

**MINUTES**  
**Governance Committee**  
**03/24/2015 @ 7:40am**

Meeting called to order at 7:40am

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

Absent: n/a

Staff: Michael Milanoski, Lynn Doyle, Michele Doll

**Approval of minutes from March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting**

*Motion to approve as amended by Grimes. Angley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.*

**Discussion relative to Fiscal Management Policies for FY16 and budget timetable**

**Milanoski** – bylaw needed to memorialize budget process. Complete budget must be approved and submitted 30 days prior to Town Meeting. School Department has still not voted on FY16 budget, delay is impacting everything. There is not a much change in Town budget, annually. **Gray** – taken back by School Committee meeting immediately before Town Meeting. Board of Selectmen endorsed schedule, creating bylaw will encourage adhering to schedule. **Milanoski** – all Town Departments need to have final completed budget, voted on 30 days prior to Town Meeting. Copies should be printed and made available to voters. **Grimes** – All modifications should be subject to Town Meeting floor. **Gray** – in the event of extraordinary circumstances?

**Grimes** – could create a loophole to be taken advantage of. All changes should be subject to Town Meeting floor. **Cotter** – And what would be the penalty. There is a current bylaw regarding budget presentation to Finance Committee, which historically has not been upheld. **Grimes** – penalty is being subject to the voter questioning and expectation to explain why expense not foreseen and included with original submission. What about changes in state funding? **Milanoski** – any additional state funding would go in reserve funds. New policy requires we only give school what the Town can afford. State aid goes into budget. **Cotter** – what about grant monies? **Milanoski** – grant money goes directly to school.

*Motion by Grimes to support bylaw requiring all final departmental budgets be submitted thirty (30) days prior to Town Meeting, making any and all changes subject to the floor/voters. Cotter 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.*

**Discussion relative to operations of Building Department**

**Milanoski** – \$7500.00 added to budget for Assistant Inspector; coverage one day per week April through October and as needed for additional support. **Gray** – clerical support? **Milanoski** – the support is there, McNeil chooses to perform clerical duties personally. **Gray** – what happens in the event the department exceeds the amount allocated? **Milanoski** – line item with additional monies are available to all departments in Town Administrator budget. **Gray** – monies needed for remainder of FY15? **Milanoski** – available in town-wide account (TA budget). **Cotter** – is there a problem, reason not taking support from existing pool. **Milanoski** – no issues I'm aware of, doing work by choice.

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

**Milanoski** – canister has been shipped and is en route.

**Discussion relative to meeting among Marcus Atwood House Trustees, Council on Aging, CPC and DPW**

**Milanoski** – work in progress. Meeting will not be taking place until after Town Meeting.

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

**Milanoski** – Counsel in the process of drafting special legislature to correct errors in adopting previous Town Meeting Articles related to healthcare. Need to clear up errors before we can move forward. #1 Priority is for existing retirees to maintain current cost share rate.

### **Discussion relative to elected vs. appointed constables**

The Town currently has (3) elected Constables and (6) appointed Special Constables. Surveys of surrounding municipalities' shows many towns no longer have elected constables. The Town requires Constables to provide a Bond, should the Town cover this expense for the elected officials? What functions do the constables serve for the Town? **Angley** – previously constables were used to assist due to smaller police force. **Grimes** – used for zoning violations and evictions, in the past. **Gray** – most people use Sheriff's Department to serve papers these days. **Cotter** – Town should cover cost of bonding if elected.

Board will extend another invitation to elected constables to join discussions at next meeting.

### **Discussion relative to scheduling of Town Elections**

Town Clerk, Lynn Doyle, distributed copies and reviewed list of concerns regarding the proposed Dual Election for State and Town. Concerns discussed: scheduling, storage of ballots, staffing, differing voter eligibility laws, candidate participation, polling location practical concerns, increased costs and the overall integrity of the election. **Gray** – are you reluctant to change? **Doyle** – Not at all. I take the integrity of the election process very seriously. Convince me it can be more efficient, it is not a common practice. You can't assume every voter wants to vote both elections. Personally, reviewing new approaches to increase voter turn-out. **Milanoski** – these are legitimate concerns based on the laws of operation. **Gray** – can you get feedback from other towns that have November (Town) elections? **Doyle** – will look into it, not common practice. **Cotter** – If we keep it as is, we need to review how can we increase voter turnout? **Grimes** – this issue warrants further research.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30am.

*Motion to adjourn at 9:08 by Cotter. Angley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.*