

Carver Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Carver Town Hall, 2nd Floor
January 16, 2018 - 7:00pm

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

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

Citizens Participation:

Bob Belbin: He made several Public Records Requests on Town Owned Properties & status of taxes owed. Would like the Town to look into these properties. There is also land that Plymouth owns in Carver and was wondering if they pay us taxes. TA stated that the Town has a TOPS committee and reviews these properties and the Tax Collector reviews land of low values with outstanding taxes and this revenue is not recurring.

Recognition of Laicey Ieronimo: The Board recognized Laicey Ieronimo with a certificate for her community efforts to help patients at Boston's Children's Hospital by getting donations for gifts. Laicey stated that she wanted to do something to help so she researched, found that she could donate to the hospital, obtained a list of items and asked classmates for donations as well as on social media. She was able to make 60 gift bags for all age groups for male and female patients. Her teacher Ms. Haan allowed her to store the donations in her classroom. The Board commended her for her accomplishment and presented her with a certificate.

Carver Fire Department Company 1, 2 & 3 Officer Swearing-In & Pinning Ceremony. New Officers from each station as well as the Assistant Dive Master were sworn-in by the Town Clerk and pinned by a family member. Each serves a three year term. These officers include: Capt. Frank Nye, Lt. Austin White, Lt. Danny Wilcox, Lt. Sean Bogart, Lt. Geoffrey Thomas & Assistant Dive Master John O'Connell.

FY 17 Audit Presentation from Powers & Sullivan: Rich Sullivan present. The principle objective is to express the opinion of the Town's compliance with provisions of Uniform Guidance with respect to federal grants. The audit was performed in accordance with Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the USA and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards.

The unmodified opinion is the highest level of opinion possible to receive and one that the Town strives for. There were no deficiencies or material weaknesses found. The general fund is a \$42.7 million budget. Revenues exceeded budget by \$1.3 million. Expenditures and encumbrances were under budget by \$507,000. The General Fund balance was \$8.4 million including the stabilization funds and the General Fund balance was 19.04% of expenditures. Budgeted \$2.9 million in Free Cash which was used for several capital items, snow & ice, transfers to the Stabilization Fund, Unemployment Reserve, Health Insurance reserve.

Other Post Employment Benefits liability got better. The discount rate is 6.83% (it was 4.0%). The OPEB liability went down to \$38.5 million from \$41.4). GASB 74 implemented. Next year GASB 75 will be implemented which will put the \$38.5 million on the financial statements instead of in the footnotes.

There was no new long term debt in FY 2017. Most of the Capital Additions were for the Elementary School \$14.7, the Fire Station \$3.9 million, Several vehicles \$307,000 and Servers and Chrome Books \$395,000.

Marrone questioned GASB 75 – how will that impact the Town. Sullivan explained that the deficit listed will go up.

Standard & Poor wants to know how the debt will be attacked – the OPEB trust is a large positive when being looked at because it shows that the debts are being funded.

The Single Audit was a clean opinion, showed no audit findings. This audit includes changes implemented in fiscal year 2016 under 'Uniform Grant Guidance'

Town Administrator Update

Finance Committee members Bill Duggan & George Callahan joined the meeting at 8:00pm.

Update on Budget Meetings for FY19:

Fire Budget Presentation: Fire Chief Craig Weston: There are minimal increases for the contract salary including dispatchers, step increases. The average annual salary for a firefighter is \$1,400. The operating budget has increased by approximately \$3,000. The turnout gear is outdated and out of regulation standards. The Fire Department is working with a grant writer to try to receive a grant for this and if it is not successful, this will be put before the Town for funding. Dues and Memberships continue to increase as well. There will be \$40,000 for the Police and Fire Department to share to hire new Firefighters. This will help to purchase new turnout gear for 6 new Firefighters. The current operating budget is on track, but is tight. The biggest concern is the Fire Salary line item – this year the Town is 24% busier which is reflective in the account. There is a chance he may ask for a transfer from the Reserve Fund. Duggan asked about the life span of the tanker. The water tanker truck is 30 years old. Callahan asked if the Firefighters get an increase. Weston stated that last year there was a 1% increase and this year he is requesting 2%. The non-union wage scale is listed at a 2% increase. He has requested for the officers of Station 3 to spruce up the station. It was done with Station 2 at a cost to the Town of \$15,000 for materials. All services were done for free.

Clarke commended the Chief on the way the Department is run. Dunham commended the hard work and dedication of the Firefighters along with the training and leadership.

EMS Budget Presentation: EMS Chief Thomas Walsh: The system avoids the use of full-time personnel with per diem employees which avoids health care and fringe benefits costs. The Department has 43 highly trained emergency personnel. The Department is in compliance with

all State protocols. The department is able to provide exceptional care on a self-supporting model. The receipts were less than expenditures in FY 17. The budget is reflective of 8% increase of volume to anticipate call volume as well as to account for standard step increases.

