

Carver Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Carver Town Hall, 2nd Floor
January 3, 2017 7:00pm

In Attendance: Chairman Ronald Clarke, Vice-Chairman Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Town Administrator Milanoski (TA) & Elaine Weston

Absent: Helen Marrone, Dave Robertson

Chair led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the community prayer.

Citizen Participation: None

SRPEDD energy aggregation: John O'Rourke of Good Energy gave a program update. Aggregation is a good option for when electricity costs rise due to supply constraints and regulated utility purchasing. Buying electricity strategically in bulk through a responsible program is a viable solution. This aggregation is the largest community in Massachusetts, and the third largest buying group in the country. Municipal Energy Aggregation is authorized by MGL CH 164, Section 134(a). In the first six months of the aggregation this was significantly lower than the Eversource supplier rate. The next rate change had this slightly higher than the Eversource rate and now they are slightly lower than the Eversource rate. The next rate change is in July and is expected to be close to \$0.02 lower than Eversource rates. The cumulative savings through residential accounts from January 2016 through September was \$51,680. The term for this aggregation ends in January of next year. Good Energy will start watching the market for buying opportunities from March 2017. Dunham questioned how a resident can tell if they are still on the program. The bill will state the name of the supplier as Con Ed Solution if they are in the aggregation. Those that opted out have to wait until January of next year to get back into the aggregation at the negotiated rate. Hewins questioned where the energy is being purchased from. John stated that each quarter Good Energy has a listing where all of the energy is coming from on their website. It is required that 12% of energy must be renewable energy. Currently 45% is being generated by natural gas. Clarke questioned what would be involved if there were optional rates in order to have more renewable energy. John stated that they have payment models in place to accommodate different rate options which would be in the customer notification letter: opt out, standard option, and more green option.

Town Administrator Update:

Draft FY 18 Operating Budget: The budget is balanced with the exception of approx. \$12,000 to be re-allocated which should be done by the end of the week. This is a level service budget, with no cuts in the budget. There are two staffing changes that will be adjusted; the Assistant Deputy Fire Chief and a part-time custodian for the Council on Aging has retired. That funding will go to the DPW and be fully-funded to continue to service the Council on Aging as well as the new Fire Station and other needs of the Town. DPW will be changing the way it budgets its expenses so it can better track the actual needs. The non-union employees have not received

any COLA increase for 9 years. Last year a one-time 2% payment was approved that was not built into the salary base. This year there will be a recommendation for a 2% COLA increase. Based on recommendations from the Finance Director and Assessing, the Assessing Finance Assistant is recommended to be kept as part-time. Clarke questioned the Health Agent position. TA stated that currently the department is adequate with a part-time Health Agent. Hewins questioned the status of the part-time Conservation Agent. TA stated that currently that department is working sufficiently.

Update on Urban Renewal Public Hearing on January 5: The Urban Renewal Plan was approved unanimously by the Carver Redevelopment Authority and the Carver Planning Board. This is consistent with the Town Master Plan and Survey. The one property has been taken out and it looks like everything is all set for the hearing on Thursday. Will Sinclair will be presenting the Plan as well as Marlene, the Director of Planning.

94 Forest St: Tabled

Update on Elementary School: The first payment will be released as the schedule has been released and approved by our Project Manager and Architect. The foundation has been started, the well closest to Route 58 has been de-commissioned and weather is cooperating and the work will continue until the weather does not cooperate.

Update on Fire Station: Tentative opening for January 15. Dispatch will remain in the old station until February 15 as the State 911 system is being upgraded and no services will be impacted this way. The building is substantially complete and there is a punch list left which should be completed by the spring. It is anticipated that money from this project will be turned back to the Town.

Misc:

MMA Annual Meeting: Jan 20 & 21 in Boston.

BOS to return pagers to Tom Walsh

Paula Nute passed the Treasurer's Exam and is now dually certified as a Collector in the State & is now a Collector & Treasurer.

TA to assign a Records Access Officers: The Police, Fire & EMS Chiefs will be assigned for their departments and the Town Clerk for the Town. She will be asked to come in periodically to give an update to the Board. This will give an idea of the types of requests that are being requested (residents vs. data mining for private business).

The draft audit should be released in the next week or so and will be asked to come in at a future meeting to present their findings to the Board.

Policies need to be established as it relates to overdue taxes to make sure the taxes don't exceed the valuation of the property.

Board of Selectmen Update

Hewins: Questioned new street lights on Main St. & Meadowbrook Way-can they be dimmed or turned off. Thanked the Patriot Riders for donating supplies to the Shane Gives Thanks Food Pantry.

Dunham: Read a letter from a resident in regards to restrictions on drones. Suggested looking into if other communities have restrictions. Reminded everyone to donate to the food pantry. Thanked the Police Union for the stuff a cruiser campaign.

Clarke: School Committee joint meeting next Thursday. Capital Outlay began meeting and will start looking at the requests. He will recommend that Dunham chair the meeting for the Urban Renewal Plan on Thursday.

Committee Handbook: Motion to approve the Committee Handbook with amendments by Dunham, second by Hewins. Vote 3-0.

Lakeville Animal Shelter Agreement: Motion to approve The Lakeville Animal Shelter Agreement by Hewins, second by Dunham. Vote 3-0.

Comcast Cable license expiration 10/13/19: Chair stated it would consider looking at alternative providers, although, it is not economically effective given the large amount of land that spans the town that would need to be wired, which is why it has not changed in the past.

The Cable Advisory Committee may need to be re-established for the next round of negotiations.

Update on Tax Bill Insert: The tax bill has gone out with the insert – it is possible that some inserts were not received by a small portion of residents, but the vast majority has received the insert. In order to avert this in the future, a colored insert will be used in the future.

Unforeseen 48 hours in advance of meeting: Donation of scarves to hang at Town locations:

Approval of Minutes of 12/20/16: Motion to approve minutes by Dunham, second by Hewins. Vote 3-0.

Next Meetings: 1/5/17: Public Hearing on Urban Renewal Project, 1/12/17: Joint meeting with School Committee, 1/17/17: Board of Selectmen Meeting

Move to adjourn at 8:35pm.

No Executive Session Held