

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of March 12, 2013
Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 7:00pm

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

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

Thomas D'Eramo dba Tom's Auto Service request for name change: Tom D'Eramo stated that the current name on the license is Jason D'Eramo and Thomas D'Eramo dba Tom's Auto Service. He stated that the reason for the request is due to an issue with the registration of the dealer plate. Motion by Franey to approve the change, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Stephanie Clougherty to the Carver Cultural Council : Clougherty stated that she has lived in town for 8 years and is interested in helping to enrich the culture of the citizens in the community. She also stated that this will not be a conflict with her appointment on the Finance Committee as the council does not have a budget. Motion by Ward to appoint Stephanie to the Carver Cultural Council, second by Franey. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of James Grimes to the Audit Committee: O'Donnell stated that Mr. Grimes could not be present tonight and asked to table until next meeting. Motion by Franey, second by Marrone to table until the next meeting. Vote 5-0.

Statement of Interest for MSBA: School Committee members were present.

Motion by Franey to authorize the Superintendent to submit the Statement of Interest to the MSBA, second by Marrone.

The Selectmen read the school committee handout listing of 7 priorities of the deficiencies in the application.

Lance Kennedy, School Committee Chairman, called the School Committee meeting to order at 7:15.

Sorrell read and explained the handout "Talking Points" regarding the Statement of Interest. She stated that the School Committee has already approved the submitting of the Statement of Interest with a 5-0 unanimous vote.

Kennedy stated that they are treating this like a brand new project and are going through the process over again which encourages the community to get involved.

Franey acknowledged the time and hard work Superintendent Sorrell put into the Statement of Interest. Sorrell will post online by the end of the week on the school website.

Marrone thanked the School Committee and Pat Meagher for meeting with her about the process.

O'Donnell and Hewins also thanked all the parties involved.

Roll call vote: Franey, Hewins, Ward, Marrone & O'Donnell all in favor. Vote 5-0.

Motion by Paula Kibbe to adjourn the School Committee meeting, second by Kennedy. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Edward James as the Plymouth Airport Commission Representative: Motion by Franey to appoint Edward James as the Plymouth Airport Commission representative, second by Ward. Vote 4-0-1 (Marrone abstained)

Request to allow Crystal Lake to develop a community garden: Motion by Franey to approve the request to allow Crystal Lake residents to develop a community garden, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Request to use Sampson's Pond by R.I. Castaways/R.I. Bass Federation for a fishing tournament on September 29, 2013. Motion by Franey to approve the fishing tournament permit at Sampson's Pond on September 29, 2013, second by Marrone. Vote 5-0.

CPA Tax Reduction from 3% to 1% - vote to put on ballot. Franey read the handout from Kopelman & Paige regarding the parameters for going about getting a vote on this issue. Franey stated that he will do a citizen's petition if he can get the signatures by the deadline given by the Town Clerk of March 18, 2013. Motion by Ward to table this issue, second by Franey. LaFond will look into if this could go on a regular town election or if it needs to be on the town meeting warrant. Vote 5-0.

Municipal Health Insurance LaFond read from his handout CHAPTER 32B MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGES. Section 23 allows transfers into the plan if it is at least 5% savings. He explained that it tends to be difficult to get town-wide collective bargaining units on board to change.

Insurance Advisory meeting is scheduled for March 19th.

Hewins recused herself from the discussion and possible vote as it relates to her position held in the town.

Motion by Marrone that the town elect to engage in the process to review and possibly change health insurance benefits under M.G.L c. 23B, Sections 21-23, second by Ward.

Franey stated is hesitance to move forward with the vote until the Insurance Advisory Committee meets.

Vote 3-1-0 (Franey opposed, Hewins had recused herself)

Municipal Health Insurance Independent Consultant for comparative cost analysis Gateway vs. Other Comparative Plans Motion by Franey to approve, Marrone second.

LaFond stated that we already have an independent consultant in the Gateway Health Group. Each year the cost structures have to be outlined via state laws. The GIC look-alike plans will save Carver approximately 5.8%. The town must demonstrate that it can save an additional 5% over and above what a town can save on its own. He stated that there is not enough savings, if any, to implement this standard, because of the bargaining ramifications of the unions, it would be inappropriate to give an opinion of what he predicts the savings would be. He stated that he believed that there is little point in hiring a third party because GIC has not set its rates for next year. He also pointed out that under the GIC plan retirees can't pay more than 15% of the contribution rate which would be an increase in Carver of 10%. The January 1 deadline of notification of eligibility to join on July 1 has passed. He would like to set up a meeting for the Board with our own health insurance underwriter to discuss and answer questions before spending money on another one.

Marrone and Franey questioned the role of the independent consultant on the Gateway Health Plan. Marrone stated it may be difficult to present a fair assessment when a person is so closely involved with the group. Pat Meagher, Asst. Supt of Schools and Chairman of the Gateway Health Group addressed the question of the validity of the independent consultant stating that he does not get compensated by the Health Groups. He gets compensated by a percentage of the Stop Loss policy which goes out to bid every year. He gets no incentive regardless of which direction the Health Group goes in. Meagher stated that GHG rates have been lower than the group we left in seven of the eight years since we formed the group. He stated that Carver alone has had cost avoidance thru the years of about \$3 million and the Gateway group of 7 members has had a cost avoidance of \$10 - \$12 million.

Marrone feels that it is prudent to review and/or change vendor relationships every few years. Marrone shared an example of her company's auditing firm rotating auditors so there was always new auditors reviewing the company's performance.

O'Donnell stated that several companies were contacted and many had a conflict of interest. There is one company that would do it for \$4,500.

LaFond asked who contacted companies and O'Donnell responded that it was Town Building Study Committee member Steve Pratt.

Ward questioned the timeline. He would like the current independent consultant to come to the next meeting.

LaFond stated his concern that nobody took the time or professional courtesy to speak to him as Town Administrator or Pat Meagher about the issue.

Hewins recused herself from the vote.

O'Donnell stated that the Chairman of the Finance Committee endorsed this request. He was not sure of the name of the company. Steve Pratt had given him the name.

Franey suggested a reserve fund transfer and Town Administrator LaFond suggested that the Board ask him as Town Administrator where funding may be available. LaFond suggested that there may be some funds available in the current health insurance line item and asked for advance notice on issues like this.

Motion by Marrone to spend up to \$5,000 from the health insurance line item for an independent consultant to conduct a comparative cost analysis and following the appropriate state procurement laws. Second by Franey. Vote 4-0 (Hewins had recused herself).

Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2013: Motion to table the minutes of January 8, 2013 by Franey, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

Citizens Participation: No Citizens participated in discussion

Town Administrator Notes: Wanted to advertise the new website BUYCARVER.COM.

Selectmen Notes:

Franey – Council on Aging St. Patrick’s Day event at the Council on Aging on March 14th. There are still tickets available.

Hewins– Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day

Ward – Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day

O’Donnell – Wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day and asked that everyone keep the service men & women in their thoughts and prayers.

Marrone –Would like to acknowledge Shaw’s Supermarket for their participation in the food pantry donations. Would like prayers to go out to the young man in Plymouth who passed away suddenly from a peanut allergy.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm 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.

4-0-1 Roll Call Vote (Hewins Recused herself).