

MINUTES
Governance Committee
02/24/2015 @ 7:30am

Meeting called to order at 7:36am

Members Present: Chairman Stephen Gray, Jack Angley, and Jim Grimes

Absent: John Cotter

Staff: Michael Milanoski, Michele Doll

Guests: Connie Shaw, Donald McKeag, Alan Fergusen, James Philips

Approval of minutes from December 9th meeting

Tabled for discussion at next meeting.

Approval of minutes from January 6th meeting

Minutes were unavailable for review. Table for discussion at next meeting.

Discussion relative to operations of Building Department

Per Town Administrator, \$5000.00 has been added to the PEP Departmental budget for Inspections for FY16 at the request of the department head, Jack Hunter. Milanoski also noted additional hours/assistance would be available as of April 1st. **Gray** – questioned whether \$5,000.00 would be enough. **Milanoski** – This is the amount requested by the Department Head, and he knows what is needed. **Grimes** – is there a contingency if money runs out? **Milanoski** – Town Budget already maintains line item of \$28,000.00 for additional hours. **Gray** – It is very clear that the Building Commissioner needs additional assistance. **Milanoski** – need may not be year round.

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

Milanoski – Agreement is being reviewed by Town Counsel. South Shore Housing has already authorized expenditure. Carver Housing may require installments. Town monies have been set aside. **Gray** – will work begin after budget is passed? **Milanoski** – DEP is streamlining permits. System design has already been started. Canister has been received but needs recalibrating.

Discussion relative to Committees and Boards in Town

Gray inquired on previously discussed by-law change which would prohibit Town Administrator from appointing an unelected candidate to fill open position on an elected Board. **Milanoski** – review if Selectmen Policy would be more appropriate. By-laws cannot change, state statute would need change.

Connie Shaw, Donald McKeag and Alan Fergusen present to discuss duties as Marcus Atwood Trustees. Responsibility of Trustees is to maintain the historical integrity of the building, which has become difficult due to occupancy by Council on Aging as they have overtaken entire building. Also, conflicts have arisen regarding Trustees responsibility versus Building & Grounds Department responsibility. **Shaw** would like the living rooms and parlors kept historically accurate. Work needs to be done to the Nutrition Center. Rental fees from COA go to a maintenance account, but annual fees are limited. **McKeag** feels CPA contracted work has been subpar and a waste of money. Work is not being prioritized appropriately. CPA needs to be confronted on unnecessary and wasteful expenses. There is too much going on in the building, and the building cannot handle all the activity. **Milanoski** – CPA has sole authorization for administration of Grant funds. **Gray** – Trustees, Building & Grounds, CPA and Council on Aging need to meet to establish understanding on most productive and efficient operation. **Grimes** – establish a clean line of authority. Trustees cannot continue to

be ignored. **Milanoski** – a brief discussion during a Selectmen strategy meeting was had regarding the use of the current School Administration building as a Senior Center in the future.

Motion by Angley for a meeting to be convened by Town Administrator within the next 30 days, to include the CPA, Marcus Atwood Trustees, Building & Grounds Superintendent and COA Director to discuss issues arising regarding use and maintenance of the Marcus Atwood House.

James Philips, Carver Cultural Council Chairman, offered a brief overview of council activities. Cultural Council receives money from the Commonwealth, to be offered as grants to support the Arts locally. Town will not be eligible for funds if five (5) member council is not maintained.

Discussion relative to OPEB, and long/short healthcare options for premium cost share

Gray noted a case has been decided by Supreme Court in favor of Town of Somerville unilaterally reducing retired employees' health insurance premium contribution without engaging in Collective Bargaining with current employees. Currently retired employees now receive 75% Town contribution to healthcare, and amount may not sustainable. Need to allow time for transition. Any reduction in Town contribution should affect future retirees, not existing.

Discussion relative to FY16 Town and School Budget

Michael Milanoski, Town Administrator, offered an overview of discussions at recent School Committee meeting. The School Committee approved a budget increase of \$1.2 million which is about \$800,000.00 over proposed budget. Selectmen Dunham and Hewins spoke at the meeting explaining that Budget Policies were voted on at Town Meeting. **Grimes** – reasons for increase? **Milanoski** – 2% COLA, addition of (4) teachers and new textbooks and computers. Milanoski advised that he did get up to speak for about three minutes, even though the School Committee Chairman refused initially to acknowledge him.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th at 7:30am.

Motion to adjourn at 9:53by Angley. Grimes 2nd. Unanimous.