund, funding for OPEB trust and stabilization funds

#7 Capital Improvements budget

#8 Community Preservation Committee report and recommendations

#9 Revolving Accounts

#10 Municipal Aggregation of Electricity

#11 Governance Committee By-Law Amendments

#12 Cable TV Fund

#13 Land Transfers

#14 Zoning amendment to table of dimensional requirements

#15 Zoning amendment to add Spring Street innovation district

#16 Zoning amendment to use regulation schedule

#17 Zoning amendment on design requirements

#18 Non-money petition articles

#19 Money Petition articles

#20 Home Rule Petition to participate in retiree health care for municipal employees and those employees on HMO plans and bifurcate new employees and new retirees with different participation rates.

Board of Selectmen Comment Period:

Dunham: No Comment

Hewins: Encouraged the public to attend Town Meeting and Town Election.

Marrone: Town Meeting is where the public can make important decisions on the Town's money and encourage residents to attend. Common Core forum on April 10 –there are still spots available at 7pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall.

Clarke: CHAT has set financial policies in place as they are a nonprofit. He is pleased at the food pantry donations at Shaw's.

Ward: Thanked Dunham, Clarke & Marrone for working with the TA on the healthcare situation and appreciates the time and effort they are putting forward. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Minutes: Motion to table by Dunham, second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

9:30pm -Motion to adjourn into executive session (Exemption #2,3, 6) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions (Clerical, DPA, Dispatchers, PEC/IAC-Health Care, Police) and for non-union negotiations (Town Administrator Performance Evaluation) and with all non-union personnel not under contract, and strategy for litigation, and 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 purpose of adjournment by Dunham, second by Marrone.

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