

MINUTES
Governance Committee
07/15/2014 @ 7:30am

Existing members were reappointed by Town Administrator, Michael Milanoski and sworn in via telephone conference with Town Clerk, Lynn Doyle.

Meeting called to order at 7:51am

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

Staff: Michael Milanoski, Michele Doll

Approval of minutes from June meeting not on agenda.

Motion to table for next meeting by Ward. Cotter 2nd. Unanimous.

Discussion on Board and Committee Stipends

2014 Annual Town Meeting materials contained information regarding stipends currently paid to Town Board/Committee members. Are they proportional to neighboring communities? **Milanoski** - still gathering information for spreadsheet, should be available for next meeting. Recommendations to be made for FY16 Budget. **Gray** – how will the Committee effectuate its findings. **Milanoski** – recommendations to be submitted to the Selectmen for discussion and vote. If approved, the Selectmen will present as Article at next Annual Town Meeting. **Grimes** – Selectmen stipends were decreased approx. 6 years ago. Recommends consideration to increase Selectmen stipend back to \$1500.00. **Ward** – recused himself from discussion on Selectmen stipends. **Cotter** – higher level of responsibility; mandatory meetings. Chairman should receive slightly higher stipend than other members. **Angley** – will increases undo cost savings efforts? **Gray** – changes should not amount to much. **Cotter** – need to compare to neighboring towns. Consider demands of job. **Grimes** – stipend should cover expenses. **Milanoski** – a reasonable and fair accommodation for time commitment and additional responsibilities. To be considered: Selectmen; Planning Board; Assessors; Library Trustees; School Committee; Moderator. **Grimes** – Planning was also reduced but later voted and increased their budget themselves. **Milanoski** – would like to institute a tiered schedule of payments: 1st Selectmen/School, 2nd Planning/Assessors and 3rd Health/Library. Also should consider per meeting payment with a max cut-off. **Cotter** – must consider frequency of meetings. **Gray** – examine workload and responsibility.

Motion to table until spreadsheet is available by Grimes. Cotter 2nd. Unanimous.

Discussion on policy and by-laws

Establish policy and by-law that would prevent the Town Administrator from appointing an individual to an alternate position on the same elected Board or Committee for which said person was not elected during previous election cycle. **Gray** - currently there is no written policy. Need guidance for the future in filling (elected) vacancies. Selectmen should meet with Board and vote to fill position, until next election. Complete term? If you ran and lost, should you be appointed? **Angley** – be consistent with Police Chief Policy. **Cotter** – what if Board does not want to fill position? What if parties do not agree? **Gray** – if Town Administrator appoints, Selectmen still have 15 day veto.

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

Discussion on Healthcare and Pension Reform

Selectmen Dunham and Clark to act as liaison to facilitate. **Cotter** – Finance Committee has spoken to consultant, compared savings and is ready to move forward with initiative to centralize. **Ward** – Superintendent is set against the change. We want the savings and a smooth transition. **Gray** – Selectmen (Governance) and School need to become ONE voice. **Milanoski** – resolve what we can before next Town Meeting. Look at our long term objectives: (1) Consolidate IT; (2) Consolidate Facilities; (3) Town-shared Pension and Healthcare; (4) Consolidate Collective Bargaining. All contracts are up for renewal in 2016.

Changes need to be strong on integrity and irrelevant of politics. **Cotter** – add member of School Committee to Governance Committee? **Grey** – we cannot present for consideration, if we do not have confidence that it will be supported. Need to exclude politics and personalities and find solutions to long standing problems in the best interest of the Town.

Public Comments:

Richard Keiser initiated a discussion regarding ongoing concerns on South Shore Housing. States there have been no major repairs since construction. No records of inspections for the past 30 years. **Milanoski** – Town Planner to look into issues and ‘flush out’ concerns. The Carver Housing Chair has resigned.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 12th at 7:30am.

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