

**Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of March 26, 2013**  
**Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 6:30pm**

Present: Selectmen John Franey, Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Richard Ward, Chairman Michael O'Donnell, and Town Administrator Richard LaFond. Elaine Weston took the meeting minutes.

The Chair led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and read the announcements.

**Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Shaw's Supermarket**

Mr. Tony Amado was present and the Selectmen awarded Shaw's with a certificate of appreciation.

**Request by Carole Julius to be appointed to the Gatra Advisory Board**

LaFond explained what is involved in this role. Motion by Ward to appoint Carole Julius to the Gatra Advisory Board, second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

**Appointment of Bryan Lauzon to the Audit Committee:**

Ward motion by ward to table the appointment to the Audit Committee as it may affect the Treasurer/Collector position as it is a month before the election until the first meeting in May. Franey recused himself from the vote, second by Hewins. Marrone did not think there would be any negative impact regardless of who is elected as Treasurer/Collector. Hewins stated that most of the items did pertain to the position of Treasurer/Collector. Ward and O'Donnell disputed if the Audit Committee appointments could be political. Vote 2-2. Vote failed.

Marrone recommended making a contingency to the motion. The recommendation was to approve Lauzon to the audit committee with the stipulation that no votes or recommendations would be presented until after the election and there was a 5 member board , Ward disagreed.

Bryan Lauzon spoke about his background. The Selectmen asked several questions relating to being objective and knowledgeable about the Department of Revenue report. Motion by Marrone to approve Bryan Lauzon to the Audit Committee no recommendations or decisions will be made until after the April election and they need to have a five member board, second by Ward. Vote 2-2. Motion failed.

**Appointment of James Grimes to the Audit Committee:**

James Grimes spoke about his background. Feels he will look at things objectively and has dealt with the Dept. of Revenue in the past on several matters. Motion by Marrone to approve James Grimes to the Audit Committee with no recommendations or decisions will be made until after the April election and the need to have a five member board, second by O'Donnell. Vote 2-2. Motion failed.

**Appointment of James Philip to the Cultural Council:**

James Philip would like to give back to the town, he attended the last meeting and would like add to what they are doing. Motion by Marrone to appoint James Philip to the Cultural Council, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

**Request for use of Shurtleff Park by the Carver Music Boosters:**

Motion by Franey to approve the use of Shurtleff Park during the dates of the Farmer's Market, second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

**Request for use of Shurtleff Park by the Carver Boy Scouts:**

Matt Thomas present to explain the Flag Retirement Ceremony on April 13. Motion by Franey to approve the use of Shurtleff Park by the Carver Boy Scouts, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0. He also explained that it is open to the public and is hoping that people will get involved.

**Request for Common Victualer License: John Koutsogiannis dba Dandy Donuts**

John Koutsogiannis present. Motion by Franey to approve the Common Victualer License, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

**Budget Hearings:****Planning & Community Development**

Bruce Maki & Jack Hunter present to discuss the budget. Added \$500 due to seminars, training and postage. John Cotter asked about the CDBG housing grant program. He also questioned the new building next to Aubuchon. Jack Hunter stated that the town will get half of the new growth toward the North Carver Water District. The new building is going to be a Dunkin' Donuts. The Whitworth property is going to auction next week. Franey questioned the grant and Jack stated that they pay independently for the staff, but they did buy the printer and laptop.

**Conservation**

Hewins recused herself from the Board to speak as her position as Conservation Agent.

David Eldridge and Sarah Hewins present to discuss the budget. Added the third year of the three year phase in. Adding 2.5 additional hours a week for the clerical salary to be the recording secretary for the Commission. John Cotter questioned if the Planning secretary shared job responsibilities. Sarah explained that each department has specific needs that each clerical staff is trained for. David spoke about the needs of the minutes in regards to the technicality and the time constraints. He doesn't feel they can get a transcriptionist at the rate they are currently paying and entrusting the legal ramifications are being met.

**Treasurer/Tax Collector**

Franey recused himself from the Board to speak as his position as Treasurer/Tax Collector.

He included overtime for pay in the event it is needed for the staff to process bills/payroll. An increase of 2% was added to postage as well as a request for one new position for 15 hours a week. Judy Fitzgerald questioned the cost of the Zobrio system. Jack stated it was about \$3,500/year. John Cotter questioned going bi-weekly on the ADP system. He suggested the possibility of implementing that on July 1, 2013. John Cotter questioned the new position and what type of qualifications would be required. He stated it would require an Associates Degree. He questioned the posting of the Zobrio system and getting the receipts in 'real' time. He questioned where he was on cash postings and reconciliations. Jack stated that he was at the end of January for cash and all but three are up to date

for reconciliations. John questioned \$108,000+ in municipal liens. Jack stated he didn't think that number was correct. He stated if fees were increased, it could help close the gap. Stephanie Clougherty questioned if hiring a part time position would eliminate the need to hire a consultant to keep the books up to date. She questioned if there was a plan to drive people to use the online payment system instead of paying employees overtime for residents to pay taxes. She suggested putting the bill payment information on the website. Marrone questioned need for overtime hours during the holidays.

