

Minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting of March 16, 2015
Town Hall – Meeting Room #1 6:30pm

Meeting called to order 6:32pm

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

Motion to go to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions 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.

Roll call: Dunham, Hewins, Ward, Clarke, Marrone
Hewins and Ward recused themselves.

7:34 Motion to return to Open Session by Dunham. Marrone 2nd.

Roll Call: Dunham, Hewins, Ward, Clarke, Marrone

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

Chairman acknowledged the passing of resident Dan Grimes, wished former Selectmen Jack Franey improved health and reviewed the items on the Agenda.

Public Comment

Steve Pratt, Weston Street, expressed appreciation for the openness of the School Building Committee process. He expressed concern regarding the site selection of the new elementary school.

Discussion and vote to approve Elementary School Building Committee's site recommendation.

Jon DelliPriscoli, Dave Siedentopf and Heather Sepulveda from the committee present.

DelliPriscoli stated the Committee unanimously approved a new construction at the existing site after reviewing all (4) proposed scenarios. Committee feels it is the most cost effective. A new school is expensive and the cost increases every day. Philosophically the new school will bolster the Town economy. Carver has wonderful teachers and a wonderful curriculum, they need an updated facility. The Committee appreciated Pratt's contributions. A renovation equals an open checkbook to contractors, with a new construction costs are relatively fixed. Two key reasons for not selecting South Meadow/Pond Street: septic would need major upgrade of approximately \$1.5 million and the soil was deemed unsuitable which would result in increased site work and costs. Route 58 will not interrupt existing programming and only requires minor adjustment to the well. Existing building would be demolished after completion, materials would be pulverized and used as gravel; steel would be scrapped.

Clarke questioned if will new design includes sufficient parking. Siedentopf stated preliminary plans will double parking, but cannot guarantee there will not be overflow for major school events.

Marrone asked for averification on cost. Milanoski stated approximately \$58 million all in. Town's share under \$30 million. Dunham –stated that we will not know real numbers until job goes out to bid. OPM and Architect estimates are being used as guidelines.

Hewins questioned when will we know the reimbursement rate. Milanoski stated that we are hoping to get 60%.

Clarke stated that the Police Chief prefers (2) separate facilities from a security stand point.

Chief Dumphily stated Separate campuses are preferred, as on larger campus could create evacuation concerns during emergency situations.

Siedentopf stated that all locations were fully vetted. This new construction would require lowest long term maintenance, not just original cost.

Motion to approve Elementary School Building Committee's site recommendation for construction of a new elementary school based on the prerequisite study and independent third party analysis by Hewins. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous.

Fire Station Building Committee request to approve funding plan

Harriman, Chief Weston and Deli Priscoli present.

Harriman introduced all Committee members in the audience, distributed and reviewed Timeline and Financial Plan for project. Committee has voted unanimously on design and funding plan. Design is at 60% today, bids expected by mid-summer. Abutters have been notified. Conservation and Planning are on board. Due to uncalculated escalation of project costs additional funds are needed. Harriman reviewed numerous changes made to try to stay within budget.

Harriman stated that no more cuts can be made. The Committee wants to present an open and honest assessment.

Chief Weston reviewed layout of proposed building.

Clarke questioned if other Towns will continue to utilize our training facilities. Weston stated Yes. It is good for us to work with neighboring communities. The facilities will be consolidated, but better.

Marrone questioned the company that missed the escalation costs, will we see any compensation? Milanoski stated the Town paid \$13,000 for design and cost estimates, this is not a lot of money. "You get what you pay for." Weston – regarding escalation costs stated that we were in a 'flat economy' at the time. There are 75 employees, there is currently no male and female separation. Our health and safety program is a priority. We have had only

one WC claim in 20 years & it would be a disservice to cut programs. Every effort has been made to ensure there is no additional cost to tax payers.

Motion to approve re-allocating of funds as outlined for Fire Station Project by Clarke. Hewins 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Administrator Update

Discussion on 10 year Capital Plan

Reviewed via Power Point, estimated expenditures of \$7,293,000. Will be specified in more detail for ATM Article.

Discussion on Town Department Budgets

Dunham - concerned regarding School Budget. Clarke - they are working on eliminating difference to meet proposed budget.

Update on MIIA seminar for Town employees

Communication skills for working effectively with others

Status update on Town Hall Website Committee

No concerns or recommendation after last meeting, moving forward with Virtual Town Hall

Status update on Draft Town Meeting Warrant

Still being worked on

Status update on FY15 Snow and Ice Budget to date

\$350,000 over allocation, establishing funding plan which will be ready for next meeting

Selectmen Comment Period

Hewins –YPAC re-opening on March 27th at new location. Regarding the increased cost of the new school, it is unfortunate we couldn't get it sooner, but we need to get now.

Clarke – received notification from Public Relations at Shaw's in response to letter sent expressing concerns on behalf of the Selectmen regarding the removal of the bin for the Food Pantry. The food bin has been reinstated.

Marrone – spoke with Shaw's manager regarding Food Pantry, this is a good thing. Residents should speak up and show support. Mobilizing the Community meeting scheduled for March 19th at Middle High School, encourages members of the community to attend. This is not a school group, but a community group.

Dunham – Town Meeting scheduled for April 13th. Warrant needs approval to meet required seven day notification. Need to allow time for printing. Should meeting be added? Milanoski – only required to post a few copies at that time. Proposed adding meeting on March 30, possibly one other before, if deemed necessary. Also happy to have Food Pantry collection

barrel out again. Thanked the Department Heads for hard work preparing for Saturday budget meeting. Encourages residents to watch on CHAT

Ward – Council on Aging St Patrick’s Day dinner tomorrow.

Discussion and vote to request School Committee investigate why a citizen group was denied from meeting in school for public discussion.

Marrone – Requested use of the school auditorium for a forum to educate parents on the different views of Common Core and PARCC testing. Filled out application on-line, followed-up and advised by Facilities Coordinator would be approved. Later received an electronic e-mail advising my request had been denied. Inconsistent with School Committee Policies and she would like a letter drafted from Chairman requesting specific reason for denial.

Approval of meeting minutes for March 3, 2015

Motion to approve by Clarke. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous

MS Bike Ride

Motion to approve subject to same terms and conditions of previous event by Clarke. Dunham 2nd. Unanimous.

Appointment to Board of Registrars

Motion to appoint Nancy Magnussen to the Board of Registrars for a term of three (3) years by Dunham. Hewins 2nd. Unanimous.

Public Comments

Robert Belbin, questioned how School Committee should be allowed to limit Town Administrators comment/contribution as he is the speaker for the Town. By-laws allow him to attend and speak.

Ward – suggested Belbin address question directly to School Committee as a resident.

Dunham – during Public Comment Period, any citizen may voice concerns.

Belbin – will do so, if his schedule allowed him to attend next appointment. Belbin also had concerns regarding the future demolition of the existing Elementary School. Second: ZBA posted a Public Hearing as a continuance, Chairman refused to allow Belbin to speak claiming meeting was Administrative. Chairman summarized case, solicited comments from applicant and Board members.

Milanoski – spoke with Town Counsel.

Ward – Selectmen will follow-up on the matter.

Next meeting March 30th at 6:30pm to start with Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 10:08pm by Dunham. Hewins 2nd. Unanimous