

Carver Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

In attendance: Chair Ronald Clarke, Vice-Chair Richard Ward, Alan Dunham, Sarah Hewins, Helen Marrone, Town Administrator Michael Milanoski and Elaine Weston.

6:30 PM Motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining negotiations with unions (Clerical, DPW, Dispatchers, PEC/IAC-Health Care, Police) and for non-union negotiations and with all non-union personnel not under contract, and strategy for litigation, and for purchase, exchange, sale, lease or value of real estate that may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the town if held in open session, and to reconvene in open session by 2nd by . Roll Call – Affirmative: Dunham, Hewins, Clarke, Marrone & Ward.

Return to open session at 7:00 PM.

5 minute break – Motion to take a 5 minute break by Hewins, 2nd by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dunham led the community prayer.

Public comment period: Bob Belbin: Requested status of his application for the Conservation Commission. Questioned the Open Meeting Law violation. TA, Dunham & Marrone acknowledged that the Board acted on this immediately and researched open meeting law training immediately.

Proclamation: Childhood Cancer Awareness Week: Sept. 27 – Oct. 3

School Committee called their meeting to order. In attendance: Chair Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi, Paula Kibbe & Andrew Soliwoda

School Building Committee called their meeting to order. In attendance: Dave Siedentopf, Ruby Maestas, Heather Sepulveda, Sarah Stearns, Liz Sorrell as well as Richard Ward, Andrew Soliwoda and John Cotter who are in attendance with their respective committees and TA Milanoski.

Finance Committee: No quorum. In attendance Chair John Cotter & Bill Duggan

Capital Outlay: No quorum. In attendance Ron Clarke & Frank McPeck

Common Victualler's License: St. Karas & St. Samoul of Carver Inc. dba Dandy Café.
Motion to approve license subject to approval by all other Boards by Marrone, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Update on Community Compact Grant Award: Lt. Governor Karyn Polito signed the grant today at a scheduled 9:00am Board of Selectmen meeting, which encompasses the following best practices:

1. Review Financial Management Structure: The community evaluates the structure of reporting relationships of its finance offices to ensure that they support accountability

and a cohesive financial team process. The community develops a written plan for implementation of the desired finance team structure.

2. **Town/School Shared Services:** This best practice encourages communities to evaluate the advantages, including financial savings of combined municipal and school services for economies of scale and improved efficiency.
3. **Regionalization:** In an era of shrinking budgets, loss of seasoned employees to retirement, and increased need for service improvements, productive partnerships between municipalities make sense for some communities. This best practice encourages regionalization of some services and sharing resources among municipalities.

Joint Meeting with Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee & School Committee members: Overview & Discussion of Town wide financial management policy, draft 10 year pro forma for FY17, FY17 budget process including budget schedule & deliverables.

Capital Outlay Budget Process: Budget needs to be submitted by 10/6/15, Town wide Capital Outlay Plan by 12/31/15, detailed review of budget by 2/6/16 and Finalized Capital Outlay budget by 3/12/15.

Operating Budget Process: 10/6/15 Draft budget forecast, 11/3/15 Preliminary budget preparation, 12/15/15 Draft Preliminary Budget, 3/12/16 Finalized Budget, Target Annual Town Meeting of 4/11/16

Belbin commented on the positive change in transparency for the upcoming fiscal year.

TA stated that education state aid decreased by \$8,000.

Anticipated Special Town Meeting anticipated for 12/12 or potentially 12/19. The BOS has to vote to the penny as to what the language will be for the ballot boat. This would need to be finalized in early November. The Town won't know until November 18 what the approved MSBA budget will be. Motion to approve to hold a Special Town Meeting on 12/1/15 and to hold an Annual Town Meeting on 4/11/16 by Marrone, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.

Owners Project Manager of Elementary School Building Committee's recommendation of total cost:

TA reviewed the process that the School Building Committee has gone thru thus far and the accelerated schedule that is needed for this process. He also compared this process to the Fire Station Building Project.

The initial estimates were established on September 4, there were three meetings thereafter in the following 6 days. This is a process that normally takes several weeks.

Chris Carol, Chad Crittendon, & the PMA Architect were present. The construction budget for the total project is proposed at \$52,995,292.88. TA pointed out that if this was done at as a renovation project it would cost \$66,000,000.00. After MSBA funds it will cost a projected \$27,219,134.88 to tax payers.

Community Preservation (CPA) funds are being proposed as an alternative funding source due to the fact that it is a minimum of 40% to a maximum of 100% match of funds which the best return on investment.

TA recommended that the BOS go to the CPC for a \$2 million allocation in order to reduce the burden on the debt exclusion.

