

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
Steven P. Rose
Wayne M. Phillips

Others present: Michael McCue, Town Administrator
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, March 10, 2011 (Regular Session) as submitted. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rose made a motion to table acceptance of the minutes of Thursday, March 10, 2011 (Executive Session) as written. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chairman Hegarty announced that tonight is Mr. Phillips' last meeting after nine (9) years of service to the Town. On behalf of the residents and the Board, thank you to Mr. Phillips for working and serving the Town. A plaque was presented to Mr. Phillips by Chairman Hegarty. Mr. Phillips thanked the residents for the privilege of serving as a Selectman.

7:35 p.m. —School Committee to discuss the FY '12 Budget

School Committee Chairman Robert LeGrice, members John Nolan, Tracy Sheehan and Carol Marinelli appeared before the Board. School Superintendent Dr. Margaret Frieswyk was in attendance with School Business Coordinator Kathy McDonald.

Chairman LeGrice reported that the Board's recommendation, in order to balance the FY '12 budget, is below level funding for the School Department and a significant decrease from last year. Chairman LeGrice informed the Board that there were costs this past year that were unforeseen, such as a \$130,000 cost for two (2) special needs students. Services have to be provided for special needs students. This is an area that has to be complied with by State law.

Mr. LeGrice further stated that if the School Department goes by the Board's recommended figures, there would be layoffs and services cut to the children of the Town.

Chairman Hegarty explained that the Board started with a \$325,000 deficit. The Board took \$150,000 away from the School's budget and \$150,000 from the General Government's budget. He further explained that health insurance costs and pension costs are up. We still don't know what local aid figures are going to be.

Mr. LeGrice argued that at the minimum, the School Department needs a level funded budget and the School Committee is asking for the Board to review the figures and increase their budget \$162,000 to level fund the FY '12 School budget.

Dr. Frieswyk commented that she has been working with the School Committee and area schools to share services, such as custodial, IT services, school supplies, etc. All departments are working to cut costs in every area possible in order to preserve jobs.

Chairman Hegarty thanked the School Committee for coming in and the Board would get back to them in a few days since they are meeting with the Finance Committee next week.

The School Committee departed at 8:25 p.m.

Building Inspector Robert Borden appeared before the Board. Mr. Borden stated he is aware of the difficulties the Town is facing with this year's budget. He wanted to bring to the Board's attention the increase in costs for the Building Department, especially for training, supplies and inspections.

Mr. Borden provided a handout to the Board which he read to the public. The Board agreed that they would review his budget and get back to him shortly.

Mr. Borden departed at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m. Assessors Bruce Lane, Jim Donovan, Cindi Bernasconi and Assistant Assessor Daniel Lane appeared before the Board. Mr. Lane discussed software costs that were not looked at in the Board of Assessors budget (Visions and a Web host cost), totaling \$9500.00 additional that the Assessors need to operate.

The Board stated they would review the items mentioned.

Chairman Hegarty also thanked Jim Donovan for all of his years of service to the Town. He is not seeking re-election.

New Business

A letter was received from Conservation Commission Chairman David Young requesting that the Board of Selectmen remove a member from the Conservation Commission—Andrew Blom of 12 Everett Street. Mr. Blom only attended one meeting since being sworn in on July 12, 2010.

In addition, Mr. Blom has not responded to any e-mails or phone calls made to him. Mr. McCue stated that he tried to reach Mr. Blom on several occasions, left messages, and a phone call was never returned or acknowledged.

Mr. Rose made a motion, per the request of the Conservation Commission, to remove Mr. Blom of 12 Everett Street from the Conservation Commission and declare the position as vacant and also to notify Mr. Blom by Certified mail of the action. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor.

M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 4(K)—Public Works Statewide Municipal Mutual Aid

Mr. McCue stated that we can go to the aid of a neighboring community and they to us—the agreement creates a statewide public works municipal aid agreement. Assistance provided under the agreement includes services related to public works, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities to prepare for, prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from public works incidents. A city or town governmental unit that has joined the agreement may opt out of the agreement by notifying the Advisory Committee in writing of its intention to opt out. Removal from the agreement takes 10 days after receipt of written notification.

Mr. Rose made a motion to table the item until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting so that the Board could review the information before adopting the agreement. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Veteran's agent Michael Stanley submitted a request for transfer from the Reserve Fund for unexpected funeral expenses (Veteran's Benefits) in the amount of \$2000.00.

After some discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the transfer from the Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$2000.00 to Veteran's Benefits. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A request was received for a temporary sign permit from Holbrook Sportsmen's Club for four (4) signs to be displayed on April 16th and April 17th.

After some discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the temporary sign permit to display four (4) signs on April 16th and April 17th with the stipulation that signs cannot be placed on any utility poles. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The Board remarked that any further abuse of sign placement would result in a denial next year.

Mr. McCue presented the Board with a Proclamation for "Arbor Day." Mr. McCue informed the Board that he is applying for "Tree City" designation and such a proclamation is necessary. He also announced that National Grid will be donating some trees to the Town to plant during an Arbor Day event.

Mr. Rose made a motion to endorse the "Arbor Day" Proclamation. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Annual Town Election Warrant of Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Chairman Hegarty read the Annual Town Election Warrant and noted the hours are Noon to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2011.

Mr. Rose made a motion to approve and sign the Annual Town Election Warrant of Tuesday, April 12, 2011 as previously read. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McCue reported that he met with members of the MBTA regarding the Old Colony Commuter Rail Tie Replacement Project as it affects the closing of East Spring Street the weekend of June 11th and 12th and the closing of East High Street the weekend of June 18th and 19th. A notice of street closings will be placed in the "Moneysaver" for residents and also on the Town's website.

Mr. McCue informed the Board that he met with two representatives from DCS Energy regarding the replacement of solar panels on Town buildings. They looked at all Town buildings and reported that Town Hall and the Council on Aging are both viable. A meeting will follow next week and Mr. McCue will report back to the Board on the progress. Engineering studies may need to be done but all other aspects of the solar panel replacement project is of no additional expense to the Town.

Mr. McCue reported that he is in the process of streamlining the drug and alcohol screening process for a moderate cost savings. He met today to receive recommendations on telecommunications savings for the Town. He will update the Board on both items.

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye
Mr. Phillips voted aye
Chairman Hegarty voted aye

The Board would not reconvene in Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary