

MINUTES
Governance Committee
04/02/2015

Meeting called to order at 7:36am

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

Absent: n/a

Staff: Michael Milanoski, Lynn Doyle, Michele Doll

Guests: Robert Belbin, Stephen Brack

Approval of minutes from March 24th meeting

Motion to approve by Grimes. Angley 2nd. Unanimous.

Discussion relative to Fiscal Management Policies for FY16 and budget timetable

Milanoski – School has voted to reduce budget by \$33,000.00. This is still higher than authorized by the Town and needs to be addressed. Article 11A of draft Warrant gives the existing by-law, which is continuously ignored some ‘teeth’. Selectmen will not consider review changes after deadline, and will not include on Warrant.

Motion by Cotter to support bylaw requiring final departmental budgets submitted to Finance Committee seventy-five (75) days prior to Town Meeting with Final Budget presented and voted on by the Selectmen for Town Warrant thirty (30) days before Town Meeting, additional appropriation requests will not be considered and all changes will require presentation on the floor at Town Meeting. Grimes 2nd. Unanimous.

Milanoski – counsel feels Article 11B of draft Warrant creates a liability for the Town and will not be allowed by the Attorney General. **Grimes** – suggested changing prohibited to dissuaded.

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

Milanoski – project is moving forward.

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

Milanoski – scheduled to meet with CPA Chair Robert Bentley on Monday.

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

Milanoski - Article 17 of draft Warrant. Town never voted to authorize Board of Selectmen expenditures 32B9A and 32B9E of the general laws in 1966. Working with unions to rectify. State Representative and Senator have been contacted. Town has NO legal obligation to pay any percentage of premium, since they never had the legal authority. Sec 1 – ratifies last 20 years. Sec 2 - The Town has a moral obligation to continue to pay rates retired upon for existing retirees. Sec 3 – Locks in existing employees at current contribution until retirement. The (voting) Selectman feel they have made a very fair offer while reducing the OPEB. If forced Selectmen could omit Sec 3. **Grimes** – everything is bargainable with the Union, omitting Sec 3 would be a serious threat. Sec 1 needs to be approved to protect the Town.

Discussion relative to elected vs. appointed constables

The Town currently has (3) elected Constables and (6) appointed Special Constables. Surveys conducted with surrounding towns. **Gray** – Does Carver need nine (9) constables? Research determined results from previously having a smaller Police Department, needs to be updated. The Plymouth County Sheriff’s office can and is used for services. **Stephen Brack**, elected Constable - agrees nine is excessive for Town. His services have not been requested on a regular basis. Personally has only served twice in Town during his term, although he has not solicited his services to the lawyer in Town. **Robert Belbin**, elected Constable – Police Department does not provide civil service. The elected process is much better for the Town, voters get to

choose who serves them. Has only served once during his term. Sheriff's Department fees are more expensive. Constables need to be appointed by each Town he/she wishes to work in. **Brack** – agrees with Belbin. Town supports elected, picked by residents who know the people. Changing to strictly appointed can become political. **Gray** – read aloud email correspondence from Gerald Farquharson, elected Constable. Elected constables have been inactive. Noted from personal experience that most lawyers use Sheriff's office, probably because they can serve any town in County. Impressed with the dedication of the elected officers, however feels this is a relic of a much earlier time in Town. Trusts that the Town Administrator would appoint the most qualified individual, without political influence. **Grimes** – (9) is too many. Feels elected might carry more weight than appointed. **Cotter** – too many. Questions Town's liability regarding elected, there is no vetting done of those running for election. **Anglely** – (3) would be a good working unit. People had a chance to vote, even if not know personally. **Gray** – Town should update to exclusively appointed. With elected, you do not know what you are getting. Town has established a policy for appointment. Cannot condition the election process. Convert elected to appointed, to finish out term. **Cotter** - reduce from (9). Leans towards appointment with the right qualifications, bonding and training.

Discussion relative to scheduling of Town Elections

Doyle – made inquiry with other Towns and received approximately 60 responses, none were in favor of the suggested change of consolidating elections. Followed up with inquiry with the state who thought it was a 'terrible idea'. Cotter would like to see increase in voter turnout, need more signage. State and federal regulation need to be met. Tabled for future discussion.

Motion to adjourn at 9:36 by Anglely. Cotter 2nd. Unanimous.