Clarke commended Walsh and the department and asked Walsh to speak to the legislative scare. Walsh stated that all services are billing at 225% of Medicare which puts us in the middle of the state. The legislature that came out in 2017 that was supposed to save health costs, they were going to limit towns to bill 160% to Medicare which is money he would have come back to the Town for. Walsh stated that he and the TA contacted several agencies to help to get the legislature knocked down.

Walsh stated that Deputy Chief Mike Ryan does all of the quality assurance.

Dunham stated that this is a free service because it is not part of the tax base.

Walsh stated he is basing the budget on a 3% increase to be competitive with other towns so he doesn't lose paramedics to other towns.

Callahan questioned if he worked with the EMT school in Carver. Walsh stated he likes to hire EMT's with experience. The exception would be if they are a resident in Carver.

Finance Committee members Bill Duggan & George Callahan left the meeting at 8:45pm.

Application for Common Victualler License: Chan & Guan, LLC dba Little Kitchen which is looking to take over the Yummy House Sun 12-9, Mon closed Tue-Fri 11-9, Sat. 11-10 with take-out and delivery in Carver. They are looking to open in approximately two weeks.

Motion to approve license by Clarke, second by Marrone. **Vote** 5-0

Chapter 61-A – Carver Middleboro Cranberry Co., Inc.: 42 Fuller St. Map 50, Lot 1. Looking for change of use for solar panels. The plan has been approved by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board. There does not appear to be any abutter issues.

Motion to not exercise the option to purchase the lot by Clarke, second by Marrone. **Vote** 4-0. Hewins recused herself from the vote.

Capital Building Project Updates

Elementary School: This project is running on time and on budget

Middle High School: Project almost completed and on budget

Sports Complex at MHS: New budget, the CPC will be funding most of it and costs are still being evaluated which will include an artificial turf field. Looking to have a public hearing February 1.

COA Update on Community Center: The chairman of the committee has passed away and they are in the process of reorganizing the committee.

Police Strategic Plan: Looking to get feedback from consultants at the next meeting if they are available to attend and the next step is to move forward with a building committee.

Carver Marion Wareham Regional Refuse District Update: Dave Robertson was present for the last meeting. The Committee has directed that no bills will be paid without their direct involvement and the three Town Managers will direct the day to day activity on the operations.

Board of Selectmen Update:

Robertson: The Girl Scouts were recognized at the headquarters for their achievements and their pictures are on the wall there. During the last storm, the preparation by the emergency departments kept residents at ease. Several residents made a point of letting him know that.

Hewins: Was going to request revisiting the Capital Plan for the projects coming up and would like to get all the parties involved in the projects together in the same room and to also determine prioritization.

Dunham stated that each project is in a different phase so it is not a matter of choosing which one goes first, unless it comes to a point when projects are further along and funding is being allocated.

Clarke stated that the Capital Outlay Committee will be reviewing these projects and a final vote will be taken on them.

Marrone: Acknowledged the passing of Paula Babbin who did so much for the Town and was an inspiration to her. She was a former Selectmen and will be sorely missed.

Clarke: Worked with Paula Babbin at the Council on Aging and was a force of nature and was the first woman elected as a Selectmen in Carver. He has so much respect for her and her service to the Town. His thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Dunham: Would like all Board members to complete the Town Administrator's annual performance evaluation and meet individually with the Town Administrator by March 1. The evaluations are to be turned into Elaine.

Establish Gift Account for donation of funds for renovating the roof of the bandstand in Shurtleff Park. Motion to approve account by Marrone, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Revised USDOT Zero Tolerance Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy. Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Robertson. Vote 5-0.

Appointment of Stephen Cole as the SRPEDD Selectmen's Representative. Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Hewins. Vote 4-0. (Marrone not present for vote)

Minutes/Licenses/Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman 48 hours in advance of meeting

Minutes of 11/28/17: Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Roberston. Vote 4 -0. (Marrone not present for vote)

Minutes of 12/19/17: Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Robertson. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Executive Session minutes for release. Motion to table by Clarke, second by Robertson. Vote 5-0.

Request for use of Shurtleff Park: Farmer's Market Sunday's June 10 – Oct. 28 10am – 6pm. Motion to approve by Clarke, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Next Meeting: 2/6

Motion to adjourn at 9:30 pm by Clarke to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with Police Union 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, second by Marrone. Roll Call: affirmative- Robertson, Hewins, Marrone, Clarke & Dunham.

Vote 5-0.

Motion to adjourn at 10:00pm by Clarke, second by Robertson. Vote 5-0.