TA has asked Chad to put together a more detailed cost estimated to bring to the next CPC meeting.

Chair Clarke questioned the reduction in parking spaces. TA explained that during an event, the bus loop will be available for parking for up to 50 vehicles which would accommodate event parking. The area is designed to have gates on both ends and could be opened when requested for events. Heather questioned if there would be a Fire Dept. hazard to park in the fire lane. TA stated that the Fire Chief approved this plan and parking would only be on one side, leaving enough room for emergency vehicles to pass thru and park if needed.

Cotter questioned if there was a back-up plan if the town does not vote to approve the use of CPA funds. TA stated that town funds could be used, but there would be no match.

Chair Clarke feels that the CPA has been giving positive feedback regarding this idea and that it makes sense to attempt this route. The average residential annual increase per single family resident would be approximately \$430 for borrowing \$28.5 million with no CPA money. If we are able to use CPA funds the average resident increase would be \$377.

Dunham questioned items that weren't addressed at the School Building Committee Meeting. He doesn't feel that he could ask residents to pay \$430.

Ward stated that there were items that could have been eliminated, but would have negatively affected the education process, but found a less expensive compromise (i.e. instead of a partition in the gym, a canvas curtain).

Marrone stated she is in full support of 90% of the decisions that were made at the School Building Committee Meeting. She also has more items that she feels could be cut. For example, aesthetics of the building that were approved could be changed to cut the cost. She looked at necessity for education as well as effect on education and doesn't feel aesthetics should be factored in as a need.

Chair Clarke does not feel that the School Committee Meeting should be replicated tonight. He suggested that the number get to \$377.

Marrone feels that it is fair to the taxpayers to address the issue by targeting a specific number instead of assessing each need.

Paula feels that the School Committee Building has spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to get to this point and asked the Board not to get hung up on the numbers. It equates to \$8.67 per week and feels that all residents, even those on a tight budget can afford it.

Dunham feels that it should be below \$400 per resident.

Marrone would like to get to a point to not have to increase taxes by 2 ½% every single year. Over \$100,000 in aesthetics does not reflect what the town should be moving toward.

Clarke does not feel that taxes would ever reach the point of leveling.

TA stated that there is a back-up Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 17 at 7:30am which is the final date the budget needs to be voted on. He recommends that the Board directs the School Building Committee to move forward to address the budget issues and recommends that all key people involved such as the Superintendent and Principal be involved in the revisions.

Dave Siedentopf stated that the MSBA facilitates that the Facilities Director be on the committee for a reason, and that is to ensure his input is respected to sustain needs for the long term. He stated he is not looking to do anything over the top and is looking at what is needed and what will withstand wear and tear and cautioned decreasing needs to end up to a specific dollar value.

Bill Duggan questioned how many residents would be taxed. TA stated over 3,000. He questioned if money could come out of the operating budget. Chair Clarke stated that maintaining level services in town would not be possible if that happened.

TA believes there can be things eliminated, but it may not be able to come down under \$400 per resident.

Chair Clarke would like the committee to review the budget and come back with a revision.

Ruby Maestas emphasized the hard work of the School Building Committee. As the Principal of the building, it is her responsibility that the education plan and the building fit together as well as being financially responsible and be as inclusive as possible. All input and feedback is conveyed. This building is about the children and will be the setting for children for at least 4-8 years of their childhood experiences. This will have a profound impact on every single child that is in that building for many years of their life and will also impact the learning. All of these pieces were put in line when establishing the project.

Heather requested that the entire School Building Committee and Selectmen, architects and engineers who are available attend the meeting in order to work together.

TA feels that in the time frame given, that only the key people be present as well as abiding by the meeting posting requirements.

Marrone's concerns:

- Considers aesthetics: #12, 13, 15, 19, 22 total \$101,646. Feels squaring off instead of curvature will save money.
- #20 – 3 sky lights #36
- #46 but now believes we should keep
- #68 using phones instead of paging system
- #64 Eliminate lightening prevention

Dunham's concerns:

- #4: feels CPA fund could be used for that
- #8 would like added back in
- Put in stockade fence for Chance Ct.
- Take out Storage building
- #12 & 13 & 15 – eliminate
- #19, #20, #22, #37, #40 – eliminate
- #64-#65 would like a lightening prevention system in
- #72 – unsure if that is a good choice to eliminate

Hewins' concerns:

- Questioned biodegradable trays and cost
- #61, 63 & 67. Chad stated that it is the data closets that only serves the equipment, not the classrooms. Data drops could be a problem during MCAS and data cables.
- #37 questioned wood caps at lockers
- #40 would like to see double glazing instead
- #26 would like to see included
- Would like to keep windows
- Would like to know if curving was eliminated, would it look like a prison
- Concerned about abutters at Chance Court

Ward's comments:

Stated that some of the recommendations are an additional cost and some are to reduce the cost. He would like to see a pleasant environment, as it would be a better learning situation. He does not want to effect the education plan. He would like to see balance and fine tuning and hopefully everyone will come to an agreement.

Andrew Soliwoda stated that in order to come to a number under \$400 per resident, \$2 million dollars would have to be eliminated. He was looking for direction on if they want to hit a number or take into consideration all of their recommendations and present that number.

Chair Clarke stated that he would like them to come to the best number they possibly can taking all of these factors into consideration, without defeating the purpose of effecting education.

Gina Hanlon-Cavicchi stated that Ruby's priority is child safety and understands all of the technology going into a new school.

Marrone stated that she did not intend to direct her comments at Ruby, she stated that technology is advancing quickly and as a result, it can become difficult to change.

Ruby Maestas stated that she has had extensive experience with technical systems and the current dilemmas that the school has to face needs to be addressed and those costs need to be taken into consideration.

John Cotter asked to look at a scenario that money is eliminated from the operating budget to fund the school.

Bill Duggan feels that in the past the tax payers have not voted for the school due to the costs. Chair Clarke feels that in the past there was misinformation out to the public and that this process has been transparent and feels that it may have been voted against the process as opposed to the budget.

Motion by Dunham to direct the TA to meet with the various architects, engineers, committee members, etc. needed to review the proposed budget for the new Carver Elementary School while taking into account the recommendations and thoughts from the Board of Selectmen & School committee while maintaining the education plan, come up with the best possible budget plan and come back to the Board of Selectmen on Thursday at 7:30am with the final budget revision, second by Marrone.

Hewins & Marrone thanked the School Building Committee. Marrone implored the committee to consider the squared architecture for the building.

Ward stated that this is the biggest project that Carver has ever undertaken. He feels that the town is going in the right direction.

Clarke thanked the committee for their time and commitment they have put into it. He would like to see them find enough money that aesthetics could be saved, but not at the expense of education.

Vote 5-0.

School Committee adjourned at 9:50pm. Motion by Soliwoda, 2nd by Kibbe. Vote 3-0

School Building Committee adjourned at 9:50pm. Motion by Sepulveda, 2nd by Siedentopf. Vote 8-0.

10 minute break: Motion to take a 10 minute break by Hewins, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Update on Runway expansion at the airport:

Ed James present for update: Progress is being made and a 1,000 ft. extension as well as two over runs are being constructed. They are all safety improvements, not adding runways. There will not be increased air travel or larger aircrafts. In the future and with funding, there will be a new terminal. The Warbirds will be there this weekend.

Update on Tax Relief Study Committee:

No other applicants have come in. Clarke and Duggan will get together to start discussions on the issue.

Town Administrator Update:

Update on Fire Station: Footings will be installed at the end of this week.

Board of Selectmen Update:

Marrone: The Farmer's Market will have Council on Aging collecting food for the Carver Food Pantry. There will also be a volunteer collecting signatures for a petition to do away with Common Core Standards in Massachusetts. She sends prayers to the Kane family

Ward: Sends his prayers to the Kane family. He announced that an electric wheelchair is now available in Town Hall.

Hewins: Thanked the School Committee Building & Chair Clarke for letting all have their input. YPAC is in need of volunteers as their enrollment is at an all time high.

Dunham: Feels compromise was reached for a decision on the school budget.

Clarke: The Governance Committee is meeting next Tuesday at 7pm in order to solicit 3 proposals as to how Carver can become better. He is spearheading a plan to have children in town vote during the election.

Update on refinancing and bond rating: TA stated that in June, the BOS approved moving forward with a Bond Anticipation Notice for Fire Engines and the Building. Those are due at the end of September and proposes moving forward with an additional \$2 million that has already been approved by Town Meeting to use for the Fire Station Building. Motion to approve a new \$2 million bond as well as rolling forward the current \$2 million bond at a rate of .036% for the Fire Station by Hewins, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Vote to ratify the July 21, 2015 minutes, Board actions and agenda: Motion to approve all motions and votes taken on July 21, 2015 by Hewins, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Review and possibly vote on BOS FY 17 Goals and Objectives: Motion to table until next meeting by Hewins, second by Dunham. Vote 5-0.

Minutes of September 1, 2015 – motion to approve by Dunham, second by Hewins. Vote 5-0.

Motion to adjourn at 10:25pm by Dunham, second by Ward. Vote 5-0.