

MINUTES
Governance Committee
10/28/2014 @ 7:30am

Meeting called to order at 7:39am

Members Present: Chairman Stephen Gray, John Cotter, and Jim Grimes

Absent: Jack Angley

Staff: Michael Milanoski, Michele Doll

Approval of minutes from October 14th meeting

Motion to approve as amended by Cotter. Grimes 2nd. Unanimous.

Discussion relative to Carver Housing and South Shore Housing water and maintenance issues

Gray – advised that point of contamination was not located with camera submersion. Can the Town install new well at site? **Grimes** – has concerns regarding older (closed) well; may be potential contamination issue.

Hunter – engineer does not think option is a good one; may find same problems. NCWD has hired Comprehensive Engineering to provide options. **Gray** - requested Hunter provide suggestions on filtration and costs for other short term repairs at next scheduled meeting. **Hunter** – engineer does not recommend short term repair, other than continuing to flush system regularly. **Gray** – this is an emergency situation. Water is offensive and people should not be compelled to deal with it. Need definitive recommendations and costs for next meeting. Milanoski – this is a public water supply. The water is dirty, but technically clean by current DEP standards. **Grimes** – worth taking a look at engineering plans and finding closest water point. South Meadow Village? **Hunter** – Crystal Lake?

Discussion relative to roles of Committees and Boards in Town

Gray – would like to submit a report at Annual Town Meeting. Some committees are no longer necessary and can/should be discontinued. **Grimes** – needs to be addressed. **Gray** – forward request for status/activity. **Cotter** – Questions. Which Committees/Boards are really needed? Can we consolidate? Does the Committee/Board have any accountability?

Discussion relative to OPEB issues

OPEB Committee Chairman, Stephen Pratt in attendance for discussion. **Gray** – has the OPEB Committee come up with any specific recommendations? **Pratt** – nothing has been formally discussed. Currently looking at recent evaluations. Looking for a regional investment vehicle. The Town's unfunded liability has quadrupled and we cannot continue to pay as we go. **Gray** – would like to focus this discussion on medical needs vs. pension. **Cotter** – OPEB and FinCom have reviewed Longfellow Benefit report and sent it back for updated rate info. **Pratt** (issued formal disclosure regarding personal and professional affiliations) – feels Gateway has run its course; it's a small group and not able to keep rate increases down. GIC has an excess of 400,000 members; many cities and towns are joining; minimized need for rate increases. Good for urban areas. **Gray** – what are buy-in costs? **Milanoski** – reserves divided by members. Gateway provided good cost savings in the beginning, not very successful over the last several years. **Pratt** – Mayflower is in good financial situation. Personally feel it is a good fit. Almost all other Towns on South Shore in this group. **Cotter** – need to look at long term forecast. **Gray** – Do we have ballpark cost of buy-in? **Milanoski** – Carver only estimated buy-in at \$1.3 million; Gateway buy-in estimated at \$5.1 million. **Gray** – Can the Town finance buy-in? Milanoski – allowed 3 years. Mayflower does not have to accept us, and has turned groups away. **Gray** – Is there any bargaining power if Gateway makes the move as a whole? **Milanoski** – Tom O'Brien, Treasurer for Mayflower Group, has made financial reforms that Carver could benefit from. **Gray** – any negotiation on buy-in? **Milanoski** – everyone buys-in at equal share. Working with lawyers to establish by-law with guidelines on retirement eligibility to health benefits. Possibility to reduce liability by requiring commitment of participation upon departure from the Town. Will provide draft for next meeting.

Discussion relative to Town-wide IT Department for FY16

Milanoski - Actively being reviewed by BoS and School ad-hoc committee. Joint committee reviewing three areas of potential consolidation: Healthcare, IT and DPW. **Gray** - Governance involvement not necessary, at this time.

Motion to table by Cotter. Grimes 2nd. Unanimous.

Update on Budget Time Table

Milanoski – moved Review Forecast Allocation to Step 1.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 18th at 7:30am.

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 by Cotter. Grimes 2nd. Unanimous.