He noted that the payroll coordinator came in on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to process the payroll this year.

O'Donnell questioned how the town was doing on tax collections. Jack will need to check the number, but feels it is the same every year and people try to pay their taxes. He estimates approx. 60 residents and businesses that are in tax title.

### **Inspections**

Rick LaFond spoke on behalf of the department. He has reviewed the applicants and certifications and hopes to fill the Inspector position in the next few weeks.

He reviewed the salary in regards to the wage and classification plan. He also reviewed the expenses. John Cotter questioned if there were any repercussions on cutting the position in regards to the amount of permits. Rick explained that the number of permits doesn't relate to the number of zoning complaints in regards to the amount of time is needed for the inspector. The interim commissioner is concerned with the zoning issues falling by the wayside.

### **Town Accountant**

Rick LaFond spoke on behalf of the department. There was a search that had to be re-advertised for the Town Accountant. He is hoping to make progress in a reasonable amount of time.

The salary level will be maintained less longevity. The expenses have increased in seminar and training by \$3,000 for certifications. John Cotter commented that Lynn Callbeck has been doing a tremendous job. Franey re-iterated Cotter's comments that Lynn deserves kudos for keeping up the department under the circumstances and she is well-regarded by the department heads. Hewins also thanked Lynn for all the work she has been doing. Ward commented that she has been working hard to keep up her schedule. Marrone would like to see her take the position, and thanks her for her dedication. O'Donnell re-iterated Marrone's regards.

### **Data Processing**

Rick Lafond spoke on behalf of the department. A lot of the services are contractual due to maintenance, operating supplies such as paper and toner and computer/server systems and supplies. Other purchased services is for the cash management system of the Treasurer mostly because we are a beta site as the full price will kick in next fiscal year. We also are in need of technical help. We have been given direct technical support by the school for several years. Services for the school IT staff would be \$7,500, as to revert from needing a full –time technical support. John Cotter questioned if the costs included online updates as well. He also questioned if the IT director was needed, besides trouble shooting, what other IT needs are there. Rick did not feel he could give a proficient answer as the Town Accountant handled virtually all of the IT problems that arose.

### **Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator**

Rick LaFond spoke on the salary items. Expenses are all kept the same.

**Approval of minutes of January 8 & January 22, 2013**

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

**Citizens Participation:**

James O'Brien: would like to express a complaint about the construction going on in his neighborhood that is disrupting his daily life. The Selectmen & Town Administrator feel this could be an open meeting law violations and would like to help James. LaFond feels the town will do everything they can to help alleviate the problem outside of the meeting. James feels his community is not being represented by the Board and would like all the residents to know about this before the constructions ends. Ward asked James to explain the problem so it can put on the next meeting agenda. He stated that the construction of the solar field is disrupting the lives of the entire neighborhood. They were told their property values probably would not be affected. He feels that his neighbor's yard has been greatly affected. He would like to see people in the town on their side. He would like something done now before it affects other communities in the town.

Michelle Cohen: Feels the residents can't go up against a big company because the neighborhood can't do it by themselves. She feels that the Board was elected to speak for them and she doesn't feel that is happening.

Elizabeth Frazier (Middleboro resident); The construction is happening in front of her house & it is effecting her children in terms of quality of life. She knows she doesn't have a vote and will contact Middleboro officials as well.

Kristen McGurthy: She stated she has the children with the disabilities. She stated that the solar array is larger than the one on Route 44 and is concerned about the noise. She feels adequate studies were not done on the arrays that are already installed in other towns and lawsuits are in action about this.

Marrone will support and be a voice for this community and feels that horrible injustices have been done.

O'Donnell suggested getting a cease and desist order. Lafond stated he will find out from town counsel what remedies are available.

O'Donnell suggested setting up a special meeting on Monday April 1. Motion by Ward to schedule a special meeting on Monday April 1 at 7:00pm. Second by Marrone. The residents would like the solar panel company notified of the meeting as well. Vote 5-0.

**Town Administrator Notes:**

There is a meeting Monday April 1 at 4:00 pm regarding the Business and Economic Advisory Council.

**Selectmen Notes:**

Franey – Wished everyone a Happy Easter

Hewins– Wished everyone a Happy Easter

Ward – Wished everyone a Happy Easter

O'Donnell – Wished everyone a Happy Easter and asked that everyone keep the service men & women in their thoughts and prayers. He mentioned the fundraiser at Memorial Hall for a neighbor Amy Mayberry. Tickets are \$25 and the bills are piling up.

Marrone –Would like to encourage the public to attend the Boy Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Motion to adjourn at 9:20pm and into Executive Session, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Roll Call Vote:

Franey: I

O'Donnell: I

Ward: I

Marrone: I

Hewins: recused herself from executive session.