

Carver Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Joint meeting with Finance Committee  
Carver Town Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
March 5, 2019 - 7:00pm

In Attendance: Board of Selectmen – Chairman Ronald Clarke, Sarah Hewins, Mark Townsend, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski & Elaine Weston

Absent: Alan Dunham and Dave Robertson

In attendance for Finance Committee: Chair Alan Germain, Vice-Chair Kate Bandzul, Bill Duggan, John Cotter, George Callahan & Beth Sulger.

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

**Citizens Participation:** Adam Holmes in regards to the Field Use Policy passed by the School Committee, asked if it could come before the recreation committee before the Selectmen consider it.

**Troop 48 Eagle Scout Projects:** Ben & Alex Diogenes presented their Eagle Scout projects. Ben will work on improvements of John's Pond and Alex will work on building a recreational area behind the Council on Aging.

Ben will be removing debris & trash, install picnic tables as well as replacing signs. The budget is approximately \$1,781 and will be doing fundraising. Conservation has approved the project.

Alex will build two horseshoe pits and a bocce ball court, with six foot paths in between each and possibly the addition of benches. The Council on Aging has approved the project.

Motion to approve subject to receiving all appropriate permissions by Hewins, second by Townsend. Vote 3-0.

**Class II Hearing:** Continued from 2/19/19 - Tony Lombardo d/b/a Scrub-It Car Wash: Looking to store 5 cars behind the car wash tunnel and do internet sales. Conservation was consulted and storage would be well beyond the 100' wetland setback. Motion to approve Class II license with a 5 car storage restriction and no repairs to be done on site & all proper permits must be obtained by Townsend, second by Hewins.

**Presentation of School Committee Budget:** Superintendent Scott Knief and Chief Operations and Finance Officer Brad Brothers presented the School budget. Brad explained the different costs the school needs to take into consideration. Leadership and administration costs include all school committee and central office expenses. Instructional Services includes curriculum, technology equipment and licenses, principal, teachers and guidance expenses. There is a need next fiscal year for a .3 pre-K teacher. Other services costs include transportation, health and athletic expenses, special education services and homeless transportation. Operational costs include utilities, buildings and grounds expenses. Fixed charges include retirement

contributions, health, life and other insurances. It is anticipated that health care costs will increase by 9%. Out of district programs include special, vocational and collaborative education outside of the district.

School choice was approved for grades K, 6, 7, 8 & 9 by the School Committee for the upcoming school year. There are currently 8 students that reside in Carver and utilize the school choice option. There are currently 36 children in Carver utilizing school choice. There is a flat cost of \$5,000 per student to attend Carver and for Carver students to attend other schools. Cotter questioned if there was a declining population. Knief stated that this year we are up 32 students.

Carver is losing \$624,000 to charter schools from state funding. Reserve accounts are utilized for special education, utilities and health care. These accounts have been crucial in helping budgeting due to the unpredictability of changes that occur during the year.

The average step increase is 5% for teachers. 2/3 of teachers are in the top of end of the 11 step pay scale. Teacher salaries are 30-45% below state average. Tuition reimbursement is being increased by \$10,000.

The shortfall is \$234,985 along with the need for a tech engineer teacher salary of \$75,918 totaling \$310,903. The proposed reductions to meet the proposed budget includes reducing the Director of Literacy, MHS French teacher, MHS Special Ed teacher, .5 MHS art teacher and .5 speech and language assistant which would leave the deficit at \$36,827.

The impacts of the proposed reductions would include restructuring and reduction of reading services and curriculum oversight at the Elementary School, there are currently 3 reading specialists that currently serve 160 students and students in small groups daily at the Elementary School and it moves the school further away from the educational plan that was the foundation of the design of the new elementary school. This would also eliminate the French program at the MHS. A .5 speech and language assistant will also be eliminated.

**Presentation of Town Meeting Warrant:** Review of Article # 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 12

Town Administrator went through each item of each Article:

Article #3: Supplemental Appropriations

Article #4: Appropriations of Free Cash

Article #5: Town-wide budget

Article #6: Revolving Funds

Article #7: Capital Items

Article #8: Community Preservation Committee article for debt service to the MHS sports complex. There are 3 categories, historical, housing and open space which can be also considered recreational.

Article #9: Reallocation of funds for the Police Station-these are one time funds to complete the project.

Article #10: Old Colony Regional Voc. Tech. HS agreement

The rest of the articles still need to be amended by Town Counsel. The articles reviewed are all the financial articles.

Alan Germain spoke on the stretch energy code. The state building regulations have been updated to be similar to the stretch energy code. The Finance Committee looked at proposing the adoption of the stretch code. The benefit to it is the grant money and from the standpoint of the Building Commissioner, there are a lot more requirements. This would impact new construction. It was voted to advance to the Selectmen to put in the Town Meeting Warrant.

He also spoke about the Finance Committee working on creating a grant program for the petition articles which request money be given to charitable contributions. The grant program proposes to have a cap of \$25,000 and a cap of \$5,000 to each organization. Parameters for the funds would be that the agency would need to let the Committee know how much money was spent on residents of Carver. They are requiring that 75% go to residents of Carver. The Finance Committee is requesting that Town Meeting vote these articles down and approve the Finance Committee to institute the grant program. They feel this is a fair way to have oversight of the non-profit money begin given the organizations.

Finance Committee adjourned at 10:25pm. Motion to adjourn by George, second by Beth. Vote 6-0.

#### **Town Administrator Update:**

**Police Station and Recreation Complex update:** Community Preservation Committee met on 2/28 for public hearing with the Recreation Committee requesting \$600,000.

The Town received \$415,272 in Chapter 90 funds.

**Chapter 61A:** Request for intended conversion of use as a large-scale ground mounted photovoltaic installation: Silva Family Nominee Trust, 72 Center Street Map 70, Lots 1 and 1-5.

Motion to table to the March 19, 2019 meeting by Townsend, second by Hewins. Vote 3-0

**Town Meeting Date:** New Date of Annual Town Meeting to change to April 22 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Board of Selectmen Update**

**Hewins:** Would like to see departmental budgets broken down in detail and in large font

**Townsend:** Tomorrow is the last day to obtain nomination papers

**Clarke:** In two weeks the Town Meeting Warrant will be reviewed in detail

**Minutes/Licenses/Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:**

Motion to approve 2/19/19 minutes with amendments by Hewins, second by Townsend. Vote 3-0

Next meetings: 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4, 6/18, 7/2, 7/30, 8/6, 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19, 12/3, 12/17

Motion to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. by Townsend, second by Hewins. Vote 3-0